Recent graduates of Texas State’s master of fine arts in creative writing program have won a $57,000 Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford, a $20,000 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship, and an Association of Writers & Writing Programs prize for best novel.

Texas State University offers a master of fine arts in creative writing that gives talented writers the chance to develop their skills in fiction or poetry in a formal academic program and within a community of writers. The student’s work receives careful readings by peers and a distinguished and widely published faculty. Students are made aware of publishing opportunities that might otherwise require extensive research, and they have the opportunity to meet and work with visiting writers.

Students in Texas State’s creative writing program are required to take literature courses, as the faculty believes that one of the best ways to write great literature is to read great literature. Graduates of the Texas State program are competitive with literature doctoral students. The master of fine arts is considered a terminal degree, which means that graduates can teach at a university level.
Course Work
The master of fine arts degree with a creative writing major requires 48 semester hours, including:
• 12 hours of writing workshops
• 15 hours of literature
• three hours of form and theory
• three hours of literary technique
• nine hours of minor or cognate (other than creative writing)
• six hours of thesis credit leading to the production of a book-length work of literary worth

Students may take literature courses in either poetry or fiction, but workshop classes are limited to students who are studying that particular genre.

The permanent faculty of the creative writing program are Cyrus Cassells, Roger Jones, Cecily Parks, Kathleen Peirce and Steve Wilson in poetry, and Doug Dorst, Jennifer duBois, Tom Grimes and Debra Monroe in fiction.

An endowed chair faculty position in creative writing brings distinguished writers to Texas State each year to teach graduate writing workshops and deliver public lectures. Endowed chairs have included National Book Award winner Tim O’Brien, Pulitzer Prize finalist Karen Russell, National Book Critics Circle Award winner Ben Fountain, National Book Award winner Denis Johnson, Whiting Writers’ Award winner Cristina García and National Book Award winner Robert Stone.

Admission Policy
Each applicant must submit the following to The Graduate College at Texas State:
• A fiction, poetry or fiction/creative nonfiction portfolio
  - A fiction portfolio may be two to three short stories or a novel excerpt (up to 25 pages total).
  - A poetry portfolio may be 12 to 15 poems.
  - A fiction/creative nonfiction portfolio may be one short story or novel excerpt and one creative nonfiction essay (up to 25 pages total).
• online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
• application fee
• one official transcript from each college or university attended, including community colleges.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu for access to an online application, online document uploader and additional details.

Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center
Established in 2000, Texas State’s Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center is a national Literary Landmark in which a graduate of the master of fine arts program holds a writer-in-residence position. Based in the childhood home of Porter, a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author, the center is host to numerous visiting writers each year. The house was dedicated a national Literary Landmark in June 2002 by the Friends of Libraries USA and the Library of Congress.

Financial Assistance
Students interested in applying for teaching assistantships must electronically submit the following to the director of the creative writing program:
• a completed teaching assistant employment application
• a statement of purpose about their desire to teach college freshman composition
• three letters of recommendation
• up-to-date transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work, to be sent to the office of The Graduate College

Applications for the assistantship are competitive. Applicants should be as thorough as possible in providing transcripts and letters of recommendation. Above all, applicants should strongly and clearly explain their desire to teach, their qualifications for teaching, and why they believe they will be good teachers at the college freshman and sophomore levels. The committee looks at the personal statements closely.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

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