



## Thinking of applying to our graduate programs in the School of Communication?

The Graduate School, upon the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Communication, admits students to graduate study in communication. Recommendations for admission are based on a holistic review of seven factors:

- 1) The applicants statement of interest and intent with regard to a graduate program in the School of Communication
- 2) Detailed resume/curriculum vitae
- 3) At least three letters of recommendation
- 4) Cumulative undergraduate grade point average
- 5) Undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- 6) Scores on the general aptitude sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)\*
- 7) Writing sample or other evidence of potential for success in graduate study

In the case of international students whose first language is not English, there are additional requirements described in more detail below.

All of the requirements are specified below:

**The statement of interest:** Applicants are required to submit a statement of interest along with their credentials and materials. This statement should detail what you expect to accomplish by pursuing graduate work in communication.

The statement of interest is reviewed by the Graduate Studies Committee and assessed for fit with the mission and priorities of the School of Communication. The Committee looks for evidence that the applicant has:

- a clear understanding of the courses and training the School offers graduate students.
- an indication of how the applicants needs are met by our training and course offerings.
- indicators of initiative, perseverance, and collegiality.

The Committee also looks for evidence that the applicant is aware of the research and teaching interests of the faculty. Applicants should review the materials on our website to get a better idea of the research interests and publications of the graduate faculty.

This statement should specify your educational and career goals. We are particularly interested in your responses to the following questions:

- What topics, problems, or areas of communication do you wish to investigate in your graduate program?
- Why did you select the School of Communication at The Ohio State University as the program appropriate to your goals?
- What in your educational background has prepared you to enter the School of Communication at The Ohio State University?
- What are your near and ultimate career goals?
- Which faculty members do you believe offer the closest match to your interests and educational needs?

**Resume:** Your resume should include formal education, teaching, and communication or journalism-related professional experience, or any research experience that you may have had. It can also include information about leadership roles, community involvement, organizational memberships, and/or relevant activities.

**Three letters of recommendation:** The graduate committee reviews the letters for statements that indicate initiative, perseverance, intelligence, collegiality, strong work habits, and other evidence of your potential success in graduate school. Three letters of reference from persons acquainted with your academic program, scholastic ability, or professional performance are required.

Recommendation letters should be submitted electronically, as part of the online application through the Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions. When applying, you will be asked to designate 3 references which will spark an email communication and link to where each reference can upload a letter of recommendation. This is the preferred method of submitting letters of recommendation to the School of Communication.

Each reference should provide a telephone number and e-mail address. Without at least one means of contact, the letter cannot be counted as an official letter of reference.

To ensure we received three letters of recommendation. You may want to ask more than three people to write letters. It may be appropriate to check with the people you have asked to be sure the letters have been sent. You may also check with us to see which letters have been received.

**Cumulative undergraduate grade point average:** Must be 3.0 or better for applicants to the masters program. Applicants to the Ph.D. program must have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 and a minimum MA GPA of a 3.5.

**Undergraduate and (where appropriate) graduate transcripts:** Scanned copies of official transcripts can be uploaded during the application process. If admitted, please note that official transcripts must be sent by the appropriate office of the registrar of the college or university attended before enrolling at OSU.

**Scores on the Graduate Record Examination\*:** The School of Communication continues to request the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) as one component of our comprehensive review process. Given the holistic nature of our application review, there is NOT a strict cutoff for GRE scores. The Graduate Studies Committee continues to monitor the most recent research on the predictive utility of the GRE, specifically within our own field, and uses the GRE in accordance with evidence-based best practices. Ensuring student success is our top priority. One of the best ways to ensure student success is to use all available information to determine if prospective students are a good fit for our specific graduate programs. However, we do not want GRE scores to serve as a barrier for applicants. The absence of GRE scores will not be held against any applicant who can provide all other required materials. Applicants who do not provide GRE scores may consider highlighting in their statement of interest other indicators of quantitative ability (e.g., math/stats courses, research experience with quantitative methods) given the social scientific nature of our training and our required statistics courses.



**Writing sample or other evidence of potential success in graduate school:** You can include such materials as research papers, articles written for the press, academic or industry awards, or any other material which you feel is appropriate and indicative of your potential for success in graduate school. A writing sample (e.g., thesis, research proposal, or research article) is required for admission to the Ph.D. program. The writing sample is optional for M.A. applicants.

#### **Additional Requirements for International Applicants**

For applicants whose native language is not English, there are the following additional requirements:

- 8) The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency (MELAB) are required. A minimum score of 111 on the internet-based TOEFL (equal to 273 on the CBT and 640 on paper-based test) with a minimum score of 28 on the spoken English section is strongly preferred. A recent (within one year) TOEFL or MELAB exam is required even if you have a previous degree from a U.S. university.
- 9) International students seeking financial assistance must also take a local spoken English test after arrival. Students who are judged to have language skills that are insufficient for performing teaching assistant duties must be certified for classroom teaching by the end of their second semester to be eligible for funding.
- 10) International applicants who have been recommended for admission will be required to submit financial documentation to the University Admissions Office in order to receive the I-20 visa eligibility document.

#### **Application Process**

A complete application for graduate study in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University comprises of:

- Admission Application available on the web at <http://gpadmissions.osu.edu/programs/programs.aspx#&&deg=all&col=all&env=all&filter=c>
- One copy of official transcripts of all previous college and/or university work
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores
- TOEFL scores (for international students whose first language is not English)
- Statement of Academic Intent
- Resume/CV
- Three letters of recommendation
- A writing sample is required of all applicants to the PhD program, and is optional for those applying to the MA program

Have the documents listed above on hand when you go in to complete the online application. You will be asked to upload and attach these required application materials and pay your nonrefundable application fee before you can submit the online application. After materials have been processed they will be noted as "completed" on the online application status page. Please allow up to 3-5 working days for processing after submission of your materials.

#### **Other Admission Information**

The School of Communication accepts applications from those who have degrees in disciplines other than Communication. The school especially encourages applications from prospective students who would enhance the diversity of the School.

#### **Time Frames for Application**

Applications are considered for Autumn Semester admission only. You may apply directly online from the Admissions Office website.

To ensure full consideration for the University Fellowship competition and all available funding opportunities, application materials should be received no later than Dec. 1. However, review of applications will continue until all available space is filled. We encourage late applicants to submit materials as soon as possible.

#### **Admission decisions are usually issued by late March.**

The deadline listed above is the date by which all documents must be received by the appropriate University office.

Questions: Contact the Graduate Program Coordinator via email <mailto:comm@osu.edu> or by phone (614) 292-6503.