USC Annenberg
School for Communication and Journalism

Ph.D. in Communication
Graduate Application Guidelines and Instructions for Fall 2013

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 (1MB max):
   - ☐ Professional Résumé
   - ☐ Statement of Purpose
   - ☐ Writing Sample
   - ☐ Unofficial copies of transcripts from all colleges/universities attended. English translation only.
   - ☐ You must provide the names and email addresses of your recommenders on the application.

2) After you submit your application, you must pay the $85 non-refundable application fee with a credit card or request an application fee waiver and provide documentation.

3) Request letters of recommendation
   - ☐ Three letters of recommendation required

4) After submitting your online application, you will receive your USC ID via e-mail from USC Graduate Admission.

5) After receiving your USC ID, mail the following materials to University of Southern California, Office of Graduate Admission, 3601 South Flower St., Room 112, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0915:
   - ☐ Official transcripts from all colleges/ universities attended, including from study abroad programs
   - ☐ Both original language and English translation are required.

NOTE: The application provides a transcript cover sheet. Send the cover sheet with your name and USC ID to each college/university to enclose with your transcript(s). You must include your USC ID on all correspondence sent to USC Graduate Admission.

6) Request to have your admission test scores reported electronically to USC
   - ☐ Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test (code 4852)
   - ☐ TOEFL (code 4852) scores (international applicants only)

Note: All supporting documents must be submitted online with the application. Once the application has been submitted, you will not be able to submit any additional documents. This includes corrections, changes and updates. Once submitted, all documents become the property of USC Annenberg.

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.

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.

Admission Testing

All applicants must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores and the minimum required score is 297 (verbal + quantitative section combined).
In addition, international applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. Proficiency can be demonstrated if any one of the following requirements are met.

- Applicants may submit TOEFL scores, taken within the past 2 years (24 months) prior to the start of your intended first term at USC.
- Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university located in the United States or in another country in which English is both the language of instruction and the only official language of the country. The entire program must be completed in the qualifying country. Please note: a graduate degree from a U.S. college or university does not satisfy this requirement.
- Applicants whose native language is English. This applies to native English speakers from countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada (except Quebec) where English is both the only official language of the country and the language of instruction.

If the English proficiency requirement is not met, applicants must submit TOEFL scores; the minimum recommended score is 114-115 (IBT).

Plan to complete all admission testing at least one month prior to the close of the application filing period. All completed applications are reviewed for admission even if scores (or GPA) are below the stated requirements.

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).

You must provide recommenders' names and e-mail addresses on the online application and they will receive online recommendation forms. Encourage your recommenders to submit a letter of recommendation online in addition to completing the online recommendation form.

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.

Prospective Graduate Student Visit Program

The Annual Prospective Graduate Student Visit Day program will be held on November 9, 2012. 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 USC Annenberg Admissions via e-mail at *ascadm@usc.edu* or by phone: 213.821.0770.