COMMUNICATION

http://communication.illinois.edu

Head of the Department: David Tewksbury
Director of Graduate Study: Leanne Knobloch
3001 Lincoln Hall, 702 S. Wright Street
(217) 333-2683
communication@illinois.edu

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.

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 semesters spent working on the dissertation.

Minimum in appropriate research method; these are in addition to the 40 hours of additional coursework. (8 min)

Elective hours (not in method or thesis hours) 40

Independent Study Hours (8 max applied toward degree) 8

Language Requirement: based on major

CMN 599 Thesis Research (0 min applied toward degree) 0

Total Hours 64

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

Minimum Non-Method/Thesis Hours Required Within the Unit: 20

Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD? Yes

Qualifying Exam Required: No

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/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).