



# Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing



- Focus on nature, environmental, travel, and place-based writing
- Tracks in fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, or writing for children and adolescents
- Field seminars focusing on the literature of the wild, urban, and rural landscapes. (Seminars in the Pittsburgh area offered for those unable to travel.) Past and future travel destinations include Costa Rica, New Zealand, New Orleans, Greece, Ecuador, India, Turkey, Vietnam, and Germany
- Small class sizes provide opportunities to participate in and lead class discussions
- Faculty comprised of published, highly recognized authors
- Concentrations in Teaching of Writing, Travel Writing, Literary Publishing, and Nature Writing
- Opportunity to work on *The Fourth River*, Chatham University's literary journal
- Full and partial tuition fellowships available
- Vibrant literary and arts scene in Pittsburgh
  - Numerous opportunities for collaboration with other groups, including internships with literary publishers, and Chatham's Creative Writing in the Jails program
  - Opportunities to present work in public venues

chatham UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES



[chatham.edu/mfawriting](http://chatham.edu/mfawriting)

Office of Admission . . . Woodland Road . . . Berry Hall . . . Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
800-837-1290 . . . [gradadmission@chatham.edu](mailto:gradadmission@chatham.edu)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- Overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale (Conditional admission may be granted for applicants with a GPA of less than a 3.0 who show promise through their other achievements)
- Completed application for admission, including:
  - Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
  - Completed and signed application form
  - Resume and/or additional supporting information on professional or volunteer activities
  - Writing sample (under 20 pages)
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - A personal letter stating genre in which you will be applying and detailing your strengths and reasons for wanting to enter the program
  - Payment of non-refundable \$45 application feeOnline application without fee:  
<http://www.chatham.edu/admissions/apply.cfm>
- Early Admission Deadline is January 15, 2012 (requires 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher); Regular Deadline is April 1, 2012. Applications will be accepted after April 1 on a space available basis. Please contact with the Office of Graduate Admission to ensure there is still availability.

## FACULTY

Sheryl St. Germain, program director, *Poetry, Creative Nonfiction*  
Sally Alexander, *Children's Writing*  
Kathy Ayres, *Children's Writing*  
Lynne Bruckner, *Literature*  
Mara Cregan, *Nonfiction, Teaching Creative Writing*  
Sherrie Flick, *Fiction, Food Writing*  
Lori Jakiela, *Creative Nonfiction*  
Joy Katz, *Poetry*  
William Lenz, *American Literature*  
Heather McNaugher, *Poetry, Literature*  
Abby Mendelson, *Literary Journalism*  
Marc Nieson, *Fiction, Nonfiction*  
Peter Oresick, *Coordinator of Low Res Program, Literary Publishing*  
Michael Simms, *Literary Publishing, Poetry*  
Sandy Sterner, *Poetry*  
Robert Stevens, *Fiction*

## CHATHAM GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

- Master of Arts in Communications
- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
- Master of Fine Arts in Film & Digital Technology
- Master of Interior Architecture
- Master of Landscape Architecture
- Master of Landscape Design and Development

## PROGRAM OF STUDY

Chatham University's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing is a full residency program of study designed to prepare students for careers as writers or other positions requiring similar professional skills such as editing, publishing, and content development for the web; to enable students to improve their writing in more than one genre through interaction with our faculty and with other writing students; and to become experienced critics of literary works. Our focus on nature and travel writing provides students unique opportunities to explore the world and travel as part of their degree program.

Most full-time students will be able to complete the program in two years. All students must complete the program within six years of entrance into the program.

In order to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, candidates must:

- Complete 39 hours of course work
- Take a least one Field Seminar. Students travel with faculty members to parts of the United States and other countries, respond to the culture and natural world of another locale and write about their experiences. Students unable to complete this requirement may elect to take other workshops in consultation with the director.
- Write a Creative Thesis and pass a Final Examination (oral thesis defense)

## CURRICULUM (13 COURSES/39 CREDITS)

- One craft course in your primary genre (3 cr)
- One readings course in your primary genre (3 cr)
- Two advanced creative writing workshops in primary genre, i.e., Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, Writing for Children (6 cr)
- One field seminar (3 cr)
- Nature & Environmental Writing, Writing about Environmental Science, **or** Travel Writing (3 cr)
- Four content courses. Most of these will be graduate English courses, including literature and literary publishing courses, but other courses are acceptable with permission of the program director. (12 cr)
- One elective. Any course from the MFA program (3 cr)
- Final Creative Thesis (6 cr)

By taking two additional writing workshops in their secondary genre, students may attain their MFA with a dual concentration. Thus, students choosing this option will spend 12 hours working in their primary genre and 9 hours in a secondary genre. The Thesis Project for Dual Concentration students may be composed of work in either genre or a combination of both.

We also offer several concentrations for students wishing to specialize in a certain area. Students wishing to earn a concentration take 9 hours of courses in one of the following areas (details can be found on our website):

- Concentration in the Teaching of Creative Writing
- Concentration in Travel Writing
- Concentration in Literary Publishing
- Concentration in Nature Writing

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Full and partial fellowships will be available for the 2012-13 academic year
- Candidates for fellowship awards must be eligible for the Early Admission deadline (January 15)
- Information about fellowship opportunities and the application can be found at [www.chatham.edu/mfa](http://www.chatham.edu/mfa)

## LOW-RESIDENCY MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING

Chatham also offers a Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing. For information on this program, visit [www.chatham.edu/ccps/mfa.cfm](http://www.chatham.edu/ccps/mfa.cfm).

Big thinking for a big world

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