

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Explore your voice

Chatham's MFA in Creative Writing (MFACW) program stands out with opportunities that can be found nowhere else. No other MFA program in the United States offers concentrations in travel writing, nature writing, food writing, publishing, and teaching to complement the traditional MFA degree with genres in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children's writing. Unique to Chatham's MFA, students interested in two genres may also choose to dual focus. Additionally, we're the only MFA program in the country to offer an on-the-ground full-residency program and a low-residency program, as well as the ability to move seamlessly between the two options.

chatham.edu/mfa

MFACW STUDENTS IN BELIZE

chatham[®] UNIVERSITY

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

The MFA in Creative Writing is a program within Chatham University's **SCHOOL OF ARTS, SCIENCE & BUSINESS**. Programs in the School of Arts, Science & Business leverage Chatham's strengths in the liberal arts, business, communications, and the arts, and complement them with professional preparation that helps students prepare for their futures and the next steps in their professional and academic careers.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Words Without Walls program, in which MFACW students have the opportunity to teach creative writing to residents of the Allegheny County Jail and Sojourner House, is a social outreach program developed and run by Chatham MFACW students that offers transformative experiences for both students and an underserved population.
- Full and low-res students participate in the Summer Community of Writers, which brings together renowned visiting faculty, publishing professionals and writers for an inspiring and productive ten-day residency at our Eden Hall Campus.
- Low-res students work one-on-one with accomplished faculty mentors, and take online courses like The Environmental Imagination and Travel Writing
- Publishing students can take *The Fourth River* practicum, working as an assistant editor, or the Independent Literary Publishing course, gaining hands-on experience creating and running their own literary press.
- Many opportunities exist for publishing internships in the Pittsburgh area, which offers a vibrant arts, music, and literary scene for students.
- The program has been named one of the top five innovative MFA programs in the US by *Atlantic Monthly*; one of nine distinctive MFA programs in the nation by *Poets and Writers*; and one of four top schools to consider when choosing an MFA by *The Writer*

SAMPLE COURSES

ENG515 Teaching Creative Writing

Students will explore the genres of poetry, fiction, drama, and nonfiction from the perspective of a teacher, producing lesson plans, as well as developing a final curricular creative writing unit/course. Aspects of lesson design, classroom environment/management, the writing process, writing workshops, assessment, publication, and performance will be emphasized.

ENG595 Independent Literary Publishing

This course gives students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience as publishers. Students will research independent literary presses or magazines of their own choosing, and then they will publish a literary chapbook by an author other than themselves.

ENG585 Travel Writing

This course focuses on the art and craft of travel writing. Students will read and study contemporary travel writing, and will be expected to generate creative work that illustrates a deep understanding of the literary tools available to writers in this genre.

► chatham.edu/mfa/curriculum.cfm

OUTCOMES

Here is an overview of what some recent graduates from Chatham's MFACW program have gone on to do, and some of the places where they're doing it.

- Publishing
 - Editor-in-Chief at Atticus Review, Charlotte, NC
 - Editor-in-Chief at Autumn House Books
 - Staff Writer at *The Tico Times*, Costa Rica
 - Acquisition Reader at Upstart Crow Literary Agency, Pittsburgh
- Non-profits
 - Information Specialist at USO, Frankfurt, Germany
 - Tutor and Mentor at Americorps, Pittsburgh
 - Communications Coordinator at The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Souix City, SD
- Marketing and Communications
 - Social Media Specialist at ModCloth, Pittsburgh
 - Writer and Community Specialist at ModCloth, Pittsburgh
 - Editor at Booz Allen Hamilton, Greensburg, PA

- Education
 - Associate Professor at Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH
 - Writing Instructor at University of Pittsburgh
 - Teaching Fellow at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A limited number of research, special project and teaching assistantships are available to help defray the cost of the tuition while also earning valuable, hands-on experience in the field. This assistantship is in the form of tuition remission and can cut your final tuition bill by over 30%.

MFA in Creative Writing specific fellowships and assistantships may be viewed at chatham.edu/mfa/fellowships.cfm

“A Chatham MFA experience centers social engagement and community building, whether local, global, or literary. We encourage our students to use what they learn in the classroom as tools for connection through our teaching, travel, and publishing programs. We want them to understand writing craft as a lens through which we may better understand issues of environment, identity, and place, as well as a tool to help us put our words to good work.”

— SHEILA SQUILLANTE, *program director*

**LEARN
MORE**

chatham.edu/mfa

Chatham University
Office of Admission
Woodland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
800-837-1290 or 412-365-1825
gradadmission@chatham.edu

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale (3.5 or higher recommended for Assistantship/Fellowship consideration).
 - If you have below a 3.0 GPA, please feel free to apply if you show extreme promise through other achievements. Additional admissions documents may be requested.
- Six credits in undergraduate writing are recommended, but not required
- Completed application for admission, including:
 - Online application
 - One to three page personal letter stating the genre (poetry, non-fiction, fiction-reminder a dual genre is an option) in which you are applying, as well as detailing your strengths and reasons for wanting to enter the MFACW full-residency program
 - Curriculum vita or resume
 - Two letters of recommendation, preferably academic from previous teacher/professor that can attest to your writing skills
 - Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
 - Writing sample totaling 20 pages. It can be one work or several pieces combined. Please provide on standard 8 ½ x 11 paper.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Early Decision for Fellowship/MFACW Assistantship Interviews: February 15
- Fall Regular Deadline: April 1
- The low-residency program accepts applications on a rolling basis

▶ **Apply online at apply.chatham.edu/graduate**
