

MA in Communication, Digital Media, and AI

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Besides the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions. It is *recommended* that applicants have the equivalent of 20 semester hours of study in communication, media, or similar programs of social inquiry, such as political science and sociology.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of undergraduate study.
- **Tests Required** GRE optional.
- **English Proficiency** Additional information on the English proficiency test requirement for international students can be found on the [UIC Admissions website](#). Minimum test scores for this program are:

Exam	Score	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
TOEFL iBT (exams taken prior to January 21, 2026)	95	24	24	24	22
IELTS Academic	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
PTE Academic	54	51	47	53	56

- **Resume** Required. 1-2 pages.
- **Transcripts** Complete transcripts of all past undergraduate and (any) graduate work must be submitted.
- **Personal Statement** Required. 600 words. The statement should address how graduate study in the program and department relates to the applicant's career or other aims.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Optional. Two, along with a completed Rating Form, preferably from a mix of academic and professional recommenders.
- **Writing Sample** Optional.
- **Other Requirements** Students will be matriculated on a rolling basis.
- **Nondegree Applicants** Rarely accepted. Nondegree applicants must submit all credentials and meet the same admission requirements as degree applicants. Nondegree students may not take individual study courses.

Degree Requirements

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 32, with 20 hours of required core courses and 12 hours of electives.
- **Coursework** At least 16 semester hours must be at the 500 level. Students who receive more than one grade below B in their graduate coursework, or four incompletes that have not been made up within the regulatory one term, will be dropped from the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core Courses		
COMM 435	Data, Privacy and Ethics in the Digital Age	
COMM 512	Digital Marketing and Public Relations	
COMM 514	Social Media Influencers, Branding, and Marketing	
COMM 515	AI and Digital Journalism	
COMM 520	Data Metrics, Research, and Digital Literacies	
Electives		
Students must select a minimum of 12 semester hours of elective courses. Students taking a 400-level course as an elective should note that the instructor may require additional work, and higher standards will apply than for undergraduate students.		
COMM 425	Digital Advocacy	
COMM 440	Technology, Social Justice, and Sustainable Futures	
COMM 445	Politics of Platforms	
COMM 510	Social Networks and Technology	
COMM 594	Advanced Special Topics in Communication ^a	

^a No more than 8 hours of COMM 594 may be taken and must be approved by the program director.

- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options** Students will complete projects as part of their required coursework for COMM 520. No other options are available.