

Diverse, socially engaged faculty. We're proud of our large faculty of publishing, prize-winning mentors with a wide range of writing styles and professional experience. You'll study with a different mentor each semester, ensuring that you develop versatility in your writing.

Past Distinguished Visiting Writers: Terese Marie Mailhot, Jacqueline Woodson, Natasha Trethewey, Kwame Alexander, John Patrick Shanley, Ernest J. Gaines, Gregory Orr, Michael Ondaatje, Marsha Norman, Doug Wright, and more.

Flexible semester schedules. Six-month semesters require 25 hours a week during independent study. Nine-month semesters require only about 12 hours a week during independent study.

Vibrant alumni community. Our alums stay engaged by traveling abroad with us, returning to campus for Homecoming and SpaldingCon, and taking in-person and online alumni workshops. They are often invited to give readings and presentations at residency.

Optional summer residencies abroad. Open to MFA, MAW, and Certificate students as well as alums. A 4+1 option is available to Spalding undergraduates.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROGRAMS

- A completed online application form
- A writing sample in your chosen area of concentration
- A 2- to 3-page commentary on a published text in your area
- A 2- to 3-page personal statement discussing why you believe a Spalding graduate writing program is right for you
- Two letters of recommendation
- Institution-to-institution official transcripts from every college attended
- A \$30 application fee

Find further details at spalding.edu/schoolofwriting.

Spalding's School of Creative and Professional Writing offers intellectual rigor, affordability, flexibility, and a supportive community at the world's first certified Compassionate University.

You'll see these values at work in the size and diversity of our faculty. Our low-residency model offers two semester lengths to help you fit graduate school into your busy life. And our unique program design lets you dive deep into your own area, explore other genres and modes, examine the interrelatedness of the arts, and study abroad if you like. From certificate to terminal degree, our programs foster lifelong writing habits and help you forge a lasting writing community. In short, we're committed to excellence in a noncompetitive atmosphere.

CONTACT US

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Poetry student Noah Glass in Kyoto, Japan, 2018



SPALDING
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING

MFA / MAW / Graduate Certificates

High Value
High Volume
Highly Individual



Master of Fine Arts in Writing

4 semesters + graduation residency, 65 credits

Spalding's affordable, nationally distinguished low-residency MFA in Writing offers excellent instruction in a supportive community. Focus on your own area of concentration, explore across genres, examine the interrelatedness of the arts, and investigate professional aspects of writing. During residencies, you'll develop a strong literary community while staying at the four-star Brown Hotel in Louisville or studying abroad with a diverse, prize-winning faculty. During one-on-one independent study at home, you'll write prolifically—more than in most other programs—and receive expert feedback from your faculty mentor, developing the discipline to keep writing for life. You'll also gain invaluable editorial experience on a literary journal. Study fiction; poetry; creative nonfiction; writing for children and young adults; and writing for TV, screen, and stage. Alums include a Flannery O'Connor Award winner, Lannan Literary Award winner, state poet laureate, screenwriters of major motion pictures, and national award winners in every area. Employers sometimes reimburse educational expenses.

Master of Arts in Writing

Creative and Professional Tracks

2 semesters + capstone residency, 35 credits

Pursue a literary passion, advance your career, or change career paths in our low-residency MAW, where you'll receive excellent, affordable instruction in a noncompetitive literary community. The Creative Writing track offers fiction; poetry; creative nonfiction; writing for children and young adults; and TV, screen, and stage, culminating in a completed creative project. In the Professional Writing track, you'll master skills valuable in today's workplace, creating a polished portfolio that showcases writing and editing for the nonprofit and business worlds, such as grant and proposal writing; speechwriting; writing for the web; technical and scientific writing; and travel, food, arts, or entertainment writing. Each semester begins with a 10-day residency on campus or abroad, followed by an independent study at home in which you'll build skills and discipline by writing extensively and receiving detailed faculty feedback. Employers sometimes reimburse educational expenses. Degree earners may matriculate into the MFA, earning two degrees for about the same cost as the MFA alone.

Graduate Certificates in Writing

1 semester, 15 credits

Our low-residency certificate programs let you pursue a literary passion, advance or change your career, or hone teaching skills. Certificate students receive excellent, affordable instruction in a supportive literary community. The semester begins with a 10-day residency on campus or abroad, followed by an independent study at home in which you'll write extensively and receive detailed feedback from a publishing, prize-winning faculty mentor. Employers sometimes reimburse educational expenses. The post-bachelor's Writing Certificate offers a creative track in fiction; poetry; creative nonfiction; writing for children and young adults; or writing for TV, screen, and stage. Its professional track teaches writing and editing skills valuable in today's workplace and lets you focus on career goals—speechwriting, grant writing, business writing, etc. Students may matriculate into the MAW or MFA, earning a certificate + master's degree for about the cost of the master's alone. Post-master's students can pursue a certificate for enrichment or earn a Teaching Certificate focused on gaining the knowledge and skills to teach creative writing in high school, undergraduate, and community classrooms.