

# Master of Fine Arts in **CREATIVE WRITING**

0923



## 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, social engagement, and teaching to complement the traditional MFA degree with genres in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children's writing (low-residency only). Additionally, We 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](https://chatham.edu/mfa)

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

- 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.
- The MFACW program hosts the Emerging Black Writers-in-Residence program, which aims to support and feature the art and teaching of young Black writers. Pittsburgh writer and teacher, Cameron Barnett, is the 2023-2024 Emerging Black Writer-in-Residence.
- 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.
- 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

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

# 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
- Managing Editor, *Fodor's Travel*

## 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
- Assistant Professor of English, College of Southern Maryland

# 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.

MFA in Creative Writing specific fellowships and assistantships may be viewed at [chatham.edu/mfa](http://chatham.edu/mfa) > **Funding**.

“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

# 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:
  - Essay stating the genre (poetry, non-fiction, fiction) in which you are applying, as well as detailing:
    - Why do you want to pursue an MFA at Chatham?
    - Who are your literary influences/who do you like to read?
    - How would you describe your writing?
    - How do your experiences prepare you for fellowship opportunities at Chatham?
  - Curriculum vita or resume
  - Two letters of recommendation
  - Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
  - Writing sample between 10 and 15 pages. It can be one work or several pieces combined. It is recommended your writing sample is specific to your chosen genre of application.

## DEADLINES

- Early Decision for Fellowship/MFACW Assistantship Interviews: February 15
- Fall Regular Deadline: July 1
- Low-residency Program Deadline: May 1  
*Low-residency students are required to begin with the Summer Community of Writers, our 10-day residency course that takes place in July each year.*

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**Apply online at [apply.chatham.edu](http://apply.chatham.edu)**  
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## LEARN MORE

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

800-837-1290 or 412-365-1825

[gradadmission@chatham.edu](mailto:gradadmission@chatham.edu)

**chatham** UNIVERSITY

Office of Admission

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