**COMMUNICATION (COMM)**

Graduate Degree Program  
College: Arts and Humanities

**Abstract**

The Department of Communication takes as its intellectual focus the strategic use of discourse in the public sphere. Faculty members and graduate students in the Department pursue and produce research that spans a wide range of the Communication discipline, generally focused in three broad curriculum areas:

- Communication Science & Social Cognition,  
- Public Relations & Strategic Communication, and  
- Rhetoric & Political Culture.

The Department encourages applications for graduate study from students wishing to pursue interests identified within these foci. The graduate program in Communication is designed for students whose educational objective is the Ph.D. degree (currently the program does not admit students whose degree objective is the M.A.). Most graduates of the doctoral program pursue academic careers; however, some work in public policy research and other professions requiring highly developed research skills.

**Financial Assistance**

Most departmental financial aid is in the form of graduate assistantships. However, a limited number of fellowships are available.

**CONTACT**

Ray Chang  
Program Management Specialist  
Department of Communication  
2130 Skinner Building  
4300 Chapel Lane  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
Telephone: 301.405.0870  
Fax: 301.314.9471  
Email: commgrad@deans.umd.edu

Kristy Maddux, Ph.D.  
(for current graduate students)  
Department of Communication  
2122 Skinner Building  
4300 Chapel Lane  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20740  
Telephone: 301.405.6533  
Email: klmaddux@umd.edu

Xiaoli Nan, Ph.D.  
(for prospective students)  
Department of Communication  
2102 Skinner Building  
4300 Chapel Lane  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20740  
Telephone: 301.405.0640  
Email: nan@umd.edu  
Website: http://www.comm.umd.edu

**Admissions**

**General Requirements**

- Statement of Purpose  
- Transcript(s)  
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students)

**Program-Specific Requirements**

- Letters of Recommendation (3)  
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)  
- CV/Resume  
- Writing Sample: This could be a research paper.  
- Description of Research Interests: Describe in detail your primary research interests with reference to specific studies you have conducted in the past and/or plan to carry out in the future; discuss your future career goals; 2-4 pages; upload to the Uploads Requirements section.

Students must hold a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree (or the equivalent) prior to enrollment in the Ph.D. program. Although most applicants to the program will have earned a degree in the communication field, others with an interest in studying communication may be admitted (with the possibility of additional courses assigned to remedy deficiencies). Admission to the Ph.D. program is based on the student’s prior academic record, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, statement of purpose and research interests, sample of scholarly writing, and other information relevant to the applicant’s likelihood of successfully completing the program.

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website: www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions

**Application Deadlines**

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<tr>
<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Fall Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Applicants</td>
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<td>US Citizens and Permanent Residents</td>
<td>9 Jan</td>
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<td>International Applicants</td>
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<td>F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas, A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants</td>
<td>9 Jan</td>
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**Other Deadlines:** Please visit the program website at http://www.comm.umd.edu
Requirements

- Communication, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/communication-comm/communication-phd)
- Communication, Master of Arts (M.A.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/communication-comm/communication-ma)

Facilities and Special Resources

The Department of Communication houses a Center for Health and Risk Communication (http://www.healthriskcenter.umd.edu); a Center for Political Communication and Civic Leadership (http://www.comm.center.umd.edu); and an Oral Communication Center (https://umdocc.wixsite.com/blog). The campus provides extensive computer resources and excellent library collections in communication. In addition, the Washington metropolitan area provides research and laboratory facilities for studying communication unmatched by other departments in the discipline.