Our highly ranked communication doctoral program combines a supportive and dynamic environment with strong interdisciplinary training, research and teaching opportunities. From translating traditional communication theory and research for the public and communities to creative workshops and performances, our communication students and award-winning faculty are changing the world.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Communication

The graduate faculty members of communication offer a transdisciplinary graduate program leading to the PhD in communication. Areas of emphasis are available in interpersonal, intercultural and organizational communication. This program also provides coursework and resources in rhetoric and performance studies.

The program is housed in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication and is designed to prepare scholars for research-oriented careers in universities and in the public or private sectors. Students are provided training in communication theory, research methodology, and a specialization in one or more areas of concentration. The goal of the program is to meet the needs of students whose interests transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries as exemplified by participation in our transdisciplinary research initiatives.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

96 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

The doctorate requires a minimum of 66 credit hours beyond an appropriate master’s degree.
Coursework for a typical plan of study is distributed as follows:

required core courses (6)
area of concentration (36)
COM 792 Research (12)
COM 799 Dissertation (12)

Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in research methods (statistics, computer languages, content analysis methods, interviewing, participant observation, etc.) which, in the judgment of the supervisory committee, is needed for the student's dissertation research.

Students are required to take three credit hours of COM 792 Prospectus/Dissertation Practicum and three credit hours of COM 792 Seminar Assistant.

Students must take at least one of the three advanced methods courses:

COM 607 Contemporary Rhetorical Methods (3)
COM 608 Multivariate Statistical Analysis of Data in Communication (3)
COM 609 Advanced Qualitative Research Methods in Communication (3)

The required theory course is COM 604 Theory Construction in Communication (3).

Two transdisciplinary theory and methodology courses are required of all students in the program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official GRE scores
3. official transcripts
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. statement of goals
6. three letters of recommendation
7. writing sample
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Applicants should visit the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication website for further details.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Contact Information

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication | STAUF A412
PHDCOM@asu.edu | 480-965-5096
Admission Deadlines