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MFA IN WRITING RANKED EIGHTH IN COUNTRY BY NONPROFIT COLLEGES ONLINE

Lindenwood University's MFA in Writing Program has been ranked eighth in the nation by Nonprofit Colleges Online among online master's programs in English and creative writing.

A release by the organization states the rankings were of accredited nonprofit colleges and universities with objectively lower than average tuition costs. The ranking was based on the programs' affordability.

Program chair Beth Mead said the online option for the program allows for students and instructors from a larger geographic area, such as former program chair and published author Eve Jones, who lives in England and teaches in the program. Mead said the ranking is a nice reflection on the program and the university.

"We appreciate this ranking as it reflects our program's primary focus on its students, from our individualized attention during the admissions process to our faculty's goal of ensuring that all of our students continue to stretch and grow as writers throughout their time at Lindenwood," Mead said.

Mead said the program, which currently has 180 online students from 38 states, has grown dramatically in the last few years. In fall 2012, four online MFA courses were offered; in fall 2015, 29 courses were offered and MFA students are currently enrolled in approximately 1,000 credit hours each quarter.

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