

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
**Divinity School**

**2025-2026 MARTIN MARTY CENTER JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS**

The Divinity School's Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion invites applications for the 2025-2026 Junior Fellows Program. The Marty Center Junior Fellows program aims to support students toward a successful completion of their dissertation and aid in their transition to professional life as public intellectuals.

For the 2025-26 academic year the Fellows program will be focused on the craft of scholarly writing. It will consider the conventions and conflicts of writing in a field as interdisciplinary as the study of religion and will explore the opportunities for creativity, voice and style within its various forms through reading and writing. We will work on everything from the sentence to the structuring of book-length manuscripts. The class will be organized to accommodate analysis, discussion and workshop and the final assignment will be the revision of a seminar paper into an essay suitable for publication.

The Marty Junior Fellowship awards a prize of \$2,500 for students receiving stipendiary assistance from the University or other funding source that is greater than or equal to the annual living stipend amount. Award eligibility will be confirmed by the divisional Dean of Students.

The structure and requirements for the Fellowship are as follows:

**Course structure:**

- The fellowship shall consist of weekly meetings through the entire academic year.

**Course requirements:**

- Each Student will be responsible for presenting two journal articles to the class. These should be published articles that the student has selected by reading through journals in their field. Each student should select one that they consider to be structured by a clear, effective argument and uses evidence in a transparent and straightforward manner. They shall select another that they consider to be innovative in voice, style, structure or all three. The student will present their chosen essays to the group along with what they see as the essay's strengths and weaknesses. Essays should be sent for posting on Canvas by the Sunday 5 pm.
- Additionally, each student will pick one journal to read consistently, starting from current issue and tracking backwards.
- Each student will present an essay of their own composition, either drawn from dissertation writing or from a seminar. This essay will be workshopped in the first half of the term and the student will then have until the end of the quarter to produce a revision, to be turned into instructor as final assignment. Essay to be workshopped should be sent to me for posting by Sunday 5 pm.
- Each student will have a writing project for the quarter. This will be a work in progress which will be workshopped in the second half of class. You may start from scratch for this assignment, or you

may begin from research already conducted. In the second half of the term, you will present your project to the class for discussion (same turn in deadline). Throughout the term you will keep an online journal on canvas to discuss your progress. This is about accountability. Having a group of people to whom you are accountable can help you stay on a schedule. Each week on Sunday or Monday you will log your writing goals for that week and how you managed to meet them or not in the previous week. This will also give you a chance to reflect both on obstacles and methods that worked for you and to share both with the group.

- Each student will come prepared to every session having done the reading for the week—the two published essays and the two essays for workshop. They will fill out the preparatory sheet for each essay to be workshopped, which will be available on canvas.

#### **Award Conditions:**

- Fellows must maintain good academic standing as defined by the fellow's division.
- Fellows must actively participate in the weekly meetings. Should the condition of weekly attendance be difficult to meet, applicants should address this issue in their application.
- Fellows must agree to participate in the Marty Center's fall Sacred Writes workshop September 15-17, 2025.

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

- Applicants must be enrolled and in good standing in a PhD program in the Divinity School, the Division of the Humanities, or the Division of the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago.
- Applicants must have achieved candidacy by time of application, with a committee-approved dissertation prospectus that centers around any topic in the study of religion.

#### **Application Materials:**

- The application form can be accessed at the link found [HERE](#)

In addition to filling out that form we ask that you send a letter of support from your dissertation advisor directly to [Prof. Sarah Hammerschlag](#)

**Application Deadline:** Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

Applications will be assessed by Marty Center Faculty Co-Directors Professors Curtis Evans and Sarah Hammerschlag along with Marty Center Executive Director Emily Crews. Notifications will be made the end of June.

All questions should be directed to Tiffany Annett, Marty Center Program Manager  
[tannett@uchicago.edu](mailto:tannett@uchicago.edu)