



Dear Student,

Welcome to the Children’s Literature and Writing for Children graduate degree programs at Simmons College. Whether you pursue the MA, the MFA, or the MA in combination with another degree, such as the MAT, or the MFA, the information below will help to prepare you for your first course registration.

As you prepare to register for your first courses, I want to provide you with a little advice and remind you of some of the degree policies and program requirements that will inform your first course selections.

Typical Course Load

Most CHL courses carry four (4) credits, and an occasional course will carry two (2) credits. This credit count diversity allows a CHL student to mix and match courses and credits. In my length of time at Simmons, I have seen very few students attempt to take a 12- credit full-time load in their first semester. Recommendations from program faculty and from recent graduates encourage students to limit their first semester enrollment to eight to ten (8 – 10) credits, half-time study. For example, a student could choose to enroll in two 4-credit CHL courses and earn 8 credits in a semester; or, one could choose to enroll in one 4-credit and two 2-credit CHL courses to earn 8 credits in a semester.

Required for All Students

- **CHL Virtual Orientation:** CHL 400-OL is required for all CHL students (no-credit, no-cost)

Required first courses for MA and MA/MS Dual Degree Students

Students pursuing the MA or the MA/MS Library and Information Science must complete CHL 401 (Criticism of Children’s Literature) by the end of their first year of enrollment. The course is offered in Boston in the fall and spring semesters and at the Carle Museum in the spring semester. Please note that each semester’s offering has a limited number of spaces; therefore, an incoming student may want to register for CHL 401 in the first semester to guarantee meeting requirement to complete CHL 401 by the end of the first year.

“One Foot in Each Program” Policy

Students in the MA/MS dual degree program must register for one course in each program (one course with a — “CHL” prefix and one course with an “LIS” prefix, respectively) in each semester. Typically, full-time dual degree students enroll in either one course in CHL and two LIS courses or two CHL courses and one LIS course. Part-time students will enroll in one course in each program.

Typical First Semester Course of Study for the MA and MA/MS

- CHL 401—Criticism of Children’s Literature (4 credits)



- Another CHL core course or an elective - *see below*
 - **Core Courses:**
 - CHL 403—The Picturebook
 - CHL 414—Fantasy and Science Fiction
 - CHL 423—19th Century American Children’s Literature would fulfill the history requirement
 - **Electives**
 - CHL 430—Writing for Children I
 - CHL 434—The Child and the Book
 - CHL 429C—Culture Matters in Children’s Literature

Required first Courses for the MFA and MA/MFA dual degree programs:

Students in the MFA program must complete CHL 401 (Criticism of Children’s Literature) by the end of their first year. Even though the course is offered in the fall and spring in Boston and in the spring at the Eric Carle Museum, we strongly recommend that MFA students register for CHL 401 in the fall term to be able to meet this end-of- first-year requirement.

In addition, MFA students will need to complete CHL 430 (Writing for Children I) in their first fall semester. Thus, most MFA and dual degree MAMFA students enroll in CHL 401 (or CHL 403) and CHL 430 in the fall term.

Typical First Semester Course of Study for MFA and MAMFA Students:

- CHL 401—Criticism of Children’s Literature *or* CHL 403—The Picturebook
- CHL 430—Writing for Children I

You will be assigned an academic advisor at the end of the summer, and you should feel comfortable emailing your advisor – or emailing me – with any questions you have about your registration and program plan.

We look forward to meeting you and will be working with each of you during your first semester to plan the rest of your program. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Cheers,

Cathie

Cathryn M. Mercier, Ph.D.

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