Creative Writing Department

MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING AND MORE

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

LOS ANGELES

MFA in Creative Writing students meet one-on-one with their faculty mentors.

Antioch University MFA Program

Antioch University's MFA in Creative Writing program is distinctive for our emphasis on literature, community service, and the pursuit of social justice.

Featuring widely-published, award-winning faculty in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, writing for young people, and literary translation, our program has distinguished itself through innovative features such as the **MFA Field Study**, the **Art of Translation**, and the **Post-MFA Certificate in the Teaching of Creative Writing**.

We invite you to call, email, or visit any time—perhaps during the next residency—to explore whether our program might be the right fit for you.

> "Earning my MFA and Post MFA degrees at Antioch University changed my life. Not only am I a published poet, but I am living by Antioch's core value of a commitment to social justice, proudly giving service to our community, and I have embraced becoming a global literary citizen."
>
> ADRIAN CEPEDA
> MFA '15

Named one of the top five low-residency MFA programs in the country by *The Atlantic* and *Poets & Writers Magazine*

Why Choose a Low-Residency Program?

THE LOW-RESIDENCY MODEL supports and mirrors the lives that professional writers actually live. Our MFA program provides both the nurturing literary community and the solitary discipline working writers need. An MFA semester consists of an intensive 10-day on-campus **residency**, followed by a five-month online **project period** during which each student writes fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, writing for young people, and literary translation, as well as scholarly work, under the supervision of a **faculty mentor**. Students also participate in online **discussion forums** covering assigned readings and literary issues, and produce other work specified in their individualized **Project Period Contract**.

> "The 10-day residencies in the MFA program are a model for what you'll experience for your whole life as a writer."
>
> XOCHITL-JULISA BERMEJO, '09

Write Across Genres and Campuses

MFA STUDENTS are admitted in a single genre (fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and writing for young people), but have the opportunity to write and study more than one genre including Literary Translation—and even to challenge the notion of genre itself.

Project Period Options

- Four semesters in a single genre, working with a different mentor each semester
- **Mixed Concentration (Genre Jump)**: 3 semesters in a primary genre, 1 in a second genre*
- **Dual Concentration**: 3 semesters in a primary genre, 2 in a second genre

Pick an option in your second or third semester. Regardless of which option you select, MFA faculty mentors will work closely with you to design an individualized learning plan.

Students have the opportunity to spend one semester working with students and faculty at Antioch University Santa Barbara's MFA in Writing & Contemporary Media.

Santa Barbara's MFA in Writing & Contemporary Media

- TV/Screenwriting
- Playwriting
- Emerging Media

"In tender honesty, before I encountered Antioch's MFA program, I never in my life felt such unending support...the faculty's preternatural x-ray vision saw beyond what I could see of myself. Where I had seen my limitations, they saw fibers of strength. Where I hid talents, they saw down to the bone."

ARIELLE SILVER '16

The Field Study

The MFA field study is one way Antioch's program is unique and sets our graduates apart from others. The field study asks students to put their knowledge and skills as writers to work in service of something they personally value in their local communities. Each field study must address at least two of the three aspects of the MFA program's unique purpose: the education of literary artists, community service, and the pursuit of social justice. MFA field studies have changed the lives not only of our students, but also of those their efforts have served.

Some examples of field studies include:

- Teach creative writing in the juvenile justice system
- Teach memoir-writing to senior citiziens
- Work on *Lunch Ticket*, our literary journal
- Introduce guest and faculty readers

Distinguished Guests

Each MFA residency includes distinguished guest writers, as well as literary agents and editors. Some recent distinguished guest writers:

Kazim Ali
Dorothy Allison
Steve Almond
Charles Baxter
Aimee Bender
Eula Biss
Valerie Boyd
Father Gregory Boyle
Ron Carlson
Bernard Cooper
Mark Doty
Camille T. Dungy
Percival Everett
Juan Felipe Herrera
Janet Fitch
Nick Flynn
Roxane Gay
Dana Gioia
Mary Gordon
Lev Grossman
Terrance Hayes
Jonathan Hirsch
Tara Ison
Tyehimba Jess
David Kipen
Judith Kitchen
Dale Maharidge
Rick Moody
Dinty W. Moore
Harryette Mullen
Marilyn Nelson
Lin Oliver
Susan Orlean
Wendy C. Ortiz
Emily Rapp
Luis. J. Rodriguez
Richard Russo
Scott Russell Sanders
Mona Simpson
David St. John
Susan Straight
Arthur Sze
Natasha Trethewey
David L. Ulin
Anne Ursu
D.J. Waldie
John Corey Whaley
Tobias Wolff
Kevin Young
Matthew Zapruder

MA MASTER OF ARTS MFA MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Dual Urban Sustainability MA and MFA in Creative Writing

As the world's only MFA program specifically devoted to literature and the pursuit of social justice, this dual degree combines the curriculum of the MFA in Creative Writing and the Urban Sustainability MA (USMA). By pairing these two degrees, you'll explore communication skills while applying creative and complex solutions to the challenges of our time. Learn the art of articulation and the nuances of social justice to become an influencer in the global community's conversation about climate change and inequality.

GRADUATES EARN BOTH an Urban Sustainability MA and an MFA in Creative Writing within a two-and-a-half-year period, reducing the time and cost of completing these degrees separately. Ideally, students begin working toward their USMA first, adding in components of the creative writing program in parallel with intensive capstone work (a semester-long comprehensive project) as urban problem solvers.

> **I always felt supported, nurtured, and encouraged in my MFA studies. The focus on social justice was life-affirming, especially in a world where such work seems less and less valued."**
>
> **NAOMI BENARON '06**

POST-MFA

POST-MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Post-MFA Certificate in the Teaching of Creative Writing

IN A SINGLE SEMESTER, our low-residency Post-MFA Certificate program takes aspiring teachers from theory to practice, focusing on methods of teaching writing and allowing the student to gain practical classroom experience through either a face-to-face or an online supervised teaching placement.

antioch.edu/los-angeles/postmfacertificate

EXTENDED EDUCATION

inspiration2publication

inspiration2publication provides affordable online creative writing classes and writing coach options, such as book coaching, manuscript review, and other writing classes, for the widest possible range of writers in every writing community. The program is produced and staffed by graduates of the MFA in Creative Writing Program.

ANTIOCH.EDU/LOS-ANGELES/I2P

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> **The MFA program taught me perseverance and the importance of building a literary community."**
>
> **ANTONIA CRANE, '09**

An Enduring Creative Community

Our program provides a uniquely constructive, but non-competitive, atmosphere that promotes both creativity and discipline. An active online community allows our students around the nation, and the world, to communicate and bond during the project periods and beyond. The Antioch MFA community attracts students and keeps alumni in touch with faculty and their fellow graduates.

> After 30 years of wishing I had studied creative writing in college, I finally decided to attend Antioch and it was the best gift I could give myself. I loved the community, the energy, and the camaraderie of the program."
>
> **MARY BOWERS, '17**

Faculty Who Love to Teach as Well as Write

Every MFA faculty mentor is an actively-publishing writer who is also an exceptional teacher. Our mentors care as deeply about their students as they do about their own writing.

MFA Core Faculty

Steve Heller, Chair (Fiction)
Victoria Chang (Poetry, Teaching Faculty)
Bernadette Murphy (Creative Nonfiction)

A complete list of our accomplished MFA affiliate faculty mentors can be found at **antioch.edu/los-angeles/mfafaculty**

> I'm often stimulated and provoked by what Antioch University MFA students are writing... Antioch's emphasis on social justice encourages students to look beyond their own lives and connect their experiences to those of the larger world."
>
> TERRY WOLVERTON, MFA AFFILIATE FACULTY MENTOR

Antioch University's MFA program will support you after you graduate or as you finish your book:

- Post MFA professional development
- Opportunities to teach and specialize in teaching

Explore these other unique features:

- Our award-winning student-run literary journal, *Lunch Ticket*
- Genre jump and literary translation

> As I consider how serving on *Lunch Ticket* has impacted me, I see the work is deeply entwined with my time as an MFA student at Antioch, and that the enmeshed experience has forever filtered the lens through which I view the world."
>
> KATELYN KEATING, FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *LUNCH TICKET*, '16

Admissions Process

Our Admissions team is here to assist you with every step of the admissions process, providing each applicant with the individualized attention that is central to the Antioch experience. During the application process, our staff gets to know you on a personal level to help you achieve your goals. Our goal is to make the application process as straightforward as possible. Applying online is easy. Visit **antioch.edu/los-angeles** and click on "Apply Online" to get started.

We encourage you to contact us online regarding your specific questions. For more information, please visit **antioch.edu/los-angeles/admissions**

Admissions Checklist

- Online application form*
- Application fee
- Admissions dialogue essay
- Official transcripts
- Two recommendations
- Supplemental materials required

** Paper application available upon request*

Please check upcoming application deadlines at **antioch.edu/los-angeles/deadlines**

Financing Your Education

After you've been accepted into the MFA in Creative Writing program, finding a way to finance your education will probably become a top priority. While some students are able to pay for their education out of their own pocket, the majority of AULA students rely on other means of financial support including scholarships, grants, work-study opportunities, and student loans. In most cases, graduate students rely on more than one type of financial aid.

Figuring out how to pay for your education can feel overwhelming. Our Financial Aid counselors are committed to helping students navigate the various options available.

To learn more about your financial aid options, please visit **antioch.edu/los-angeles/financial**

> **"My experience in Antioch's MFA program inspired me to make a professional pivot so that I could dedicate more time to my writing. The program was inspiring and confidence building."**
>
> **ROCHELLE NEWMAN, '15**

ARE YOU A MILITARY-CONNECT STUDENT? AULA participates in the Post-9/11 GI Education Enhancement Program, also known as the Yellow Ribbon Program. For more information visit **antioch.edu/los-angeles/veteran-resources**

Our Financial Aid Office is committed to assisting our students in fully understanding the resources and options available to them. Contact us at **finaid.aula@antioch.edu.**

About Antioch University

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES PURPOSE STATEMENT

Antioch University Los Angeles provides rigorous progressive education to prepare students for the complexities of today's diverse societies. Combining dynamic scholarship and creative endeavor with experiential learning and reflective practice, AULA fosters personal and collective agency, global citizenship, and socially-conscious leadership.

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY VISION

Antioch University aspires to be a leading university offering learners and communities transformative education, in a global context, that fosters innovation and inspires social action.

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

Antioch University provides learner-centered education to empower students with the knowledge and skills to lead meaningful lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental justice. With campuses in Keene, New Hampshire; Los Angeles; Santa Barbara; Seattle; and Yellow Springs, Ohio, Antioch University is a bold and enduring source of innovation in higher education. Inspired by the work of pioneering educator Horace Mann, Antioch University also includes the Graduate School of Leadership and Change, and Antioch Online. The University is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)3 institution and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY
LOS ANGELES

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Antioch University Los Angeles is committed to sustainability on our campus and within our community. We strive to print all materials on post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based inks.