

Graduate Writing Faculty Assistance Survey

Your University Iowa

1. Aside from workshops and lectures, would you say your faculty sees graduate writing students
a) frequently b) a fair amount c) rarely
2. Approximately how many hours a week do individual faculty members devote to office hours for meeting with graduate writing students?
varies greatly - anywhere from two to six, I would guess.
3. Where are faculty most likely to interact with students outside the classroom?
(Circle all that apply)
a) on campus (specify) → *in the halls, main office, etc*
b) off campus (specify) → *bookstores, local bar & local restaurant (Foxhead, Mill)*
c) parties/informal gatherings → *we have parties after readings, and there are a lot of readings*
d) readings
4. Do you feel the interactions between graduate writing students and writing faculty could be improved in your program? If so, what are some problems and how would you go about solving them?
I suppose they could be improved, but I wouldn't know how to go about it. Some faculty are more social than others, also some students are more aggressive and imaginative in seeking contact than others. This sort of thing is best played by ear. I think, particularly when we have the advantage of being on a small town.
5. How would you describe the overall/general culture and climate of your graduate writing program? What would you most like to improve in this regard?
the climate is miraculously good. I wish some of the students were less competitive - less vulnerable to reaching too much into financial aid, who is getting published, who has an agent, etc. But in general this workshop really is a community - they live, work, play together and genuinely seem to care about each other.
6. Please briefly describe the various steps in your admission decision process for the graduate writing program. Who approves/disapproves applications? What criteria are used? How many levels of review must take place before admission decisions can be announced?
Poetry done by poetry faculty. They read everything without screening. Prose done by director (me). I read 757 MSS last round. I am aided by Teaching Writing Fellows remarks on manuscripts + some faculty input. We look for the presence of the soul behind the language, and for natural talent.

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Creative Writing Program
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204-3012

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