

## graduate application self-assessment guidelines

**In 4,000 characters (including spaces), please include a narrative that describes your personal goals, career aspirations, and professional strengths. Please also explain why graduate work in your field is a desired extension of your previous educational and professional experiences.**

**Please also read the following advice from your graduate department concerning the self-assessment essay.**

### **ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, & MEDIA MANAGEMENT (MAT)**

Your self-assessment essay should discuss:

- Your specific arts, entertainment or media field of interest; (concisely stated in the first line of the essay)
- Your career goals
- Reasons for studying at the graduate level
- Specific examples from your studies and professional experience that demonstrate your level of understanding of the arts, entertainment or media field in which you want to manage (if not clear from your resume)
- Examples of leadership potential, interpersonal and communication skills, analytical and reasoning capabilities, and personal qualities such as maturity, judgment, and individual initiative (if not clear from your resume)
- Knowledge and experience with electronic spreadsheet and relational database software programs; (students may be required to complete a course in these areas)
- How you intend to complete the accounting course prerequisite if you have not taken a fundamentals/principles of accounting course for which you earned a B or better grade.

### **CREATIVE NONFICTION (MFA)**

Your essay should describe your background, your interest in studying literary nonfiction at Columbia College Chicago, the kinds of work you see yourself pursuing, and why an MFA program in Nonfiction is the best course of action for you right now.

### **CREATIVE WRITING—FICTION (MFA)**

The self-assessment essay gives us an opportunity to get to know you. Please discuss your reading and writing background, why you want to study fiction writing at Columbia College Chicago, and your professional goals. Tell us a story about yourself. If you are applying for the M.A. in the Teaching of Writing or for the Combined M.A./M.F.A., you should also discuss your goals in teaching writing at the secondary or college level.

### **CREATIVE WRITING—POETRY (MFA)**

Please use this opportunity to let us know more about your background, especially as it relates to your study of poetry. You may choose to discuss your potential as well as your preparation for creative and scholarly growth in a graduate program.

## **DANCE/MOVEMENT THERAPY & COUNSELING**

- > MA, Dance Movement Therapy & Counseling
- > Graduate Laban Certificate in Movement Analysis
- > Alternate Route Certificate

Within the self-assessment essay, mention any Dance/Movement Therapy & Counseling experiences (courses, workshops, etc.) in which you have participated. Include dates, length of time, instructor, and a brief description. Also include your interest and background in the behavioral sciences including volunteer work, and discuss reasons for wanting to be a dance/movement therapist. For the Laban program, please write about your understanding/experience with Laban Movement Analysis. Also include any experience you've had with movement such as dance, yoga, Feldenkrais, Alexander Technique and how you plan on using the Laban certificate in the future.

## **EDUCATION (MAT)**

- > Art Education
- > Elementary Education

Within your self-assessment essay, discuss your understanding of the teacher as a creative leader, indicating what this means in terms of interaction with students, colleagues, families and communities beyond the school. Also include any relevant teaching experience.

## **FILM & VIDEO (MFA)**

Your self-assessment essay should be a concise, truthful, and in-depth investigation of your need to work in a personal medium. The Graduate Faculty Admissions Committee in Film & Video considers this essay the most important document in your application so it should not be a self-promoting autobiographical account. The focus should be on particular motives, attitudes, and biases that lie behind your urge to create. You should also attempt to define what special interests and strengths you would bring to the program.

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS**

- > Interdisciplinary Arts MA
- > Interdisciplinary Arts & Media MFA
- > Interdisciplinary Arts: Book and Paper Arts MFA

Within your self-assessment essay, include specific mention of your professional goals (arts administration, the book and paper arts, performance, personal development, or the incorporation of media into your own art form—be specific).

## **JOURNALISM (MA)**

Within your self-assessment essay, describe your qualifications, what you expect to gain from Columbia's writing based, public affairs reporting program, and your career goals. Specificity is encouraged.

## **MUSIC COMPOSITION FOR THE SCREEN (MFA)**

Within your self-assessment essay, describe your qualifications, what you expect to gain from Columbia's Music Composition for the Screen program and your career goals. Specificity is encouraged.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY (MFA)**

Please provide an outline of your professional and personal goals and indicate how this degree will help you reach them.