

Our Award-Winning Faculty:

Rosa Alcalá is the author of a poetry collection, *Undocumentaries*, and two chapbooks, *Some Maritime Disasters This Century* and *Undocumentary*. Her translations include Lourdes Vázquez's *Bestiary* and Lila Zemborain's *Guardians of the Secret*. Winner of the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, and recipient of a 2015 NEA Fellowship in Translation, she holds a Ph.D. from SUNY-Buffalo.

Daniel Chacón is author of the novel *And the Shadows Took Him* and two collections of stories, *Chicano Chicenery*, *Unending Rooms*, winner of the Hudson Prize, and *Hotel Juarez*, winner of the PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award. He is co-editor of *The Selected Works of Jose Antonio Burciaga*. He directs UTEP's Online MFA.

Andrea Cote Botero earned her Ph.D. in Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. Author of the books of poems *Puerto Calcinado*, *Chinatown a toda hora* and *La ruina que nombro*, she has won the International Poetry Award, the National Poetry Award and the Young Poetry Award. Her teaching connects poetry, photography and the Avant-Garde.

José de Piérola earned his Ph.D. in Literature from UCSD. He is the author of the novels *Shatranj*, *El camino de regreso*, *Summa caligramática* and *Un beso del infierno*, and the short story books *Sur y Norte*, *Pishtaco Slayer* and *Máquina del tiempo*. He has translated *The Art of Fiction* by Henry James and *L'Etranger* by Albert Camus into Spanish. He has won literary awards in Peru and Spain. His work has been published in Peru, Spain, Mexico, France, and USA.

Tim Z. Hernandez is an author and performance artist. His book *Skin Tax* received the American Book Award, the James Duval Phelan Award, and the Zora Neal Hurston Award. His novel, *Breathing, In Dust* received the Premio Aztlán Prize in Fiction. Finalist for the inaugural Freedom Plow Award, and winner of the 2014 Colorado Book Award, he teaches in our Online MFA.

Sasha Pimentel is a Filipina-American poet and author of the book of poems *Insides She Swallowed*, winner of the 2011 American Book Award. Winner of the Ernesto Trejo prize and the Philip Levine fellowship, and the 2016 National Poetry Series, she teaches poetry, nonfiction and Asian American literature.

Jeff Sirkin earned his MA from Miami University and his Ph.D. in Literature from the University at Buffalo. He writes on the intersections of music with postmodern literature and the avant-garde. He has presented work on Kurt Cobain, Bob Dylan, punk rock and twentieth century poetry, and he teaches twentieth century literature and culture.

Lex Williford has taught at Southern Illinois University, the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and the University of Alabama. His book, *Macaulay's Thumb*, won the 1993 Iowa Short Fiction Award. With Michael Martone, he coedits the *Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction* and the *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction*. He is the winner of the 2016 10th Annual Rose Metal Flash Chapbook Prize.

Luis Arturo Ramos (emeritus) is a fiction writer and essayist. Fellow at the prestigious Mexican Center for Writers, he has garnered several literary awards in Mexico, including the National Prize for Fiction. He has published eight novels, four books of stories, five children's books and a book of essays. His most recent novels are *Mickey y sus amigos* and *De puño y letra*.

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Department of CREATIVE WRITING



The Bilingual MFA in CREATIVE WRITING



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The Residential MFA Program

The Creative Writing Program of the Americas

The only one of its kind in the USA, the MFA at UTEP offers a fully bilingual (Spanish and English) course of study in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, screenwriting and literary translation. The MFA program requires a 48-credit hour commitment which usually takes three years to complete. Recent courses have included topics such as poetic form and experimentation, writing about popular music, surrealism and the Avant-Garde, representations of consciousness and reality, among others. Our students also have access to courses offered by other departments, such as Theater, English and Language and Linguistics. Our bilingual literary journal, *Rio Grande Review*, is entirely edited by our MFA students.

Located in the Chihuahuan Desert, where two nations meet, our program continues to evolve and meet the needs of students journeying across the United States, Latin America, and the rest of the world. Our student to faculty ratio is 3:1, which allows for close mentorship. We also offer assistantships to many of those in our MFA. Our student success is built on a foundation of excellence, strengthened by the commitment of our staff and faculty. Many of our graduates have gone on to win prestigious awards such as the Premio Clarín de Novela, the Premio Herralde, the Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize and the Chicano/Latino Literary Prize.

Questions about bilingualism

Do all applicants need to be bilingual, and how do your classes work? You do not need to be bilingual to apply to the program. But because we draw students and faculty from both the U.S. and Latin America, with varying degrees of fluency in Spanish or English, our classes are dynamic environments in which discussions move fluidly between languages. Nonetheless, most students choose to write their theses in their dominant language or native tongue.

Do I need to speak any Spanish? No, but you should keep in mind that some of your classmates will be native Spanish speakers.

Minimum requirements

- A Bachelor's degree in any field of study
- A writing sample: 8–10 poems, or 20 pages of fiction, play, screen play, or creative nonfiction.
- Statement of Purpose
- An official transcript of undergraduate studies
- Three letters of recommendation

Thinking about Applying?

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Do I need to speak Spanish?* No, but to take full advantage of what the program has to offer we recommend having some knowledge of the language.
2. *Do I need to submit GRE Scores?* No. The admissions committee evaluates the quality of your writing sample and your statement of purpose.
3. *How and where do I submit those documents?* The application process is completed online through AppReview with the support of the Graduate School at UTEP. You can find a complete description of the application process on our website (utep.edu/cw), under “Applying to the Program”
4. *Do I need to submit a separate application for Financial Aid?* No. All potential students are automatically considered for a Teaching Assistantship.
5. *Is it possible to complete the program in two years?* The program is designed to be completed in three years. While some summer courses are offered, it is difficult to complete all of the required classes and write a thesis in four semesters.
6. *What are the most important requirements?* The admissions committee evaluates carefully the writing sample, the statement of purpose and the letters of recommendation, but all of the requirements must be included in the application.
7. If you have any other question about our program, contact us at creativewriting@utep.edu.

- Miguel Ildefonso won the Premio de Poesía José Watanabe Varas 2015 with *El hombre elefante y otros poemas*.
- Oscar Godoy won the Concurso Nacional de Cuento Ciudad de Bogotá in 2014 with “La castigada.”
- Juana Moriel won the Chihuahua Institute of Culture 2012 with *Trigeña* and published it in 2013.
- Betina González won the Premio Tusquets de Novela 2012 with *Las poseídas*, and the Premio Clarín de Novela 2006 with her MFA thesis *Arte Menor*.
- Sylvia Aguilar Zeleny won the Concurso de Cuento ciudad de La Paz 2012 with her book *Nenitas*.
- José Palacios won the Premio Cámara de Comercio de Medellín 2009 with *El corazón del escoprión*
- César Silva-Santisteban won the John Barry Award for New Fiction in Spanish in 2008 with “Anatomía.”
- Juan Álvarez won the Concurso Nacional de Cuento Ciudad de Bogotá 2006 with his MFA thesis *Falsas alarmas*.
- Javier Huerta had his MFA thesis *Some Clarifications* selected for the UC Irvine Chicano-Latino Literary Award in 2005.
- Yuri Herrera won the Concurso Binacional de Novela Joven de México with his MFA thesis *Trabajos del reino*.

Our students publications & awards

Deadline for all applications: February 2