

# MASTER of FINE ARTS in CREATIVE WRITING



- Focus on nature, environmental, travel, and place-based writing
- Tracks in fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, screenwriting, 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, and Germany
- Small class sizes provide opportunities to participate in and lead class discussions
- Faculty comprised of published, highly recognized authors
- Certificates 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
  - Opportunities for collaboration with other groups
  - Opportunities to present work in public venues

chatham UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

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

Office of Graduate Admissions  
Woodland Road . . . Berry Hall . . . Pittsburgh, PA 15232  
800-837-1290 . . . [admissions@chatham.edu](mailto:admissions@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, 2010 (requires 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher); Regular Deadline is May 1, 2010. Applications will be accepted after May 1 on a space available basis. Please contact with the Office of Graduate Admissions 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*

Aubrey Hirsch, *Fiction*

William Lenz, *American Literature*

Heather McNaugher, *Poetry, Literature*

Marc Nieson, *Fiction, Nonfiction, Screenwriting*

Peter Oresick, *Literary Publishing*

Michael Simms, *Literary Publishing, Poetry*

Sandy Sterner, *Poetry*

Karen Williams, *Children's Writing, Nonfiction*

## CHATHAM GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

- Master of Arts in Landscape Studies
- Master of Landscape Architecture
- Master of Interior Architecture
- Master of Science in Interior Architecture
- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
- Master of Fine Arts in Film & Digital Technology

## 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)

- Three advanced creative writing workshops in primary genre, i.e., Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, Screenwriting, Writing for Children (9 cr)
- One field seminar (3 cr)
- One craft course in your primary genre (3 cr)
- Nature and Environmental Writing **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 certificates for students wishing to specialize in a certain area. Students wishing to earn a certificate take 9 hours of courses in one of the following areas (details can be found on our website):

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

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Full and partial fellowships will be available for the 2010-2011 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).

