

COMMUNICATION (COMM)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

The Department of Communication is committed to communication for the public good. 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

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Relationships: English Language and Literature (ENGL) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/english-language-literature-engl/>)

Courses: COMM (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/comm/>)

ADMISSIONS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- 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. Please also discuss your future career goals. This should be 2-4 pages. Please upload in the Uploads Requirements page of the online application.

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, 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 (<http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	January 2, 2026
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	January 2, 2026

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Other Deadlines: [comm.umd.edu](http://www.comm.umd.edu) (<http://www.comm.umd.edu>)

Program Website: <https://communication.umd.edu/academics/graduate/> (<https://communication.umd.edu/academics/graduate/>)

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/>)

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 the Center for Health and Risk Communication (<http://www.healthriskcenter.umd.edu> (<http://www.healthriskcenter.umd.edu/>)), the Center for Political Communication and Civic Leadership (<http://www.comm.center.umd.edu> (<http://www.comm.center.umd.edu/>)), the Black Communication and Technology (BCaT) Lab (<https://communication.umd.edu/bcat-lab> (<https://communication.umd.edu/bcat-lab/>)), and the Oral Communication Center (<https://communication.umd.edu/academics/undergraduate/oral-communication> (<https://communication.umd.edu/academics/undergraduate/oral-communication/>)). 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 that are unmatched by other departments in the discipline.