

HOW TO APPLY: ADMISSIONS

Application Process:

1. Fill out the online application from the Graduate School (https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantLogin.asp?id=unc-ch)
2. Pay the \$85 application fee.
3. Standardized test scores (GRE - no more than 5 years old. TOEFL or IELTS – no more than 2 years old).
4. **Transcripts** from prior undergraduate (with an average grade of B or better) and graduate work.
5. A formal **statement of purpose** that describes your educational and professional objectives.
6. A resume/CV.
7. A list of five key terms that describe your research interests.
8. A sample of scholarly writing (e.g., academic paper, thesis chapter, or other research-based, argumentative writing, under 30 pages) that shows your ability to conduct research and to write effectively).
9. An abstract of no more than 500 words summarizing the argument of your writing sample.
10. Three letters of recommendation.

Admission Offers

In recent years Communication Studies has sought to enroll 8 to 12 incoming graduate students in each fall semester. Because of the fluctuating number of admitted students enrolling in our program each year, the number of students offered admission varies slightly from year to year. We generally review about two hundred applications per year.

Application Deadline

The deadline is December 1st, 2015 for the fall semester enrollment. The application process must, therefore, begin early. It can take weeks for official scores or letter of recommendation to arrive. We begin reviewing all completed applications in early December. Late arrival of test scores or letters of recommendation only delays such decisions.

The principal loss to strong applicants whose files are incomplete by early December is that they risk not being considered for nomination for lucrative, highly competitive, Graduate School fellowships.

Application Fee

An applicant's file is incomplete until the application fee is paid, and no deferred fee payment is allowed. (A fee waiver is possible in rare cases for US citizens.) Applications which are incomplete because of unpaid or unwaived fees are not evaluated by the Department. Our Graduate School accepts no departmental recommendation for applicant admission until the fee is paid.

Standardized Test Scores

We invite students to send us early 'unofficial' copies of their GRE and TOEFL test scores. These can be used for internal departmental evaluation for admission. However, our Graduate School requires that

'official' results reach us from the testing agency before any admission offer can be extended. *The Graduate School requires that all applicants take the verbal and quantitative GRE exams.*

TOEFL Waivers

The Graduate School does allow applicants to apply for a waiver, but the Communication Studies Department does not grant these waivers.

Notifications

We usually begin to send offers of admission in January, and continue to admit students until we believe sufficient offers have been made to fill our class for the coming year. Most of our offers for fall admission with financial aid are made by early March. Later offers may be made if space is available.

Deadline for Accept/Deny

The deadline for acceptance of our offer of fall semester admission is April 15. We greatly appreciate earlier notification if at all possible. Since the number of places in our program is very limited, and since we keep a file of applicants who are deemed worthy of admission if space becomes available, we would like to know as quickly as possible whether admitted students will be able to accept our offer. Declined offers open spaces for others.

Included in your official offer letter from the Graduate School will be instructions regarding the formal acceptance of admission as well as the required enrollment deposit and Student Health Forms.

Fall Enrollment

We accept students only for the Fall semester. If you are not accepted in the Fall, you may try again the next year.

If you are interested in public relations, advertising, journalism and related mass communication fields, please contact the graduate program in the [School of Journalism and Mass Communication](#).