

# USC Annenberg

School for Communication  
and Journalism

## DEGREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The doctoral program teaches theories that guide research into communication processes and effects and into institutions and technologies that lend pattern to communication. As a doctoral candidate, you will acquire and demonstrate humanistic and behavioral knowledge of communication while acquiring skills requisite to scholarly research in the discipline. All enrolling Ph.D. candidates receive five years of tuition remission, stipend, fees and health and dental coverage and four years of summer support.

### When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for the Ph.D. Communication is **December 1** and new students are admitted to fall term only. Late applications may not be accepted.

### Should I submit a resume or curriculum vitae (CV)?

Submit a current resume. However, if you have presented at conferences and published papers and/or articles, a CV is expected.

### What is the Statement of Purpose and what am I required to include in it?

The Statement of Purpose is an integrated expression of your current intellectual interests and desired future academic agenda. You should articulate the theories, frameworks, and intellectual arguments of the scholars who have most influenced your thinking and indicate how they have contributed to your current status as an academic. Also, you should discuss how you would like to explore and expand these and other ideas in your doctoral work.

Please envision both the broad picture of scholarship you would like to pursue and one or two representative examples of research that you would like to conduct in this context. Statements that express either mainstream or groundbreaking agenda, or both, are welcome as are comments on the implications of your research agenda for policy and society. Your Statement of Purpose must not exceed five pages in length.

### What type of writing sample is required?

Select a 10-page representative sample from an essay, article or book chapter that you wrote that demonstrates a research area of interest that you wish to pursue in the doctoral program. This piece must be entirely your own writing and not co-authored with other people. Please describe why you wrote the piece and where it was submitted.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**Complete all admission testing as early as possible and no later than one month prior to the application deadline.**

Valid test scores must be reported electronically from the testing agency to USC (code 4852 for GRE and TOEFL. For IELTS, select University of Southern California Graduate Programs).

- GRE scores are valid if taken within 5 years of the degree program start date.
- International students must submit valid TOEFL or IELTS scores; scores are valid if taken within 2 years of degree program start date. USC Annenberg recommends a minimum TOEFL score of 114 (IBT) or minimum IELTS score of 8.0 for all degree program applicants.
- International applicants who completed their entire undergraduate degree in the US or another Anglophone country where English is both the language of instruction and the only official language of the country are exempt from submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores. Completing a graduate degree in an Anglophone country does not exempt you from submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores.

Go to [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply). Complete the online USC Graduate Admission Application. Enter your name as it appears on your passport. If applicable, indicate any alternate or previous name in the "other name" field. **Upload the following supporting materials before submitting your application:**

- Résumé or CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Writing sample
- Unofficial copies of transcripts from all college/universities attended, including USC. (Only upload the English language translations of international transcripts.)
- Recommendation letters - Create online profiles by providing names and email addresses of your referees. Apply Yourself will send instructions and forms automatically. USC Annenberg only accepts online recommendations.

### What is the supplemental interest survey?

This required questionnaire is part of the online USC Graduate Admission Application and is designed to identify your interests in the specific teaching, research and courses of the doctoral program. Please read the instructions for each question and provide the information requested.

### How many letters of recommendation are needed, and from whom?

Three faculty recommendations are required. However, if you have substantial work experience, you may provide one professional reference (managers and supervisors only) in place of one faculty recommendation.

### What admission test scores are required?

Valid GRE General Test scores are required from all applicants, even if you have earned a Master's degree. To be most competitive in the application pool, at least one subscore (verbal or quantitative) must be at or above the 90th percentile.

In addition, international applicants must submit valid TOEFL (minimum recommended score of 114-115) or IELTS (minimum recommended score of 8.0).

### Are there opportunities for me to meet faculty, current doctoral students and admissions officers?

Annenberg admissions officers will travel throughout the fall 2015. Review our travel schedule on our website.

USC Annenberg faculty will host a table at the **National Communication Association (NCA) Graduate School Open House**. You must be registered for the convention in order to attend the open house.

Pay the \$85 non-refundable application fee with a credit card or request an application fee waiver. Fee waiver requirements may be found at [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/faq/index.html](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/faq/index.html)

Submit your online application before or on the stated application deadline. USC Graduate Admissions will send your USC ID via email 2-3 days after you submit your online graduate admission application.

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 and any study abroad programs. Original language and English translation are required.

All supporting documents must be submitted online with the application in English; limit each document to 1 MB in .pdf or .doc format. Once the application has been submitted, you may not correct or change any supporting documents. Once submitted, all materials and documents become the property of USC Annenberg. Incomplete applications may not be reviewed.

Remember to include your USC ID on all correspondence sent to USC Graduate Admission.

**Once your complete application is submitted and processed, it will be released to the faculty admission committee for review.**