USC | ANNENBERG
School for Communication & Journalism

Ph.D. in Communication
Graduate Application Guidelines and Instructions for Fall 2012

Application Deadline

Admission to the Ph.D. in Communication is limited to the fall term. The application deadline is **December 1**.

Application Process

1) Go to *www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply/* and complete the online USC Graduate Admission Application. You must upload the following materials before submitting your application:
   - ◻ Statement of Purpose
   - ◻ Scholarly Writing
   - ◻ Professional Résumé
   - ◻ Interest Survey Questionnaire
   - ◻ Non-refundable application fee

2) Request letters of recommendation
   - ◻ Three letters of recommendation required

3) Mail the following materials to
   University of Southern California
   Office of Graduate Admission
   3601 South Flower Street, Room 112
   Los Angeles, CA 90089-0911:
   - ◻ Official transcripts from all colleges/ universities attended, including from study abroad programs
   - ◻ Confidential statement of financial support (international applicants only)

4) Request to have your admission tests reported electronically to USC (institution code 4852)
   - ◻ Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test
   - ◻ TOEFL scores (international applicants only)

Admission Testing

All applicants must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores.

International applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. USC will waive the English proficiency requirement for international applicants who hold a recognized Bachelor's degree from the following countries: United States, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, or Canada (except Quebec).

Students who have studied in other countries are not exempted from the English-proficiency requirement, even if English was the medium of instruction at their previous school. If the English proficiency requirement is not waived, applicants must submit TOEFL scores; the minimum recommended score is 114-115 (IBT). For more details pertinent to international students, refer to www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html.

Plan to complete all admission testing at least one month prior to the application deadline.

Statement of Purpose

- Focus on the fit between your intellectual interests and research training with the course and research opportunities at USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism.
- What do you anticipate to be the general area and specific foci of your research?

Scholarly Writing

Select a representative sample of an essay, article or book chapter that you wrote that demonstrates a research area of interest that you wish to pursue in the program. Note: Complete theses or longer works are not acceptable forms of scholarly writing for this application. The maximum length is 18-20 pages.

Résumé

Submit a current resume listing positions held, including internships, nature of work and dates of employment. Include academic and professional awards, honors, association memberships, teaching experience, subject matter expertise, language(s) other than English, and your familiarity with any research or communications technologies, e.g. Web design, television production, spreadsheets, etc. Indicate your proficiency level for each skill and area of expertise (E = expert, C = competent, F = familiar).

Letters of Recommendation

Faculty recommendations are required. However, if you have substantial work experience, you may provide professional references (managers and supervisors, not peers and co-workers). If you provide recommenders' e-mail addresses on the online application, they will receive online recommendation forms.

Interest Survey Questionnaire

The Annenberg Supplemental Form is an online survey that attempts to link your interests, background and planned course areas and work to the research, teaching and course areas at USC Annenberg. You must complete this Supplemental Form before submitting your online USC Graduate Admission Application.

Financial Aid

All enrolling Ph.D. candidates receive five years of full financial support and health coverage, including four years of summer support. First year students are funded by USC Annenberg Graduate Fellowships or USC Provost Fellowships. Candidates in years 2 – 5 are funded by assistantships that include full tuition remission, stipend, and a health benefits package.

As part of the application process, international applicants must provide proof of ability to pay tuition and living expenses before an admission decision is released. For more information, refer to the USC Graduate & International Admission Web site at *www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html*.

Prospective Graduate Student Visit Program

The Annual Prospective Graduate Student Visit Day program will be held on November 11, 2011. Please visit our Web site, *www.annenberg.usc.edu* , for more information. Group information sessions are not offered for the Ph.D. in Communication.

Questions

Contact Annenberg Admissions via e-mail at ascadm@usc.edu or by phone: 213.821.0770.

USC Annenberg Admissions Office
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Los Angeles CA 90089-0281
ATTN: PhD in Communication