COMMUNICATION, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Communication

chair of department: John Caughlin
director of graduate studies: Travis Dixon
department website: http://communication.illinois.edu
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
overview of graduate college admissions & requirements: Graduate Admissions (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)
overview of department admissions & requirements: Web site (https://communication.illinois.edu/admissions/apply-graduate-program/)
department office: 3001 Lincoln Hall, 702 S. Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801
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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.

Graduate Degree Programs in Communication

Communication, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/communication-ma/)
concentration:
   Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)
Health Communication, MS (on campus & online) (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/health-communication-ms/)
concentration:
   Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)
Communication, PhD (p. 1)
concentration:
   Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)
   Second Language Acquisition & Teacher Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/second-language-acquisition-teacher-education/)
   Writing Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/writing-studies/)

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 mediated communication. Interdisciplinary programs are also encouraged.

Admission

An application must include official transcripts from every post-secondary institution the applicant has attended; at least three letters of recommendation, preferably from academic recommenders; a major paper or essay as a sample of academic writing; an academic statement of purpose that details their scholarly accomplishments and goals, and a personal statement of purpose that describes how the student’s personal background and experiences influenced their decision to pursue a graduate degree. 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 (https://communication.illinois.edu/admissions/apply-graduate-program/). Ordinarily, students are admitted to begin graduate study in the fall semester.

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.