

MASTER OF FINE ARTS CREATIVE WRITING

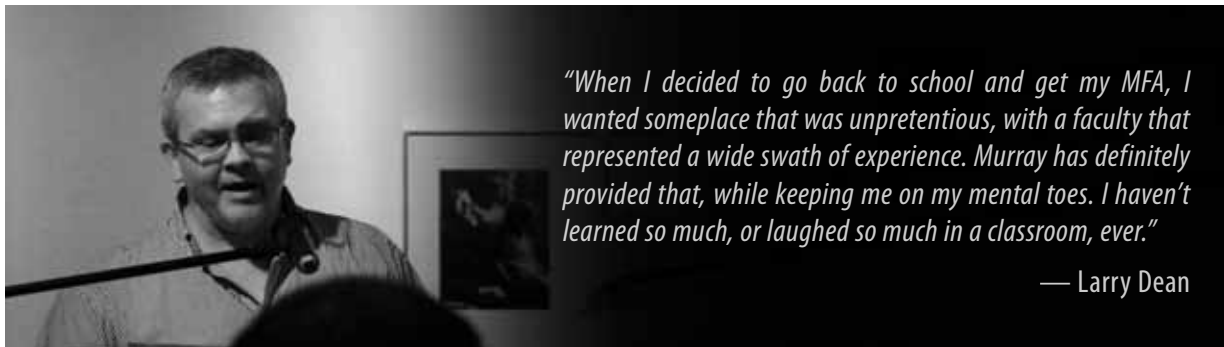


MURRAY
STATE UNIVERSITY



The mission of the low-residency MFA program at Murray State University is to provide quality advanced instruction to creative writers while allowing them to live and work where they choose. Our foremost goal is to facilitate the creative and professional growth of writers, but the degree also offers the necessary academic credentials for a writer to teach creative writing at the college or university level. It also provides a foundation for careers in other writing-related fields.

MISSION



“When I decided to go back to school and get my MFA, I wanted someplace that was unpretentious, with a faculty that represented a wide swath of experience. Murray has definitely provided that, while keeping me on my mental toes. I haven’t learned so much, or laughed so much in a classroom, ever.”

— Larry Dean

Of the 49 hours required for the degree, 13 hours must be completed on campus in January and July residencies. The remaining 36 can be completed via distance learning. These 36 hours comprise three semester-long Graduate Tutorials (6 hours each), a Creative Thesis (6 hours), the *New Madrid* Field Study (3 hours) and three graduate literature courses (3 hours each). The graduate literature courses may also be completed on campus at Murray State. (While students may transfer up to nine semester hours — “B” or higher — of graduate-level literature courses from another accredited graduate institution, they must complete all residencies, tutorials and the field study within the MFA program at Murray State.)

PROGRAM SUMMARY





Although the program allows students to work in more than one genre, upon admission each student will select a concentration in fiction, poetry or creative nonfiction. This initial choice will largely shape the student's course of study for the degree. The program commences with the student's first nine-day residency, during which the student will attend workshops, readings and lectures, and meet with the faculty mentor with whom he or she will work throughout the following tutorial semester. The student and mentor will collaboratively design a work plan, including a reading list and proposed writing projects. During the subsequent tutorial semester, the student will submit work to the mentor using electronic or traditional mail. The mentor will respond with suggestions for revision, which the student will complete and submit for evaluation and instructions for further revision. The residency/tutorial sequence (each residency followed by a tutorial) will be the set model throughout the student's time in the program.

THE RESIDENCY & TUTORIAL SEQUENCE

- > **FOUR ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCIES (12 hours)**
 - At least three must be in the student's chosen genre
- > **ONE ON-CAMPUS THESIS RESIDENCY (1 hour)**
 - The final residency, during which students defend their theses, give teaching presentations and participate in other exit activities, but do not attend workshops or seminars
- > **THREE SEMESTERS OF OFF-CAMPUS TUTORIAL (18 hours)**
 - At least two must be in the student's chosen genre
 - Tutorials are completed in the semester immediately following an attended residency
- > **ONE SEMESTER OF OFF-CAMPUS THESIS TUTORIAL (6 hours)**
 - Should occur at the end of the student's program once all other course requirements have been fulfilled, and immediately following the student's last non-thesis residency
- > **ONE SEMESTER OF FIELD STUDY ON *NEW MADRID JOURNAL* (3 hours)**
 - Should occur in the student's second or third semester
- > **THREE SEMESTERS OF GRADUATE-LEVEL LITERATURE COURSES (9 hours)**
 - One class must focus on contemporary literature

**REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE
COMPLETION / 49 HOURS**



Richard

ford

Rock Springs

from

Time



"The Low-Residency MFA from Murray State provided everything I wanted in a long-distance learning program: camaraderie and focus on craft during the residencies; challenging readings and rigorous attention to writing during the mentorships; a cost-conscious and flexible way to integrate the writing life with my all-too-real life as a wife, mother and teacher."

— Pamela Johnson Parker

The faculty members of Murray State's MFA in creative writing program are not only dedicated mentors, but also nationally recognized and award-winning novelists, poets and essayists. Students in the program work with writers such as:

Nickole Brown

Karen Salyer McElmurray

Lynn Pruett

Tommy Hays

Ann Neelon

Martin Roper

Carrie Jerrell

Elena Passarello

Jeffrey Skinner

Gary Jackson

Dale Ray Phillips

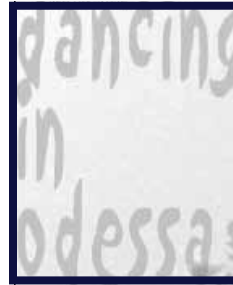
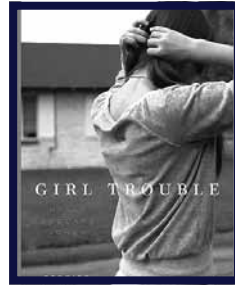
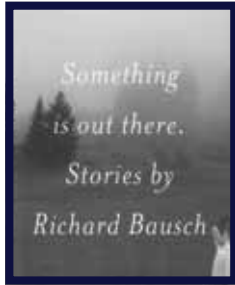
Julia Watts

FACULTY



Published twice a year and released at the residencies in January and July, *New Madrid* is the national journal of the low-residency MFA program at Murray State University. It takes its name from the New Madrid seismic zone, which falls within the central Mississippi Valley and extends through western Kentucky. MFA students serve on the editorial board as part of the Field Study requirement, thus gaining experience and insight into the behind-the-scenes workings of a literary magazine.

**NEW
MADRID**



BOOKS FROM LEFT:

Something Is Out There
by Richard Bausch

Girl Trouble
by Holly Goddard Jones

Dancing In Odessa
by Ilya Kaminsky

During each residency, visiting writers make for an exciting complement to our faculty and expose our MFA students to a variety of styles, voices and subjects. Our visiting writers have included:

Richard Bausch

Linda Bierds

Robert Olen Butler

Dennis Covington

Kate Daniels

Nick Flynn

Alice Friman

Silas House

Andrew Hudgins

Holly Goddard Jones

Ilya Kaminsky

Randall Kenan

Beth Lordan

Lee Martin

Erin McGraw

Nick Reding

Scott Russell Sanders

George Singleton

VISITING
WRITERS

We are looking for candidates who show strong promise as creative writers and who also demonstrate a commitment to the serious reading of literature. Additionally, we seek students who are self-motivated, able to work independently and capable of making positive use of criticism to improve their writing.

Applicants must have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, usually with a major or minor in a literary field. Applicants without significant undergraduate credit in literary studies should address how they have made up for this deficit in their personal statements. Committee review of MFA applications will be based on the following:

- > Writing sample in appropriate genre
- > Performance in previous undergraduate and/or graduate programs
- > Two letters of recommendation
- > GRE (verbal)*
- > Maturity, preparation and experience as demonstrated in the personal statement

The application deadlines are October 1 to begin at a January residency, and April 1 to begin at a July residency.

MFA Program: www.murraystate.edu/mfa

Graduate Admissions: www.murraystate.edu/Admissions/GraduateSchool.aspx

* Although the GRE is not absolutely required, a good score in the verbal section will enhance your candidacy.



APPLICATION/
ADMISSION



Tuition rates are available online at the MSU bursar's office website (www.murraystate.edu/admissions/BursarsOffice.aspx) or by calling 270.809.4227. Regional tuition rates are available for residents of Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee.

For information about financial aid, contact the student financial aid office via email at:

> msu.sfa@murraystate.edu, or by calling 1.800.272.4MSU (ext. 3) or 270.809.3116

For information about scholarships, contact the scholarship office via email at:

> msu.scholarships@murraystate.edu, or by calling 1.800.4MSU (ext. 4) or 270.809.3225

CONTACT US

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**FUNDING
YOUR MFA**

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scan code or visit
www.murraystate.edu/mfa

