

Kristie Townsley



An aspiring writer since childhood, Kristie's journey to the MLA program at TCU resembles a rich tapestry of myriad experiences and deep connections to humanity and nature.

Kristie is intrigued by the Japanese philosophy of "kai zen," which she explains as the process of "making incremental movements, one little change at a time, that add up to a big shift. This is a space I'm now able to inhabit in my life because of my efforts to awaken – from my contemplative studies at an ashram, to a travel-abroad program in college, and now to the MLA program here at TCU."

Kristie originally began her studies in the field of nursing, working as a physical therapy assistant and veterinary technician to put herself through school. When family responsibilities required her full attention, she continued to take creative writing classes to nurture her true passion. Eventually, she returned to her undergraduate studies, starting at TCU and then completing her Bachelor of Science in Anthropology at UTA. Her passion for writing then led her to pursue TCU's Masters of Liberal Arts, and she is slated to graduate in May 2026.

"The MLA program pairs so well with my anthropology study because they are both multi-disciplinary. Anthropology has helped me with my MLA projects, allowing me to make connections and weave research facts into my writing. Simultaneously, I couldn't have written the piece in a way that wasn't dry and academic without the techniques I've honed in my MLA creative writing classes. Together, the combination has opened up new avenues of creative expression and development for me."

Highly experienced in corporate communications and technical writing, Kristie has also been a guest columnist at the Fort Worth Star Telegram. Across her academic career she has excelled: membership in TCU's Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society; recipient of UTA President's Award and Dean's Award; and a member of the TCU chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Currently, Kristie continues to work in veterinary medicine while pursuing her MLA full-time. Raised in Detroit until she moved to Texas in junior high, Kristie lives in Arlington with her husband and two children. Trained in the martial art of Brazilian Jujitsu, Kristie is also a huge fan of basketball and anything sugary sweet. She loves skydiving and is taking flight lessons with a dream of starting a female-staffed skydiving company someday. A nature-lover, you can find her hiking, gardening, or designing and fabricating costumes with her imagination on fire.