COMMUNICATION

http://communication.illinois.edu

Acting Head of the Department: John Caughlin
Director of Graduate Study: Leanne Knobloch
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Major: Communication

Degrees Offered: M.A., Ph.D.

Graduate Concentrations: Medieval Studies (available to all degrees),
Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (Ph.D. only),
Writing Studies (Ph.D. only)

Online Program: Health Communication

Degrees offered: M.S.

Online Program: Communication (not currently offered; apply to M.S. in
Health Communication)

Degrees offered: M.A.

Medical Scholars Program: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Communication and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) through the Medical Scholars Program (http://www.med.illinois.edu/msp).

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Communication offers a broad curriculum in communication research. In consultation with an advisor, students assemble individualized programs, concentrating in organizational and group communication, interpersonal and family communication, health communication, communication technology, political communication, rhetoric and public discourse, communication in cultural contexts, or mass communication. Interdisciplinary programs are also encouraged.

Admission

An application must include official transcripts from every post-secondary institution the applicant has attended; scores on the general aptitude parts of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); at least three letters of recommendation, preferably from academic recommenders; a major paper or essay as a sample of academic writing; and a statement of purpose. Students whose native language is not English must present their official scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination as part of their applications. The department follows the Graduate College’s recommendations for English proficiency.

Detailed information about admissions and financial aid can be found on the department’s Web site (http://www.communication.illinois.edu/prospective/grad/apply). Ordinarily, students are admitted to begin graduate study in the fall semester.

Medical Scholars Program

Applications are not currently being accepted.

The Medical Scholars Program permits highly qualified students to integrate the study of medicine with study for a graduate degree in a second discipline, including Communication. Students may apply to the Medical Scholars Program prior to beginning graduate school or while in the graduate program. Applicants to the Medical Scholars Program must meet the admissions standards for and be accepted into both the doctoral graduate program and the College of Medicine. Students in the dual degree program must meet the specific requirements for both the medical and graduate degrees. On average, students take eight years to complete both degrees. Further information on this program is available by contacting the Medical Scholars Program, 125 Medical Sciences Building, (217) 333-8146 or at www.med.illinois.edu/msp (http://www.med.illinois.edu/msp).

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is usually offered in the form of part-time teaching assistantships; some fellowships and research assistantships are available.

- Master of Arts in Communication (http://catalog.illinois.edu/archivedacademiccatalogs/2017-2018/graduate/graduate-majors/communication/ma)
- Master of Science in Health Communication (http://catalog.illinois.edu/archivedacademiccatalogs/2017-2018/graduate/graduate-majors/communication/ms-health-comm)

Doctor of Philosophy in Communication

To be accepted as a candidate for the Ph.D. degree, a student must either present a well-rounded undergraduate education with an emphasis in communication and a master’s in a cognate discipline, or hold a master’s degree in communication from an accredited institution.

In addition to meeting general requirements of the Graduate College, the student must satisfactorily complete written and oral preliminary examinations, an oral defense of the thesis prospectus, and an oral defense of the thesis. Students must demonstrate competency in research procedures and tools that may include proficiency in one or more foreign languages, various research methods, or cognate academic work. Students must enroll in CMN 595 in the semester of the preliminary examination and in CMN 599 (thesis hours) in semesters spent working on the dissertation.

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

Minimum Non-Method/Thesis: 20
Hours Required Within the Unit: 
Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD? Yes
Qualifying Exam Required: No

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 04/2018
Preliminary Exam Required: Yes  
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required: Yes  
Dissertation Deposit Required: Yes  
Minimum GPA: 2.75

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Programs (http://www.communication.illinois.edu/prospective/grad/degrees) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Online Program in Health Communication

The Department of Communication also offers an online Master of Science degree (M.S.) in Health Communication. The required hours are listed in Master of Science in Health Communication (http://catalog.illinois.edu/archivedacademiccatalogs/2017-2018/graduate/graduate-majors/communication/ms-health-comm). Apply to the Master of Science program only; applications to the online Master of Arts in Communication are not being accepted. More information about the online program is available at www.hcom.illinois.edu (http://www.hcom.illinois.edu).