PhD in Communication

Admission Requirements
Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Complete transcripts of all undergraduate and any graduate work must be submitted. Besides the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Prior Degrees**  A master’s degree in communication or a related field is required. Applicants who have earned (or are completing) a bachelor’s degree and plan to pursue doctoral work should apply to the MA program.

- **Grade Point Average**  At least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of undergraduate study, and 3.50 for any graduate study. When other data warrant, the department may grant conditional admission to students with lower grade point averages.

- **Tests Required**  
  
  - GRE General.

- **Minimum English Competency Score**  
  
  - TOEFL 95, with minimum subscores of Reading 24, Listening 24, Speaking 24, and Writing 22 (iBT Internet-based); 60, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Writing 21 (New Paper-Based—after August 2018); 600 (Institutional Testing Paper-Based—prior to August 2018), OR,
  
  - IELTS 7.0, with subscores of 6.5 for all four modules, OR,
  
  - PTE-Academic 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.

- **Resume**  Required; 1–2 pages.

- **Letters of Recommendation**  Three required, preferably from professors.

- **Personal Statement**  Required; 600 words.

- **Writing Sample**  Required; MA thesis or similar sustained writing.

- **Other Requirements**  Students are only admitted for the fall semester.

Degree Requirements
Besides the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required**  96 semester hours from the baccalaureate degree; 64 hours from the master’s degree.

- **Course Work**  At least 32 semester hours numbered 500 or higher. Credit in COMM 474, COMM 490, COMM 491, or COMM 498 may not count toward the degree. No more than 16 hours may come from outside the department, and no more than 8 hours may be in independent studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 500</td>
<td>Introduction to Communication Research (or equivalent with departmental approval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 501</td>
<td>Operationalizing Communication Research (or equivalent with departmental approval)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 502</td>
<td>Seminar in Media Studies</td>
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Interdepartmental Concentrations
Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- Black Studies (http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/black-studies-conc)
- Gender and Women's Studies (http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/gws-conc)
- Latin American and Latino Studies (http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/lals)
- Survey Research Methodology (http://catalog.uic.edu/gcat/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/comm/ma/Interdepartmental%20Graduate%20Concentration%20in%20Survey%20Research%20Methodology)

Students must complete required courses with a grade of B or better.

Students who have taken any required course as part of the MA program at UIC will substitute another course approved by the graduate advisor.

The department advises students to take both COMM 502 and COMM 503.

- **Specialization**: Students must develop expertise in one or more specialized subfields of communication. Specialties reflect the organization of the discipline in scholarly societies as well as the current interests and strengths of department faculty. Courses in one or more allied discipline are necessary for most specializations, and students normally take two courses in specific research techniques related to their chosen specialty.

- **Examinations**  
  
  - Departmental Qualifying Examination: None.
  
  - Preliminary Examination: Required; three calendar years after admission or upon completion of 40 semester hours (whichever comes first).

  - **Dissertation**  Required.