

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale (Probationary admission may be granted for applicants with a GPA of less than a 3.0 who show promise through their other achievements)
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Resume and/or additional supporting information on professional or volunteer activities
- Two letters of recommendation, preferably written by former writing teachers or professors who know your writing
- Writing sample: Can be one or several pieces, total 20 pages
- A personal letter stating the genre in which you will be applying, and detailing your strengths and reasons for wanting to enter Chatham's MFA in Creative Writing program

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Fall Early Decision Deadline: January 15
- Fall Regular Deadline: April 1

▶ [Apply online at chatham.edu/apply](https://chatham.edu/apply)

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

▶ Explore your voice

Chatham's MFA in Creative Writing 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

MFAFW STUDENTS IN BELIZE

The MFA in Creative Writing is a program within Chatham University's **SCHOOL OF ARTS, SCIENCE, AND BUSINESS**. Programs in the School of Arts, Science, and 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, SCI Pittsburgh, and Sojourner House, is one of several social outreach programs developed and run by Chatham MFACW students that offer transformative experiences for both students and an underserved population.
- Every year, MFA students have the opportunity to travel with faculty to a different country as a part of our innovative creative writing field seminars. Recent trips have included Vietnam, Iceland, Turkey, Ecuador, Brazil, England, Germany, and Costa Rica.
- 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.
- In 2007, the *Atlantic Monthly* named the program one of the top five innovative MFA programs in the US, and *Poets and Writers* named the program one of nine distinctive MFA programs in the nation. More recently, the January 2012 issue of *The Writer* named Chatham as one of four top schools to consider when choosing a master's program in creative writing.

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
 - Staff Writer at The Tico Times, Costa Rica
 - Acquisition Reader at Upstart Crow Literary Agency, Pittsburgh, PA
- Non-profits
 - Information Specialist at USO, Frankfurt, Germany
 - Tutor and Mentor at Americorps, Pittsburgh, PA
 - Communications Coordinator at The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Souix City, SD
- Marketing and Communications
 - Social Media Specialist at ModCloth, Pittsburgh, PA
 - Writer and Community Specialist at ModCloth, Pittsburgh, PA
 - 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, PA

“We build lasting relationships with our students because we work so closely with them to develop their creative voices, and because we travel with them to different countries and experience, together, the transformation of one’s voice and character that comes from exposure to other cultures and landscapes.”

— **SHERYL ST. GERMAIN**, *program director and professor, MFA in Creative Writing*

“The MFA in Creative Writing program exposed me to such a rich variety of possibilities... My rather simplistic environmental rants became infused with place, voice, scent, taste, history, language, and story.”

— **GINA OLSZOWSKI**, MFACW '12

LEARN MORE

chatham.edu/mfa

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