Teach-Out Agreement Between
Pacific University, Oregon
and Pine Manor College Solstice MFA in Creative Writing
March 25, 2021

Pacific University (Forest Grove, OR), an institution of higher learning accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), and the Pine Manor College Solstice MFA in Creative Writing (PMC Solstice), an institution of higher learning accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), have concluded a Teach-Out Agreement. This Agreement ensures the equitable treatment of students and a reasonable opportunity for students to complete their program of study.

The Agreement will become effective upon approval of both institutions.

The obligations pursuant to this Agreement for a teach-out shall terminate when all PMC Solstice students accepted by Pacific University pursuant to this Agreement have graduated from Pacific University, have failed to be continuously enrolled at Pacific University or 6 years from the date of this agreement, whichever comes first.

This Agreement will enable enrolled PMC Solstice students to complete their MFA studies at Pacific University in the MFA program in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Pacific University and PMC Solstice agree to the following:

1. Pacific University MFA will waive all admission application fees for students applying through this teach-out agreement.

2. Any student currently admitted to PMC Solstice program and in good academic standing with PMC Solstice program will be accepted to the MFA program at Pacific University. Students from PMC Solstice will not need to complete a full application to Pacific University’s MFA, but must enter the program in one of three genres: Poetry, Fiction, or Nonfiction. At a minimum, students admitted to the Pacific MFA from PMC Solstice must complete their thesis semester and prepare for their fifth residency under the guidance of Pacific MFA faculty.

3. In this limited circumstance, and in order to facilitate an on-time degree completion for PMC Solstice students, Pacific University will transfer in PMC Solstice credits as follows:

   Pacific University MFA credits are granted according to these requirements, 15-hour units per semester over 4 semesters, and include participation in 5 residencies. The total units to complete the MFA is 60.

   PMC Solstice’s 60 credits are granted at a slightly different rate—with 13-hour units granted each of the first two semesters, 16-hour units granted in the second two semesters, and 2-hour units granted for the fifth residency.

   Despite the slight difference in distribution of credits over the semesters, the two programs’ courses are structured similarly enough that Pacific University will transfer in 15 unit-hours per semester completed by PMC Solstice students (or the equivalent by students who had transferred in one semester of credits to PMC Solstice).
4. Pacific University’s MFA will accept any/all PMC Solstice coursework completed with a grade of PASS.

5. Students transferring from PMC Solstice will be eligible for federal and state financial aid programs. Students wishing to apply for need-based financial aid must request that a copy of their FAFSA be sent to Pacific University.

6. Students enrolling under this agreement will be required to meet Pacific University’s program length requirement. Students admitted to the Pacific MFA from PMC Solstice must complete their thesis semester and prepare for their fifth residency under the guidance of Pacific MFA faculty.

7. Any PMC Solstice student who fails to apply, be accepted, and matriculate at Pacific University by the Fall 2027 shall be excluded from this Agreement.

8. Students transferring to Pacific from PMC Solstice under our teach-out agreement who have one year or less of coursework at Pacific to complete their degrees will have their GPA calculated using both their Pacific University Credits and their PMC Solstice credits.

Pacific University will strive to match the cost of attendance at Pacific’s MFA to the cost of attendance at PMC Solstice as closely as possible. Because financial need varies by individual, each PMC Solstice student transferring under this agreement will be offered individual financial aid counseling by Pacific University’s Office of Financial Aid.

PMC Solstice students enrolling in Pacific’s MFA program under this agreement will be eligible for a renewable $3,000 “PMC Solstice Student Scholarship” at Pacific University. The intent of this scholarship is to bring Pacific’s tuition into alignment with the tuition the student would have been paying at PMC Solstice. Students must work with Pacific’s Office of Financial Aid in order to access this additional aid.

Pacific University will offer only those courses of study for which it is already approved by NWCCU.

Pacific University will permanently house the records of PMC Solstice students who officially enroll at Pacific University pursuant to this Agreement. The records will arrive within 10 days of each student finalizing with the Pacific University Business Office.

Pacific University will accept only students who are in good academic standing as of the time of transfer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the date shown above:

Lesley M. Hallick, PhD, President, Pacific University

Date 4/1/21

Thomas M. O'Reilly, President, Pine Manor College

Date 3/25/21

Final Draft 3/25/21