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/mdphd)

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/
graduate/graduate-majors/communication/ma)
• Master of Science in Health Communication (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/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 seminars spent working
on the dissertation.

Minimum in appropriate research method; these are in
addition to the 40 hours of additional coursework. (8 min)
Courses from outside the department
Elective hours (not in method or thesis hours)
Independent Study Hours (8 max applied toward degree)
Language Requirement: based on major
CMN 599 Thesis Research (0 min applied toward degree)

Total Hours

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap
Minimum Non-Method/Thesis Hours Required Within the Unit: 20
Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?
Qualifying Exam Required: No
Preliminary Exam Required: Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required:

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 07/2017
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/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).