MFA in Creative Writing

Community, Not Competition

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

Featuring widely-published, award-winning faculty in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, young people, writing for the screen, playwriting, 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 sign up for one of our info sessions to learn more about our program. We can’t wait to meet you!

Named one of the top five low-residency MFA programs in the country by The Atlantic and Poets & Writers Magazine
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 ’15

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 hybrid residency, followed by a five-month project period during which each student writes fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, young people, writing for the screen, playwriting, or literary translation, as well as scholarly work, under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Students also participate in online Book Circles, discussions of texts and issues in literary and dramatic writing, and produce other work specified in their individualized Project Period Contract. Students can attend the residencies fully online, in-person, or a combination of both.

“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
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
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.

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 FACULTY

CURRENT AND PAST SELECT FACULTY

Chris Feliciano Arnold
Ari Banias
Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo
Francesca Lia Block
Jaswinder Bolina
Gayle Brandeis
Ross Brown
Victoria Chang
Chen Chen
Naima Coster
Jim Daniels
Nikki Darling
Natashia Deón
Tananarive Due
Anjali Enjeti
Colette Freeman
Megan Giddings
Reyna Grande
Joseph Han
Toni Ann Johnson
Brad Kessler
Vandana Khanna
Jim Krusoe
Lisa Locascio Nighthawk
Kerry Madden-Lunsford
Sarah Manguso
Guadalupe Garcia McCall
Alistair McCartney
Tomas Moniz
Victoria Patterson
Carol Potter
Sharman Apt Russell
Aminah Mae Safi
Shook
Ana Maria Spagna
Sarah Van Arsdale
Terry Wolverton
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.

Distinguished Guests

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

- Kaveh Akbar
- Dorothy Allison
- Steve Almond
- Jin Auh
- Charles Baxter
- Aimee Bender
- Eula Biss
- Christopher Castellani
- Alexander Chee
- Natasha Deón
- Mark Doty
- Camille T. Dungy
- Percival Everett
- Melissa Febos
- Juan Felipe Herrera
- Kali Fajardo-Anstine
- Janet Fitch
- Roxane Gay
- Garth Greenwell
- Terrance Hayes
- Tyehimba Jess
- Ilya Kaminsky
- Crystal Hana Kim
- Alexandra Kleeman
- R.O. Kwon
- Ada Limón
- Rick Moody
- Dinty W. Moore
- Harryette Mullen
- Marilyn Nelson
- Beth Minh Nguyen
- Lin Oliver
- Susan Orlean
- Wendy C. Ortiz
- Carl Phillips
- Gabby Rivera
- Lilliam Rivera
- Luis. J. Rodriguez
- David St. John
- Susan Straight
- Diane Seuss
- Shook
- Arthur Sze
- Paul Tran
- Natasha Trethewey
- David L. Ulin
- Esmé Weijun Wang
- Tobias Wolff
- Kevin Young
- Matthew Zapruder

Some examples of field studies include:

- Teach creative writing in the juvenile justice system
- Intern at a publishing house or with an agent
- Work on Lunch Ticket, our literary journal, or Lit Cit, our podcast
- Introduce guest and faculty readers
Work on Our Award-Winning, Student-Run Literary Journal, **Lunch Ticket**, and/or our Literary Podcast, **LitCit**

**About Lunch Ticket**

One side of our mission at *Lunch Ticket* is to publish writers and artists who have been marginalized and underrepresented, and work that engages with issues of social, economic, and environmental justice. The other side is to allow our volunteer editorial and production teams, staffed entirely by Antioch University MFA students and alumni, to engage with the greater literary community and gain professional experience working in the industry.

**About LitCit**

The Antioch MFA’s *LitCit* (Literary Citizen) Podcast explores the multi-faceted life of a writer in today’s literary community through insightful interviews with authors, editors, agents, and all of the people who help make writing happen. *LitCit* is produced and run by members of Antioch’s MFA Program.

“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 ’16, FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LUNCH TICKET**
Select Alumni

BOOKS

Khadijah Queen:
I’m So Fine: A List of Famous Men & What I Had On (YesYes Books, 2017), Anodyne (Tin House, 2020)

Daniel José Older:

Reyna Grande:
A Ballad of Love and Glory (Atria Books, 2022)

Christina Lynch:
The Italian Party (St. Martins Press, 2018)

Toni Ann Johnson:
Light Skin Gone To Waste (University of Georgia Press, 2022)

Melissa Chadburn:
A Tiny Upward Shove (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021)

Joan Dempsey:
This is How it Begins (She Writes Press, 2017)

Gayle Brandeis:
The Art of Misdiagnosis: Surviving My Mother’s Suicide (Beacon Press, 2018)

Jessica Abughattas:
Strip (University of Arkansas Press, 2020)

Susan Southard:
Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War (Penguin, 2016)

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo:
Posada: Offerings of Witness and Refuge (Sundress Publications, 2016)

Wendy C. Ortiz:
Excavation, (Future Tense Books, 2014)

Joe Jiménez:
Rattlesnake Allegory (Red Hen Press, 2019)

Jose Hernandez Diaz:
The Fire Eater (Texas A&M University Press, 2020)

Alistair McCartney:
The Disintegrations (University of Wisconsin Press, 2017)

F. Douglas Brown:
Zero to Three (University of Georgia Press, 2014)

Shonda Buchanan:
Black Indian (Wayne State University Press, 2019)

Jillian Lauren:
Everything You Ever Wanted (Plume, 2015)

Anna Scotti:
Big and Bad (Texas Review Press, 2020)

Andromeda Romano-Lax:
Plum Rains (Soho Press, 2018), Annie and the Wolves (Soho Press, 2021)

Aimee Liu Kellor:
Glorious Boy (Red Hen Press, 2020)

Roberto Lovato:
Unforgetting: A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs, and Revolution in the Americas (Harper, 2020)

Cassandra Lane:
We Are Bridges (Feminist Press, 2021)

The Antioch MFA saved my writing life. At Antioch, I was able to complete a first draft of a memoir, published in 2020 with a major publisher.”

ROBERTO LOVATO ’17
Post-MFA Certificate in the Teaching of Creative Writing

IN A SINGLE SEMESTER, our low-residency Post-MFA 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.

at.antioch.edu/postmfacertificate

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

Like nothing else, the Post-MFA Certificate gave me the experience, the expertise, and the CV I needed to succeed in graduate level teaching. My students are grateful!”

JOSH ROARK ’17
An Enduring Creative Community

Our program provides a uniquely constructive, 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
**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. For more information, please visit antioch.edu/admission-aid/admissions

Applying online is easy. Visit antioch.edu/apply and click on "Begin Your Application."

**Admissions Checklist**

- Online application form
- Application fee
- Admissions dialogue essay
- Official transcripts
- Two references (contact info only)

**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. The Antioch MFA is proud to offer scholarships for incoming students, made possible by donations from program alumni.

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 or visit antioch.edu/admission-aid/financial-aid

**ARE YOU A MILITARY-CONNECT STUDENT?**

Antioch University Los Angeles 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

*The Antioch MFA improved my craft, invited me into the writing community, and opened doorways to a literary career. The program changed my life.*

**SARAH HAAS ’21**
About Antioch University

Antioch University is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 institution. Our roots go back to the founding of Antioch College in 1852 in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The College’s first president, well-known abolitionist and social reformer Horace Mann, is considered the founder of public education in the United States. In his first graduation speech, he implored Antioch graduates to “be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.” Antioch was the first college in the country to hire a tenure-track woman faculty member and to offer female and male students the same educational opportunities. Antioch integrated black and white students a century before civil rights laws were enacted, and counts civil rights activist Coretta Scott King among its many esteemed alumni.

Antioch University is a national university with locations in Keene, New Hampshire; Los Angeles; Santa Barbara; Yellow Springs, Ohio; and Seattle, as well as online and low-residency programs, such as its acclaimed PhD in Leadership and Change.

MISSION 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.

ACCREDITATION Antioch University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The University has had continuous accreditation since 1927. Learn more at www.hlcommission.org.