



Specialized Work of the MA in Transformative Language Arts Concentration

Transformative Language Arts requires a minimum of four successfully completed semesters of study. Upon successful completion of the concentration and the MA in Individualized Studies Program requirements, a 48-credit master's degree is awarded. All students have five basic criteria to fulfill for the Transformative Language Arts Concentration:

1) Ongoing Reflection & Integration - Students reflect on and assess what they're learning about all the other Transformative Language Arts criteria to help integrate theory and practice, individual practice and community work.

2) Individual Transformative Language Arts Practice - Students build upon and extend their previous experience with and knowledge of the spoken and/or written word, which may include, but is not limited to, spoken-word and performance; composing and performing songs; writing poetry, short stories, fiction, creative non-fiction, journals and/or drama; storytelling; dramatic, ceremonial and/or other community performances.

3) Theoretical Groundwork - Students draw from the most pertinent texts in interdisciplinary fields and traditions relevant to their focus of study, particularly from Literature, Creative Writing and the Oral Tradition, Education, Psychology, Sociology, local and global social change issues and movements, and forms of Transformative Language Arts (e.g. playback theatre, performance poetry, storytelling).

4) Community Practicum - Through the practicum, students explore the transformative, ethical and engaged artistic practice of Transformative Language Arts. There are a number of options for the practicum, including: Facilitating a workshop series or class, coaching individuals, serving an internship, or conducting a research project.

5) Final Product/Thesis - The Final Product/Thesis is a culminating project that demonstrates a student's mastery in Transformative Language Arts and in their particular focus of study. This project is individually-designed, and may take the form of original research, creative writing and/or performance or gallery show, curriculum development, or other studies.

Certifications Available: There are a number of Transformative Language Arts-related certifications available from organizations such as the National Organization for Poetry Therapy, The Center for Journal Therapy, the Amherst Writers and Artists Institute, psychodrama programs, Playback Theater training sessions etc. In some cases, the work required for certification dovetails with work required for Transformative Language Arts.