

MFA in Creative Writing

Community, Not Competition



ANTIOCH
UNIVERSITY

Antioch University MFA Program

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

Why Choose a Low-Residency Program?

“

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



Take 8-week Online Electives Across Genres

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

*Electives
offered in
prose, poetry,
screenwriting,
and more!*

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.

“

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

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
Natashia 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:
Dactyl Hill Squad (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2019), *Shadowshaper Legacy* (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2020), *The Book of Lost Saints* (Imprint, 2019)

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)

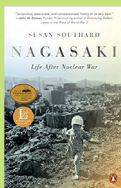
Melissa Chadburn: *A Tiny Upward Shove* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021)

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

POST-MASTER OF FINE ARTS

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.

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY



@antiochmfa



@aulamfa



@antiochmfa



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)



Scan here to check
upcoming deadlines.

“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

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

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.

ANTIOCH
UNIVERSITY

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