

Advising Overview

I advise all of the creative writing majors/minors in our program. Student majors keep close track of when courses are offered, and we work diligently upon declaration of the major at deciding semester course registration so students can major in an economical timeline. This however means offering SDIS/FDIS options for our majors to accommodate their graduation goal deadlines. Because advising is essential for successful completion of a BA., I make certain to send a welcome letter to each newly declared major, and also information on Haute Dish, the university's literary magazine. In addition, I always send my advisees email reminders as registration dates open up.

One of the reasons I enjoy advising is because it's a one-on-one experience with the student. For almost two decades I worked as a faculty tutor in the Writing Center. I loved my job, and the experience working one on one with students is like no other.

My hours spent advising creative writing students reminds me of my tutoring days. Sometimes we meet face to face; other times on zoom, but I have important relationships with all the students I advise. I want to know students can ask me anything, and if I know the answer, I'll pass it along; if I don't, I'll hunt down the answer.

Part of my work as advisor for our major's upcoming graduates is to work closely together with check-ins, registration guidance, important upcoming events, Haute Dish, GPA updates to list my most common meeting points.

I have an open-door attitude as an advisor, and the days I'm on campus, unless I have scheduled appointments, my door remains open for drop ins. Before Covid, I literally had a steady traffic of students most days I was on campus. Since Covid, that has slowed down. I still meet with students, but on various platforms in addition to face-to-face. Ongoing advising keeps the heartbeat steady.

From one of my majors: "From my own experience as one of her students Suzanne has pushed me to become a better writer. She has given me the opportunities to develop myself. With her help, I was able to achieve the President's Outstanding Student Award for the College of Liberal Arts in the Spring of 2024. She not only pushes her students but believes in them. Through her guidance I became a managing editor for Metro States Literary Magazine, Haute Dish. Although I was skeptical of my own ability to navigate the magazine, Suzanne did not stop believing in me. She did not leave my side and she pushed me to learn to do the work myself. She stayed there with me until I was able to fly on my own".

Letter I send to all new-declared majors:

Dear Creative Writing Major:

I want to introduce myself to you, my name is Suzanne Nielsen, and I teach in the creative writing program at Metro State University.

The Creative Writing program at Metro currently has roughly 40 majors, and many are either involved in one or both activities we have ongoing.

The first is *Haute Dish*, the university's literary journal published twice a year. The second is our *Get Lit* writers group open to alumni and students interested in an ongoing workshop setting that meets on the first Sunday evening of each month. (Sometimes we vary this due to holidays and such.)

I am attaching two flyers that will offer you more information on these activities. I also want to invite you to email me with questions regarding the program. I hope you have a wonderful afternoon. I advise the following:

LOOK AT YOUR DEGREE AUDIT REPORT (DARS)

Your DARS is a degree planning tool and guide to the courses and requirements you will need to complete to earn your degree from Metro State. Your [Degree Audit Report](#) (DARS) can be found in [eServices](#), and I have attached instructions on how you can access and read it. Please make sure to review your DARS and ensure that you have received credit for all of your eligible transfer courses.

SCHEDULE AN ADVISING APPOINTMENT & REGISTER FOR CLASSES

Don't forget to work with me on registering for classes. Meet with me a few weeks before registration opens. I am available to meet face-to-face, on zoom, or open to other options. If you don't contact me, I'll contact you.

CHECK OUT YOUR ONLINE & UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Utilize your StarID to access your [Metro State e-mail](#), [D2L](#) and [e-Services](#) accounts. These online tools, along with [MetroState.edu](#), will be important and helpful resources for you as a student. Make sure to take some time to familiarize yourself with them! Your [StarID](#) and password will be important login information during your time at Metropolitan State, please keep them secure and commit them to memory. For technical support, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#) at it.desk@metrostate.edu or [651-793-1240](tel:651-793-1240).

There are so many opportunities to get connected to the university. The cost of all resources is covered by student fees so they are available to you at no additional charge.

- **Academic Success Resources:** <https://www.metrostate.edu/academics/success>
- **Services & Support:** <https://www.metrostate.edu/students/support>
- **Get Involved:** <https://engage.metrostate.edu/>

Again, congratulations and welcome to Metro State University's Creative Writing program. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if there is anything I can assist you with.

Cheers,
Suzanne Nielsen
Associate Professor, Writing, Literature and Languages
suzanne.nielsen@metrostate.edu

Get Lit Information I send to advisees:

GET LIT



Metro State's Sunday Evening Writers Workshop
(For current students and alumni)

Join Zoom Meeting: 05:30 PM - 08:30 PM

Meeting ID: 930 2012 0770

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/93020120770>

GET LIT is an extensive multi-genre writers' workshop that meets through zoom the first Sunday evening of each month (some modifications are made due to holidays). We are a group of writers that have been meeting monthly since early 2018.

Please join us on the first Sunday evening of every month for three hours of intensive workshop with current students and alumni.

For more information on this please contact

Farrah Al-Humayani at:

farrahalhumayani@gmail.com

Dates For Our Sunday Evening Group, 2024-2025

August 4
September 1
October 6
November 3
December 1
January 5
February 2
March 2

April 6
May 4
June 1
July 6
August 3
September 7
October 5
November 2
December 7

Haute Dish Information I send to advisees:



Haute Dish

Metro's Literary Magazine (since 2008)

Student editors needed (especially in the digital storytelling and art categories. Email hautedish@metrostate.edu for more details, or Suzanne.nielsen@metrostate.edu

ABOUT HAUTE DISH

Haute Dish is published two times a year, Spring and Fall semesters, and is dedicated to showcasing the literary and artistic talents of students, staff, faculty and alumni of Metropolitan State University. Haute Dish is a publication of Metropolitan State University and is supported by funds from student activity fees, Metropolitan's School of Communication, Writing and the Arts, and the Metropolitan administration. All copyrights are retained by individual artists and authors. Any unauthorized reprint or use of this material is strictly prohibited. Categories Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Memoir/ Personal Essay, Photography, Studio Art, and Digital Storytelling. Who May Submit? Current students, plus staff, faculty and alumni of Metropolitan State University are all welcome to submit their work for both the Fall and Spring issues. Deadlines Fall Issue – April 15 Spring Issue – November 15. For more information visit our website at hautedish.metrostate.edu or email hautedish@metrostate.edu.

- Calling all editors! *Haute Dish* could use more students on its Editorial Review Board (ERB) in the photography, digital storytelling, visual arts, and poetry categories. These positions are unpaid, but make a great addition to one's resume and can lead to a paid position as Managing Editor or Business Manager. If interested, send an email to hautedish@metrostate.edu and include

samples of your own work in the categories you wish to work with as a volunteer editor. ERB positions are open to students from all colleges and majors at Metro State. Editors must commit to two (2) issues per academic year.

- Get published! Submissions are now OPEN for the Fall 2024 issue. Submit your work via the Submittable portal (link available at hautedish@metrostate.edu <https://hautedish.submittable.com/submit>). Please use the Submittable portal for your submission(s) include your METRO STATE email address for consideration. Submissions are open to METRO STATE community members ONLY.