

2012 MFA RANKINGS: THE TOP FIFTY

Rank	School	MFA Established	Overall Votes	Poetry Rank	Fiction Rank	Nonfiction Rank	Total-Funding Rank	Selectivity Rank	Fellowship-Placement Rank	Job-Placement Rank	Student-Fac. Ratio Rank	Years	Size	Full Funding	Cost of Living	Teaching Load	CGSR Compliant	GRE Required	Language Required	Cross-genre	Application Fee (\$)
1	University of Iowa in Iowa City	1936	404	1	1	1	24	20	2	4	—	2	L	All	Low	Average	Yes	No	No	No	60
2	University of Michigan in Ann Arbor	1987	221	2	3	n/a	3	12	7	27	50	3	M	All	Average	Light	Yes	No	No	No	65
3	University of Wisconsin in Madison	2002	216	6	2	n/a	30	6	1	2	4	2	XS	All	Average	Light	Yes	No	No	Yes	56
4	Brown University in Providence	1990	192	7	4	n/a	34	3	22	8	7	2	S	All	High	Light	Yes	No	No	Yes	75
5	Cornell University in Ithaca, New York	1967	187	5	6	n/a	2	5	6	7	39	2	XS	All	Low	n.d.	Yes	Yes	No	No	95
5	Syracuse University in New York	1992	187	9	5	n/a	10	7	32	21	48	3	S	All	Very Low	Average	Yes	No	No	No	75
7	University of Virginia in Charlottesville	1981	184	3	7	n/a	33	4	5	5	13	2	XS	All	High	Light	Yes	Yes	No	No	60
8	University of Texas in Austin (Michener Center)	1993	159	13	8	n/a	1	2	3	3	11	3	S	All	Low	n/a	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	65
9	Washington University in Saint Louis	1978	157	8	9	n/a	12	11	17	10	15	2	S	All	Very Low	Light	Yes	Yes	No	Yes [†]	45
10	University of Minnesota in Minneapolis	1996	146	10	10	5	20	14	19	34	32	3	S	All	Average	Average	Yes	No	No	Yes	75
11	University of Oregon in Eugene	1966	133	13	11	n/a	36	8	8	34	★	2	S	All	High	n.d.	Yes	Yes	No	No	50
12	Indiana University in Bloomington	1980	124	11	13	n/a	9	17	26	10	35	3	S	All	Very Low	Average	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	55
13	University of Massachusetts in Amherst	1964	118	4	25	n/a	43	18	31	14	—	3	M	Most	Very High	n.d.	Yes	No	No	No	50
14	Vanderbilt University in Nashville	2005	114	15	14	—	29	1	24	—	8	2	XS	All	Low	Light	Yes	Yes	No	No	40
15	University of California in Irvine	1965	110	24	11	n/a	35	9	14	20	—	2	S	All	Very High	Light	No	No	No	No	70
16	New York University in New York City	1996	106	18	15	n/a	—	40	20	33	—	2	L	Few	Very High	n/a	Yes	Yes	No	No	90
17	Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore	2004	104	16	16	n/a	5	16	3	18	27	2	S	All	Low	n.d.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	75
18	University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa	1973	88	19	21	14	6	33	13	12	—	4	XS	All	Very Low	Heavy	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	50
19	University of Houston in Texas	1988	86	11	42	—	38	35	11	37	—	3	M	Nearly All	Very Low	Heavy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	50
20	University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign	2002	84	21	21	n/a	8	13	45	—	12	3	XS	All	Very Low	Average	Yes	Yes	No	No	70
21	Arizona State University in Tempe	1984	83	20	23	—	14	23	34	—	26	3	S	All	Average	Average	Yes	No	No	No	70
21	Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge	1987	83	22	18	—	4	24	39	—	9	3	S	All	Low	Light	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	50
23	Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg	2005	81	16	29	n/a	12	26	—	23	29	3	XS	All	Low	Light	Yes	No	No	Yes	65
24	University of Florida in Gainesville	1979	80	27	17	n/a	7	15	8	1	16	3	S	All	Low	n.d.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	30
25	Southern Illinois University in Carbondale	1996	78	27	18	n/a	18	44	29	32	★	3	S	All	Very Low	Heavy	Yes	No	No	Yes	50

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26	University of Montana in Missoula	1967	75	22	26	13	★	21	21	14	★	2	M	Some	Low	Light	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	51
27	Brooklyn College in New York City	1974	67	38	23	n/a	—	30	—	31	★	2	M	Very Few	Very High	n/a	No	No	No	Yes	125
28	Hunter College in New York City	1999	66	46	18	7	—	22	★	—	35	2	S	Very Few	Very High	n/a	No	No	No	No	125
28	Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana	1987	66	24	29	n/a	17	36	★	—	29	3	XS	All	Very Low	Light	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	55
30	University of Wyoming in Laramie	2005	62	26	29	10	28	19	—	—	1	2	XS	All	Very Low	Light	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	50
31	University of California in San Diego	2009	60	36	27	n/a	37	27	—	—	18	2	XS	All	Very High	n.d.	Yes	No	No	Yes	80
32	University of Colorado in Boulder	2006	59	29	34	20	46	48	—	—	—	3	S	Most	Very High	n.d.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	50
33	Ohio State University in Columbus	1992	58	32	36	19	11	39	18	17	—	3	S	All	Very Low	Light	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	40
33	Pennsylvania State University in University Park	1986	58	32	29	9	24	10	41	—	6	2	XS	All	Low	n.d.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	65
35	University of Arkansas in Fayetteville	1965	56	32	38	n/a	16	32	10	6	—	4	S	All	Very Low	Heavy	Yes	No	No	Yes	0
36	University of Nevada in Las Vegas	1997	55	30	40	n/a	39	41	—	—	—	3	XS	All	Low	n.d.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	60
36	University of Notre Dame in Indiana	1994	55	39	29	14	48	38	34	9	27	2	S	Some	Very Low	n.d.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	50
38	University of Mississippi in Oxford	2001	54	43	28	n/a	23	25	23	—	★	3	XS	All	Average	n.d.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	40
39	University of North Carolina in Greensboro	1965	50	30	46	n/a	★	34	12	—	4	2	S	Most	Very Low	Average	Yes	Yes	No	No	55
40	McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana	1981	49	41	44	n/a	22	—	43	28	—	3	S	All	Very Low	Light	No	No	No	No	0
41	University of Arizona in Tucson	1974	48	43	40	2	—	50	15	22	49	2	L	Few	Low	Average	Yes	No	No	Yes	75
42	The New School in New York City	1996	47	50	34	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	XL	Very Few	Very High	n/a	No	No	No	No	50
43	Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia	2003	46	41	45	4	★	37	48	34	17	2	S	Some	Very Low	n.d.	No	No	No	Yes	40
44	Bowling Green State University in Ohio	1967	44	43	46	n/a	31	50	34	18	37	2	S	All	Very Low	Average	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	30
45	Colorado State University in Fort Collins	1985	42	32	★	n/a	★	31	—	—	24	3	M	Some	Average	Average	No	No*	No	Yes	50
45	Texas State University in San Marcos	1991	42	★	38	n/a	★	—	—	40	—	3	M	Some	Very Low	Heavy	Yes	No	No	No	40
47	Columbia University in New York City	1968	40	—	37	11	—	—	38	—	—	2	XL	Very Few	Very High	n/a	Yes	No	No	No	150
47	University of North Carolina in Wilmington	1996	40	★	42	3	★	43	—	40	10	3	M	Some	Low	Average	No	No	No	Yes	60
49	University of South Carolina in Columbia	1991	38	48	49	—	18	50	—	26	2	3	S	All	Low	n.d.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	50
50	Boise State University in Idaho	1999	37	39	★	n/a	27	n.d.	—	—	★	3	XS	All	Low	Average	Yes	No	No	Yes	55
50	Boston University in Massachusetts	2006	37	50	48	n/a	—	47	25	14	41	1–2	M	Some	Very High	n/a	Yes	Yes**	Yes	Yes	70