



**USC** Annenberg

# Doctoral Student Handbook

2019-2020



**USC** University of  
Southern California



# 2019 - 2020 ANNENBERG DOCTORAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Annenberg School of Communication!



The Annenberg School at USC was created in 1971 by an endowment from Walter H. Annenberg and continues a long tradition of communication study at USC. In 1880, the year it was founded, the University offered a course in elocution. A College of Oratory was established in 1895, and became the School of Speech in 1921. Its first master's degree was awarded in 1924. The first doctoral degree in speech was conferred in 1935. The School, eventually placed within the USC College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, became known as the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences.

The present configuration came together between 1994 and 1996 when the Annenberg School merged with the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences to become the new School of Communication. The School of Communication, together with the School of Journalism, constitutes the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

The Annenberg doctoral program has evolved to combine and sustain USC's excellence in inquiry, research, teaching, and scholarship in the field of communication.

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The information provided in this handbook is intended to supplement the *USC Catalogue*. The 2019-2020 *Catalogue* can be found online at: <http://catalogue.usc.edu>.

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The 2019-2020 *Annenberg Doctoral Student Handbook* supersedes previous *Doctoral Student Handbooks*. A student's curricular requirements are linked to the *Handbook* in use at time of acceptance to the program. Any student may elect to adopt program requirements detailed in later versions where indicated. Students may use either the requirements from their entry year or from a later year, but they cannot combine the two.

**Part One:**

**Advisement & Guidance**

## **PART ONE: ADVISEMENT & GUIDANCE**

Appropriate advisement and guidance by both faculty and peers is crucial for successful doctoral work. Students are encouraged to actively seek advice from their professors and fellow students in shaping a program of studies.

### ***Mentors and Advisors***

When new students enter the program, they are assigned a faculty mentor, selected by the Director of the Annenberg Doctoral Program, as well as 2 or 3 student “buddies,” assigned by the Annenberg Communication Graduate Student Association (ACGSA). Faculty and peers help the new students adjust to life in Los Angeles, at USC, and at Annenberg. They can help with answers about housing, areas of study, administrative processes, and research foci.

#### **First Year Advising**

All first year students are formally advised by the Director of the Annenberg Doctoral Program (currently Professor Tom Hollihan) until their successful completion of the screening process. The Director’s advice is both substantive, assisting students in defining and refining their course of study, and technical, ensuring that students are satisfying program requirements in a timely manner. The Director’s approval is required for students to transfer credits, obtain department approval (“d clearance”) to register, and for assorted petitions.

Faculty mentors assigned to first year students will acquaint and guide them through the initial year. Students are strongly encouraged to acquaint themselves with the faculty as a whole, with an eye toward choosing their faculty advisors and guidance committees.

#### **Subsequent Advising**

Following successful screening at the end of the first year, the primary advising responsibility shifts to the student’s advisor and guidance committee. Students are required to select an advisor and guidance committee no later than the end of the fall semester of their second year.

Primary technical advising responsibility remains with the Director of the Doctoral Program. Students will need to obtain the approval of their advisor and the Director of the Doctoral Program on the Doctoral Committee Advisor form. (Please see the “Academic Forms” entry on the next page.) Once the required signatures are obtained, the paperwork will be processed by Anne Marie Campian, PhD Advisor.

### ***Screening & Annual Activity Report***

#### **Screening**

Student progress is carefully monitored by the School of Communication faculty. Screening of first year doctoral students is focused primarily on academic performance and achievements broadly defined (course work, intellectual engagement, scholarly presentations and publications, etc.). The screening process is conducted by a committee that includes the faculty who taught that year’s core courses, the Director of the School of Communication, and the Director of the Doctoral Program.

In order to be screened, first year students must have completed no fewer than 16 and no more than 24 units, including the four required core courses: COMM 525, 526, 550, and 552. After screening, students will be either permitted to continue or required to discontinue the program. Students may only pass screening and enter the second year of the program once they have completed all coursework in which they have enrolled. Letters reporting the official results of the screening process will be sent to both students and their mentors by the Director of the Doctoral Program and the Director of the School of Communication in early summer.

### **Advisor**

Upon successful passage of the screening procedure, students should select a faculty advisor and form an Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee. At minimum, the student must declare a preliminary three-person committee, consisting of a primary advisor and two additional members, by the end of their third semester.

Registration for classes for the spring semester of the second year will be withheld until this is formally established. Any late registration fees or other penalties resulting from this policy are the responsibility of the student

### **Annual Activity Report & Annual Review of Progress**

In early April of each year, all students are asked to submit an Annual Activity Report and updated Curriculum Vita (CV). The CV should include accomplishments for the year, identification of advisor and committee members, graduate assistant activities, and specific plans for the upcoming year. The CV is to be submitted electronically with the activity report.

These materials will be evaluated by the annual Screening Committee and other appropriate faculty to monitor and identify possible problems with each student's progress toward degree completion. Students are expected to discuss progress and plans with their advisors.

Instructions for accessing and submitting the activity report will be distributed via email each spring.

## ***Academic Forms***

Academic forms can be found online (<http://annenberg.usc.edu/current-students/graduate-students/academic-forms>) or can be obtained from Anne Marie Campian.

## ***Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee, Qualifying Examination Committee, & Dissertation Committee***

Members of students' Doctoral Guidance Committees, Qualifying Examination Committees, and Dissertation Committees will advise them through the processes of their post- screening course work, qualifying examinations, and dissertations.

### **Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee**

After students have successfully passed screening and selected their advisors, they will form their Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committees. Students work closely with their guidance committees (particularly with their faculty advisors) in selecting advanced course work and

shaping research. In conjunction with the committee, advisors supervise and approve the working paper and help student prepare for their qualifying examinations.

### **Changing Advisors and/or Committee Members**

Over time, a student's interests and commitments may change, resulting in the need for an alternate advisor.

To initiate changes in advisor, contact the Director of the Doctoral Program. Committee changes should be discussed with your advisor with requests and notifications made in a timely fashion. To complete the process for either a change of advisor or committee member, update and submit the Doctoral Committee/Advisor Form<sup>1</sup> to Anne Marie Campian.

### **Composition of the Qualifying Examination Committee**

A complete Qualifying Examination Committee is composed of a minimum of five faculty, either tenured/tenure track or RTPC (research, teaching, practice, and clinical)<sup>2</sup>:

- At least three members must be from the Annenberg School of Communication.
- At least three members must be tenured or tenure track, including the chair, who must be tenured.
- An outside (non-School of Communication) member from a different PhD-granting department at USC is strongly recommended by the faculty but not required. A faculty member from the School of Journalism may serve as an outside member.
- The committee may include a faculty member from an institution other than USC, called an "external member." This is different than the "outside member," which is a USC faculty member from outside the School of Communication.

Additionally, it is acceptable to appoint co-chairs for your committee. Typically, the members of students' Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committees substantially overlap with the members of their Qualifying Examination Committees.

Any faculty member – external, outside, or from the School of Communication – who serves on PhD dissertation and qualifying exam committees must have a professional profile that demonstrates academic impact on the field in significant, measurable ways.

The CV of the external member must be uploaded along with the Appointment of Committee form and will become part of the official record.

The full committee is typically formed at least six months prior to the date for the qualifying examination. This gives students and faculty time to discuss and define examination areas, develop reading lists, and formulate examination questions. The committee must be formally established at least thirty days prior to the beginning of the student's qualifying exam by filing the Graduate School Appointment of Committee form<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Comm\\_Doctoral\\_Committee\\_Advisor\\_Form\\_2017.pdf](https://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Comm_Doctoral_Committee_Advisor_Form_2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://rtpc.usc.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> The Appointment of Committee form is used for both Qualifying Examination Committees and Dissertation Committees: [http://graduateschool.usc.edu/wp-content/themes/fictional-university-theme/assets/doc/Appointment\\_Change\\_of\\_Committee\\_Form\\_Doctoral.pdf](http://graduateschool.usc.edu/wp-content/themes/fictional-university-theme/assets/doc/Appointment_Change_of_Committee_Form_Doctoral.pdf)

Should the student wish to replace one or more qualifying examination committee members, they may do so by updating the Appointment of Committee form.

### **Dissertation Committee**

The dissertation committee is formed after the student successfully completes the qualifying examination. The dissertation committee consists of at least three and no more than five faculty members, who are either tenured/tenure track or RTPC (research, teaching, practice, and clinical):

- Two members must be from the Annenberg School of Communication.
- The chair (an Annenberg faculty member) must be tenured.
- An outside (non-School of Communication) member from a different PhD-granting department at USC is strongly recommended by the Annenberg faculty, but not required.
- The committee may include a faculty member from an institution other than USC, called an “external member.” This is different than the “outside member,” which is a USC faculty member from outside the School of Communication.

Additionally, it is acceptable to appoint co-chairs for your committee.

Any faculty member – external, outside, or from the School of Communication – who serves on PhD dissertation and qualifying exam committees must have a professional profile that demonstrates academic impact on the field in significant, measurable ways.

The CV of the external member must be uploaded along with the Appointment of Committee form and will become part of the official record.

Typically, members of the dissertation committee have previously served on the student’s guidance and qualifying examination committees. The dissertation committee advises and approves the written dissertation and administers the oral defense.

Should the student wish to replace one or more dissertation committee members, they may do so by updating the Appointment of Committee form.

### **Request for Remote Participation at Qualifying Examination or Dissertation Defense**

While in-person participation is highly encouraged, if remote participation is necessary, permission to conduct a remote-participation qualifying examination or dissertation defense must be obtained by the qualifying exam or dissertation chair from the Vice Provost for Graduate Programs at least two weeks prior to the date of the exam or defense. Please contact Anne Marie Campian to initiate the process.

- For the qualifying examination, a maximum of two out of the five guidance committee members may participate remotely.
- For the dissertation defense, a maximum of one out of the three dissertation committee members may participate remotely.
- In either case, the committee chair and the outside member may not participate remotely.
- Members who participate remotely will be noted on the Report on PhD Qualifying Examination and the dissertation Approval to Submit forms.



# **Part Two:**

# **Degree Requirements**

## **PART TWO: DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The Annenberg School's degrees are awarded under the jurisdiction of the USC Graduate School. Refer to the "Requirements for Graduation"<sup>4</sup> section and the "Graduate School"<sup>5</sup> section of the *USC Catalogue* for requirements, guidelines, and policies.

### ***Master of Arts in Communication***

Individuals seeking the Master of Arts (MA) in Communication are expected to acquire and demonstrate a general knowledge of human communication, including humanistic and social scientific approaches. Master's students will be assigned an advisor.

The program, arranged in consultation with an advisor and the Director of the Annenberg Doctoral Program, provides two options: a degree with a comprehensive examination requires a minimum of 32 units (normally eight courses), including core courses COMM 525, 526, 550, and 552, and four electives.

A degree with thesis requires successful completion of the four core courses listed above, three electives, and four units of COMM 594ab Master's Thesis. Students planning to pursue the thesis option should meet with their advisor early in the first term to discuss registering for COMM 594a in their second semester (usually the spring term). Students wishing to subsequently apply for doctoral programs are strongly encouraged to take the thesis option.

No more than two approved 400-level courses may be applied to a student's program and a maximum of four semester units with grades of B or better may be accepted by transfer from another institution of higher learning. The minimum acceptable GPA for successful completion of this program is 3.0.

The majority of students choose the comprehensive examination option. The examination consists of six hours of writing, taken on two different days. Permission to take an MA degree with thesis can be obtained only by application to both the student's advisor and to the Director of the Doctoral Program.

### ***Doctor of Philosophy in Communication***

#### **PhD General Requirements**<sup>6</sup>

The student is required to complete a minimum of 72 graduate units (normally 18 courses) plus 4 units (794a and 794b at 2 units each) of required dissertation registrations, totaling 76 units. Six specific courses (COMM 525, 526, 550, and 552 plus two dissertation writing courses, COMM 794a and b) are required of all students. Additionally, students must write an approved working paper, pass the qualifying examination, write an approved prospectus, and write and defend a

<sup>4</sup> <https://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=3686#graduate-school-policies-and-requirements>

<sup>5</sup> <https://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=3686>

<sup>6</sup> These degree requirements reflect a reorganized curriculum effective fall 2007. Students who entered the program prior to fall 2007 may choose either the old or the current requirements.

dissertation. One optional course (up to 4 units) will be available for an independent study to complete the working paper requirement.

### **The Core Curriculum**

The core curriculum consists of four seminars required of all first-year doctoral students, two in theories and two in methods:

- COMM 525 Humanistic and Social Scientific Approaches to Human Communication I
- COMM 526 Humanistic and Social Scientific Approaches to Human Communication II
- COMM 550 Quantitative Research Methods in Communication
- COMM 552 Qualitative Research Methods in Communication

Students with equivalent prior graduate level training may waive a maximum of one core course by providing complete syllabi of prior coursework and obtaining approval from both the faculty instructor of the course the student is seeking to waive and the Director of the Annenberg Doctoral Program. In such cases, it is highly recommended that the student audit the course.

Satisfactory completion of the core curriculum during the first year is necessary in order to be successfully screened and permitted to continue in the program.

### ***Course Requirements***

In addition to the core curriculum, students are required to complete the following courses:

**Area of Concentration** Students specialize in one of seven concentrations by completing a minimum of three courses (12 units) in one of the following:

- **Groups, Organizations & Networks**
- **Health Communication & Social Dynamics**
- **Information, Political Economy & Entertainment**
- **Media, Culture & Community**
- **New Media & Technology**
- **Political Economy of Global Communication**
- **Rhetoric, Politics & Publics**

Please see Appendix I on page 41 for concentration details and current course offerings.

**Minor Area** In addition, students must minor in a second concentration by completing a minimum of two courses (8 units) in one of the seven concentrations above.

**Cognate Area** Students also pursue an approved cognate elective program of study in which at least two courses (normally 8 units) are taken in a related field outside the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism such as psychology, political science, cinema, etc.

## ***Special Credit Concerns***

### **Transfer Credit**

Students entering the School of Communication with a master's degree may, with permission, apply part of their previous graduate course work. Normally, a maximum of twelve units may be applied.<sup>7</sup> Contact Anne Marie Campian to begin the process of transferring credits.

Students who enter the PhD program after earning a USC Master of Communication Management degree may exceed this limit, subject to the approval of their guidance committee.

Before making transfer credit requests, students should meet with their advisors to map out required areas, requests for substitution, and strategies for completing requirements. After planning is complete, students should meet with the Director of the Doctoral Program.

### **Groups, Organizations & Networks Concentration Methods Requirement**

Students concentrating in Groups, Organizations & Networks are required to take at least two methods classes in addition to core courses COMM 550 and 552. If taken in a department or unit other than the School of Communication, these courses CANNOT also be counted toward the student's cognate requirements. In other words, only content classes, not methods classes, may be counted toward the cognate requirement.

### **PhD Credit for Communication Management, Public Diplomacy, and Journalism Courses**

Students who wish to apply Annenberg master's (CMGT, PUBD, and JOUR) courses for PhD credit must negotiate a contract with the instructor in advance certifying that course materials are appropriate to doctoral status.<sup>8</sup> Ordinarily, doctoral students will be required to complete additional work above and beyond that required of master's students such as an appropriate research paper. Students normally may count no more than two such courses toward their doctoral degree requirements, and no more than one in their concentrations.

### **COMM 610 and 620 Courses**

COMM 620: Studies in Communication Theory provides a rotating selection of courses that offer studies of advanced, specialized interest areas in communication theory and research. A maximum of three COMM 620 classes (12 units) may be applied to the PhD program. Two of the three may be applied to a concentration; the third would be an elective.

COMM 610: Studies in Rhetorical Theory offers a similar selection of courses under the areas of rhetorical theory and criticism. A maximum of 12 units of COMM 610 may be applied to the program.

### **Directed Research and Independent Study**

COMM 590 and COMM 790 are Directed Research courses. Students must prepare a research proposal<sup>9</sup> with a full-time faculty member of the School of Communication and must have it approved by the Director of Doctoral Studies and the Director of the School of Communication. A maximum of 12 units of COMM 590 and 12 units of COMM 790 may be applied to the program.

<sup>7</sup>[http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Transfer\\_Credit\\_Petition\\_2017.pdf](http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Transfer_Credit_Petition_2017.pdf)

<sup>8</sup>[http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Contract\\_for\\_MA\\_Courses\\_for\\_PhD\\_Credit\\_2017.pdf](http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Contract_for_MA_Courses_for_PhD_Credit_2017.pdf)

<sup>9</sup>[https://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/COMM\\_790\\_Directed\\_Research\\_2017.pdf](https://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/COMM_790_Directed_Research_2017.pdf)



COMM 675 is an Independent Study Course. Students must prepare a detailed syllabus<sup>10</sup> with a full-time faculty member of the School of Communication and must have it approved by the Director of Doctoral Studies and the Director of the School of Communication. A maximum of 4 units may be applied to the program.

## ***Course Enrollment***

### **Regular and Reduced Course Loads**

The School of Communication defines full time enrollment as two to three courses (8-12 units) per semester, although the University defines minimum full time enrollment as 6 units.

In order to make good progress toward degree completion within the available years of support, students normally are expected to take three courses (usually 12 units) in a semester. On occasion, students may have sound reasons to take a reduced load. International students and students without MA degrees sometimes take a reduced course load in their first semester. Additionally, students often take a reduced load during the semester in which they are taking their qualifying exams.

Graduate Assistants should be sure not to drop below 6 units at any time, as doing so will terminate their full time student status and disqualify them from receiving student aid (the exceptions include enrollment in COMM 594 Thesis, COMM 794 Dissertation, or GRSC 800 or 810).<sup>11</sup>

### **Incompletes**

An incomplete (IN) grade is assigned when coursework is not completed because of documented illness or other “emergency” occurring after the twelfth week of the semester (or twelfth week equivalent for any course scheduled for less than 15 weeks). Students seeking an incomplete must submit (with instructor’s approval) an Assignment of an Incomplete (IN) and Requirements for Completion form. The instructor will obtain this form.

University policy states that grades of IN must be completed within one calendar year from the date the IN is received. If not completed within the designated time, marks of IN automatically become marks of IX (expired incomplete) with the exception of thesis, dissertation, and non-letter graded courses, and are calculated in the GPA as a grade of F (zero grade points).

Please work with the course instructor to determine what work must be done in order to complete the course and turn the IN into a letter grade.

Any student receiving an IN will be sent a warning letter from the department. If the IN is not completed within the University’s designated time, the student may be dismissed from the program.

The qualifying exam may not be taken until all IN have been completed.

<sup>10</sup> [https://annenbergl.usc.edu/sites/default/files/COMM\\_675\\_Independent\\_Study\\_2017.pdf](https://annenbergl.usc.edu/sites/default/files/COMM_675_Independent_Study_2017.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <http://graduateschool.usc.edu/current-students/guidelines-forms-requests/#ga-handbook>

Please see the USC Registrar's website for complete details on University policies regarding incompletes: <https://arr.usc.edu/services/grades/gradinghandbook/gradingpolicies.html>.

## ***Leaves***

When planning for any type of leave, please notify the department as soon as possible and take into account any prior commitments you have made.

### **Leave of Absence**

Requesting a leave of absence is initiated by obtaining approval from the Director of the Doctoral Program, the Director of the School of Communication, and the student's advisor. This may be in the form of a face-to-face meeting, a telephone conversation, or an exchange of emails. Once the student has obtained approval, it should be conveyed to Anne Marie Campian and to Sarah Holterman, the Graduate Programs Coordinator.

The maximum period of absence is four semesters total, after which students must continue with a full program of study (a minimum of 6 units per semester), or withdraw from the Doctoral Program. After withdrawing, any continued study at the Annenberg School requires students to reapply to the Graduate School.

During a leave of absence, a student may not enroll in classes, be funded as a GA, or receive any other funding, including health insurance.

### **Approved Health Leave**

A voluntary health leave of absence is a temporary and voluntary leave from the University due to a student's health needs. This leave is available when a student's health condition significantly interferes with a student's ability to function successfully within the University's programs.

Doctoral students at USC may take one semester of approved health leave in which they are funded with a stipend at the same level as a 50% GA, regular health insurance premiums, and one unit of tuition, which will cover the student's necessary enrollment while on leave.<sup>12</sup>

To begin the process of requesting an approved health leave, please email Sarah Holterman with a cc to the following individuals: your advisor; Tom Hollihan; Josh Kun; and Anne Marie Campian. Sarah will then put you in touch with the campus health leave coordinator, Olivia Wills, who will work with you on documentation and will also coordinate with the department regarding an academic plan.

### **Parental Leave for PhD Students**

The following information on parental leave is taken from the USC Graduate School website: <http://graduateschool.usc.edu/current-students/guidelines-forms-requests/#parental-leave>

PhD students at USC who meet the following criteria are eligible for a one-semester parental leave:

- The student is pregnant, or is the primary caregiver of her or his infant child or adopted infant child;

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<sup>12</sup> <https://policy.usc.edu/student-health-leave-absence/>

- The student has completed at least one semester in her or his PhD program and is in good academic standing;
- The student was admitted with an offer letter for a 4- or 5-year “package” consisting of support through any combination of teaching assistantship, research assistantship, and fellowship.

Parental leave may be taken during the semester in which the child is born or adopted, or during the semester immediately following.

A student on approved parental leave receives the base graduate assistant stipend from the Graduate School for one semester. Individual schools are expected to top off the base stipend to the level of the stipend stipulated in the student's offer letter and to pay for the student's USC student health insurance coverage and student health center fee.

Parental leave does not constitute a break in continuous enrollment. Students should consult with their academic advisors to determine how they will maintain full-time enrollment.

Students with loans should consult with the Office of Financial Aid before beginning parental leave.

International students should discuss the parental leave with the Office of International Services to be sure there are no unforeseen issues related to their visa status.

Applications for the accommodation should be filed with the Graduate School at least three months prior to the anticipated start date.

The process is initiated by notifying Sarah Holterman, who will submit a Request for Parental Leave petition on your behalf. Please note that one of the following is required as part of the application materials: a verification of pregnancy signed by a physician in the United States, a birth certificate for the infant child, or a statement of adoption from an adoption agency.

### **Making Good Progress Toward Degree**

In this handbook and in many University guidelines, you will see references to “making good progress toward degree.” Because the Annenberg School of Communication admits PhD students on a five year funding package, to make good academic progress indicates that a student will finish their degree within those five years of funding.

There are several guideposts that indicate good progress, including:

- As noted on page 9 of this handbook, a student is required to complete a minimum of 72 graduate units before taking their qualifying exams. They will then take a minimum of 4 units of dissertation registrations, totaling 76 units. In order to complete the required 72 units of graduate course work, students are normally expected to take three courses (12 units) per semester.
- Appendix II of this handbook lays out a five year plan for finishing the PhD degree. By the end of the fall semester of the fourth year, a student must have completed the following items: qualifying examination process completed; dissertation advisor selected; dissertation committee formed; and prospectus successfully defended. If these four items

are not completed by the end of the fall semester, students may no longer be considered to be making satisfactory progress toward degree.

- Removing any grades of IN within the University-mandated timeline.

If a student is not making good academic progress toward degree, they may receive a warning letter which will indicate steps they need to take in order to remain a student in good academic standing within the PhD program.

Students are encouraged to work closely with their advisors and other faculty members to monitor academic progress.

## ***PhD Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Requirements***

The following requirements must be met as part of the qualifying examination and dissertation process:

### **Research Tool Requirement**

Doctoral students are expected to demonstrate methodological competence in an area of specialization prior to taking the qualifying exam. Such competence is usually signaled through strong course work (i.e., the successful completion with a grade of B or better in selected coursework approved by the Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee and taken in the Annenberg School and/or related departments) and by completion of the working paper (see next item).

Under special circumstances, students with an exceptional prior background in research methods may demonstrate their competence by successfully passing a research tool examination designed and administered by the PhD guidance committee.

### **Working Paper**

The purpose of the working paper<sup>13</sup> is to demonstrate that students are capable of conducting original research on a communication problem. It is also intended to prepare students for the process of conducting dissertation research and may take shape as a prospectus. It must be the student's own original work; coauthored work may not be submitted.

Several alternatives can fulfill this requirement. Students may submit:

- A paper they have authored that has been accepted for publication in a scholarly journal or book, or for presentation at an academic conference;
- A revised seminar paper or master's thesis;
- A research grant proposal written for submission to a major funding agency; or
- Any other alternative approved by their guidance committee, including a dissertation prospectus

Students may enroll in COMM 694: Preliminary Research Paper in the semester during which they plan to complete their working paper. The working paper must be approved by the student's

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<sup>13</sup> [http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Working\\_Paper\\_Form\\_2017.pdf](http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Working_Paper_Form_2017.pdf)



advisor and at least two other members of their Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee before permission to take the qualifying exam will be granted.

### **Dissertation Prospectus**

Students are required to write a dissertation prospectus that is approved by their Dissertation Committee. The dissertation prospectus is a document that articulates the dissertation project, methodology, justification, and outline of chapters. The prospectus should be completed in a process that runs parallel to, or in conjunction with, the qualifying exam. During the semester prior to taking a qualifying exam, a student, in collaboration with their advisor, will choose one of three options:

- The prospectus will be distributed and discussed with the committee before the qualifying examination.
- The prospectus will be handed in at the time the written portion of the qualifying exam is submitted to the committee and then discussed as part of the orals. **NOTE: For this option, the prospectus must be approved by the examination committee in order for students to pass the qualifying exam.**
- The prospectus will be distributed and examined no more than 30 days after the defense. If the student completes the qualifying exam late in the spring semester such that the 30 day deadline falls during summer recess, the dissertation prospectus must be submitted within 30 days and defended no later than the end of the third week of the fall semester.

### **Qualifying Examination**

The qualifying exam is usually taken in the first semester of the fourth year of study, following completion of all required coursework, including all incompletes, and the working paper. The working paper must be approved by the Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee before students can file the papers requesting to take the qualifying examination.

The Appointment of Committee<sup>14</sup> and Request to Take the PhD Qualifying Examination<sup>15</sup> forms must be approved by the student's advisor and by the Director of Doctoral Studies at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the examination, that is, the date on which students begin writing the examination, not the date of the oral defense. It is recommended that students obtain approval and submit these forms in the semester prior to taking their qualifying exam. These forms can be obtained from Anne Marie Campian and should be returned to her once they are signed.

The qualifying exam covers the student's primary and secondary areas of concentration. Each semester, the Director of Doctoral Studies confers with all students intending to take their exams to explain the process and address questions and concerns.

The qualifying exam is intended as a test of the student's mastery of an intellectual field of inquiry and is not simply a test of coursework. Consequently, students should expect to be tested on material beyond what was covered in their seminars, and should consult carefully with their committee members regarding the reading lists for which they will be held accountable.

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<sup>14</sup> [http://graduateschool.usc.edu/wp-content/themes/fictional-university-theme/assets/doc/Appointment\\_Change\\_of\\_Committee\\_Form\\_Doctoral.pdf](http://graduateschool.usc.edu/wp-content/themes/fictional-university-theme/assets/doc/Appointment_Change_of_Committee_Form_Doctoral.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Contact Anne Marie Campian.

With the permission of their advisor and guidance committee, students may, in some cases, take their exams concurrently during the semester in which they are completing their coursework.<sup>16</sup>

Please see Appendix III for full details on written qualifying exam options.

### **Open Book Qualifying Exam**

The open book exam should take a minimum of 10 consecutive days or a maximum of 14 consecutive days. Regardless of how you manage your own writing schedule within that block of time, all students will have a maximum of 14 consecutive days to complete the exam. This decision should be made by the candidate and their advisor, and must be confirmed in advance of the exam period with Anne Marie Campian.

Students may write at home or at another location of their choosing. Answers should be typed and conform to an appropriate professional style manual (APA, MLA, etc.) specified by the committee.

### **Closed Book Qualifying Exam**

In closed book exams, students are typically required to write for a minimum of 12 hours, normally spread out over several days. At least eight hours are devoted to questions in the student's major and minor concentrations. At least four hours cover the cognate and outside areas. This decision should be made by the candidate and their advisor, and must be confirmed in advance of the exam period with Anne Marie Campian.

Absolutely no notes or other materials are permitted during the closed book exam. A blank USB drive will be provided and should be returned to Anne Marie Campian at the conclusion of each writing period.

### **Oral Defense of the Qualifying Exam**

Students are responsible for scheduling the oral defense of their written exam at a time convenient for all members of their guidance committee. The oral defense is normally conducted within two weeks of the completion of the written exam. The Graduate School requires that the defense be completed within sixty days of the beginning of the written exam.

The oral defense typically lasts two hours. Committee members ask questions that focus on the student's written answers, but may cover any topic relevant to the field of communication. A successful defense requires a unanimous decision by the committee.

### **Unsuccessful Defense of the Qualifying Exam**

If a written examination of an oral defense is judged by an examination committee to be unsuccessful, the re-examination must be completed no sooner than one month and no later than six months after the date on which the first doctoral qualifying examination was administered.<sup>17</sup>

If the student is allowed to take the qualifying exam for a second time, a new Request to Take the PhD Qualifying Examination form must be obtained from Anne Marie Campian and completed at least thirty days prior to the re-examination and the student must be appropriately

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<sup>16</sup> See Appendix III for directions on arranging your exam, including timeline.

<sup>17</sup> See "Qualifying Examination" under Graduate School Policies and Requirements:

<https://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=3686#graduate-school-policies-and-requirements>

enrolled at USC during the semester in which the re-examination is to be taken. Students may not take the qualifying examination more than twice.

### **Report on PhD Qualifying Examination**

Immediately after the oral defense, a Report on PhD Qualifying Examination form must be submitted to Anne Marie Campian regardless of the outcome, successful or unsuccessful. She will file the form with the Graduate School within forty-eight hours of the completion of the oral defense. The form can be obtained from Anne Marie Campian.

At the conclusion of a successful defense, the student should form his or her dissertation committee by obtaining the proposed committee members' signatures on the Appointment of Committee form. The completed and signed form should be returned to Anne Marie.

### **Conferral of the Master's Degree**

Students who successfully complete the qualifying exam will be awarded a Master's degree in Communication. Anne Marie Campian will verify that the student has completed the requirements for the Master's Degree and will enter that information in the Student Information System.

### **Doctoral Dissertation**

The dissertation is an original research project contributing to knowledge about human communication and should demonstrate a high level of competence in methodologies of scholarly inquiry. The School of Communication requires the dissertation be written in either American Psychological Association (APA) or Chicago style.

Students should ideally devote their fifth year of support to the dissertation's completion, before leaving school for the workplace.

After passing the qualifying exam, students must register for two units of COMM 794a, b, c, d, or z in each semester, excluding summers, until the dissertation has been approved. A minimum of four dissertation units of 794 is required. Four units is also the maximum number of 794 dissertation units that may be applied to the 76-unit degree requirement.

### **Defense of Dissertation**

Dissertations are defended in a formal meeting with the student's dissertation committee. Students are expected to provide a draft to each of their committee members to review, in anticipation of facilitating changes prior to production of the final manuscript.

Dissertation defenses are announced publically and are open to the scholarly community, as stated in the *USC Catalogue*: "[...] the oral examination is open to the general university community [...]."<sup>18</sup> A successful defense requires a unanimous decision by the committee.

It is customary to present a copy to the student's advisor, and perhaps to all the members of the student's dissertation committee.

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<sup>18</sup> See "Defense of the Dissertation" under Graduate School Policies and Requirements: <https://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=3686#graduate-school-policies-and-requirements>

**Dissertation Submission**

Dissertations are submitted online through Thesis Center. Guidelines and deadlines for submitting the dissertation can be found here:

<http://graduateschool.usc.edu/current-students/thesis-dissertation-submission/>

Thesis Center has eliminated the old paper form and allows faculty to sign electronically on a secure website. Once students have created a profile in Thesis Center, they can track the progress of their submission form.

The USC Graduate School Thesis Coordinator is available in the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and can be contacted for questions about the dissertation submission process by email at [thesisdc@usc.edu](mailto:thesisdc@usc.edu) or by phone at 213-740-9033.

**Conferral of the PhD**

Participation in USC commencement exercises is restricted to students who have a scheduled dissertation defense of June 1 or earlier.

Participation in the 2020 Annenberg PhD hooding ceremony (Thursday, May 14, 2020) and the Annenberg School's 2020 satellite commencement ceremony (Friday, May 15, 2020) requires that a student has a scheduled dissertation defense of June 1, 2020 or earlier. A student may only participate in the hooding ceremony once.



# **Part Three:**

# **Appointments & Support**

## **PART THREE: APPOINTMENTS & SUPPORT**

The Annenberg School provides funding to all doctoral students for up to five years, contingent on satisfactory academic progress. Funding for a sixth year or beyond is never guaranteed.

Funding packages include:

- Up to 12 units of tuition per semester
- Payment of all required health care fees (access to University health services as well as medical and dental insurance premiums)
- An annual stipend of at least \$34,000 (paid monthly)
- Support for research and conference travel
- Support for dissertation research upon reaching candidacy

For any questions on funding, please contact Sarah Holterman directly ([holterma@usc.edu](mailto:holterma@usc.edu)).

### ***Types of Appointments***

All funded Annenberg PhD students are appointed as Graduate Assistants or Fellows.

#### **Fellowships**

Students awarded Fellowships are not given GA assignments but are expected to become involved in the academic life of the School both through formal and informal arrangements with faculty and other students.

During the first year, students are supported by the Graduate School as Annenberg Graduate Fellows.

Advanced students also have the opportunity each year to apply for competitively awarded fellowships from the Graduate School.

#### **Graduate Assistantships**

Starting in their second year, students are funded as Graduate Assistants (GAs). Students who serve as GAs will be assigned to Teaching and/or Research Assistant positions (TAs and/or RAs) or, in a few instances, as Assistant Lecturers (ALs), who teach standalone classes as the instructor of record.

In almost all cases, GAs are given what are called 50% assignments, meaning they are expected to devote an average of 20 hours per week to their assignment. In many cases, students are given two 25% assignments for a semester, which combined will not exceed an average of 20 hours per week.

GA assignments are made by Sarah Holterman, in coordination with a representative from the Annenberg Communication Graduate Student Association (ACGSA). Preferences for assignments are solicited from both students and faculty for each semester's assignments.

Students are encouraged to seek experience with both teaching and research to be competitive in the academic job market. The Annenberg School is committed to providing a wide range of experiences.

### **Assistant Lecturer Assignments**

Students may apply for Assistant Lectureship assignments and serve as the primary instructor for an undergraduate course once they have passed their qualifying examination and defended their prospectus.

Assignment as Assistant Lecturer is subject to the approval of the student's advisor, the Director of the School of Communication, the Director of the Doctoral Program, and the Graduate School. A strong record of achievement as a Teaching Assistant is an essential qualification for appointment as an Assistant Lecturer.

There are also AL opportunities in the summer. Students teaching a standalone summer course will be compensated with a separate summer stipend in addition to their base annual stipend.

### **Fifth Year Spring Assistant Lecturer**

During the summer before a student's fifth year in the program, they may apply for the opportunity to design and teach their own course. Students must be making timely progress to the degree, have an outstanding record of coursework, and have strong student evaluations and faculty recommendations. As with all AL positions, students must have completed their qualifying exam and have an approved prospectus in order to teach.

One student will be chosen to design and teach a COMM 400 Seminar in Communication course in the spring of their fifth year. During that semester, the student will be funded as a 50% AL. We will also offer an additional stipend of \$500 to assist with the development of the course.

### **TA Training**

Prior to taking a TA assignment, students must complete TA training. The School of Communication will hold a day long, mandatory training for second year students the week before classes start in August. There will also be at least one additional mandatory session during the fall semester for second years. All students are also encouraged to attend Annenberg pedagogy workshops throughout the year.

In order to assist in teaching, students who are not U.S. citizens are required by the University to pass a test of spoken English language proficiency. The International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Exam is administered by USC's American Language Institute.<sup>19</sup> If not approved by USC, students will be asked to take supplementary courses on campus before teaching.

### **Reduced Work Load Exception**

Work responsibilities are reduced by half, to a 25% assignment (an average of ten hours per week), for the term during which students are preparing to take their qualifying exams. The student will still receive 50% position compensation. Students should take care to arrange this exemption carefully, as it may only be used once. It must be used during the academic year in which a student takes their qualifying exams and may not be used past a student's fifth year in the program.

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<sup>19</sup> <http://ali.usc.edu/ita/>

### **Sixth Year Funding**

Funding for a sixth year or beyond may be considered in specific situations but is never guaranteed. A student should plan with their advisor to finish the program in five years.

## ***Other Funding Opportunities***

### **Advanced Fellowships**

The USC Graduate School offers several types of fellowships every year for advanced PhD students. Application guidelines and deadlines are distributed during the fall semester; offer letters for advanced fellowships are sent to students by the Graduate School in the spring semester.

<http://graduateschool.usc.edu/fellowships/current-PhD-students/>

If a student receives an advanced fellowship, this year of funding replaces one year of GA funding. It does not provide an “extra” year of funding.

### **External Fellowships**

Many students choose to apply for external (non-USC) fellowships. An external fellowship also replaces the corresponding number of years of GA funding. I.e., if you receive an external fellowship for years two and three, you will then have two years of GA funding remaining: years four and five.

The Graduate School offers a proposal review clinic every fall for students who are applying for external fellowships, as well as online fellowship courses through Blackboard:

<http://graduateschool.usc.edu/fellowships/external-fellowships/>

The Office of the Provost provides an Awards and Fellowships Database:

<http://awardsdatabase.usc.edu/>

If you have applied for or been awarded an external fellowship, please notify Sarah Holterman.

### **Graduate School Summer Fellowship Boot Camp**

The USC Graduate School holds a fellowship boot camp each August, which is open to incoming PhD students and rising second year PhD students who plan to apply for one of the following external fellowships:

- National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
- Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

During the ten-day workshop, participants complete an application for one of these three fellowships. A call for applications is sent out to eligible participants every year in late spring or early summer.

Participants **must** work on an application for one of these three fellowships. Each fellowship has different, specific requirements, so make sure that you qualify before applying for the boot camp.

## ***Fellowship & Graduate Assistantship Stipends***

### **Stipend Distribution: First – Fifth Year**

The total annual stipend amount for both fellowships and GA positions is \$34,000.

Students in their first through fifth years receive an annual stipend of \$34,000, divided evenly over 12 months (August 2019 through July 2020). For first year students, this is a full fellowship. For second through fifth year students, this is a combination of GA funding and fellowship funding. Students are not required to serve as a GA in June and July.

### **Stipend Distribution: Sixth Year and Above**

If a student is funded as a GA any year after their fifth year in the program, they will not receive Graduate School fellowship funding during those years. This means that their stipend will be a maximum of \$25,000 annually if funded as a 50% GA during both fall and spring semesters. They will not be funded during June or July.

Please see Appendix V for detailed stipend calendars. These are the 2019-2020 payment schedules for all PhD students. The schedules will be updated and distributed annually; they can also be found online.

For questions regarding stipends, please contact Sarah Holterman.

### **Payroll**

By April 24, 2020, all first year students must fill out I-9 paperwork to be set up in USC payroll. This will enable a smooth transition into second year Graduate Assistant assignments and prevent any unforeseen problems that would delay stipend payments.

First year students will be emailed a reminder in March with a link to sign up for an appointment with Lynda Baza, Annenberg Payroll and Personnel Coordinator ([baza@usc.edu](mailto:baza@usc.edu)).

### **Direct Deposit**

Direct deposit is the recommended method of receiving your stipends. Students who are funded as GAs may make adjustments via the Workday system. Students funded as fellows must make any deposit changes via the Payment Services Direct Deposit Authorization Form<sup>20</sup>. For questions about direct deposit, contact Lynda Baza.

### **Taxes**

Taxes for domestic students are set by the U.S. government. Taxes for international students vary by country of citizenship and are specified by a treaty agreement between the U.S. and their home countries.

The Graduate School provides more information about taxes here:

<https://graduateschool.usc.edu/fellowships/frequently-asked-questions/>

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<sup>20</sup> <https://undergrad.usc.edu/files/2015/06/Direct-Deposit-Form.pdf>

International students should be sure to review the Office of International Services' information on U.S. taxes on income earned in the United States, including (but not limited to) salary and fellowships.

<https://ois.usc.edu/living-in-la/money/taxes-2/>

USC's EIN (Employer Identification Number) is 95-1642394. International students will need this when applying for a social security number.

### ***Over 50% GA Petition***

If you are employed as an hourly worker on campus in addition to your 50% GA position, you must have the hourly position approved by the Graduate School prior to starting work. You are limited to a maximum of five hours of work per week on top of your GA position. You must resubmit a petition every semester in which you work over 50%, even if you have been previously approved for the same position.

If you plan to work an hourly job on campus, please contact Sarah Holterman, who will start the Graduate School Over 50% Petition process. Please initiate this process no later than one month prior to the new semester.

### ***Health Insurance***

When students register for classes in the fall and spring, they will be automatically registered for health insurance and access to the USC Engemann Student Health Center. Coverage for students registered for Fall 2019 begins on Monday, August 19, 2019. Spring health insurance continues over the summer, meaning that USC PhD students receive twelve months of uninterrupted health insurance.

If you register for a summer class, you will automatically have access to the Engemann Student Health Center over the summer. If you do not plan to take a class but would still like summer access to the student health center, you must enroll in GRSC 802. Anne Marie Campian will send a reminder about this registration requirement prior to the start of each summer semester.

Insurance coverage for dependents is not included in the Annenberg funding package. USC does not offer coverage for dependents.

While Annenberg pays for insurance coverage, we do not pay for individual visits to the Engemann Student Health Center/any other health care provider or for any related charges for procedures and tests.

For more information on student health services, including insurance, please see:

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/>



## ***Tuition Refund Insurance***

Each semester that you register for classes, you are automatically charged for Tuition Refund Insurance, which the Annenberg School does not pay. This fee is NOT mandatory and you are able to opt out of it. If you do not opt out of Tuition Refund Insurance, you will be responsible for the charges on your account. There are two ways to opt out:

- While you are registering for classes, you may click on the “Tuition Refund Insurance” button in Web Registration<sup>21</sup> and select the Opt Out button.
- After registering for classes, you will have until the end of week three of the semester to opt out. To do this, you should log into Web Registration, click on the Tuition Refund Insurance button, and follow the system prompts.

You can find more information about Tuition Refund Insurance here:

<http://arr.usc.edu/services/registration/tuitionrefund.html>

## ***Technology Requirement & Fees***

All undergraduate and graduate Annenberg majors and minors are required to have a laptop that can be used in Annenberg classes.<sup>22</sup>

The \$150/semester Annenberg Student Access Fee (Technology Fee) is waived for doctoral students. Please check your account at the beginning of every semester. If you are charged this fee, please let Sarah know and she will have it reversed.

## ***Mandatory University Fees***

All graduate students at USC are charged two mandatory fees each semester: the Student Programming Fee and the Norman Topping Fee.

As of Fall 2019, the fees (per semester) are:

Student Programming Fee:	\$43
Norman H. Topping Student Aid Fund:	\$ 8
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<u>\$51</u>

These mandatory fees are paid by the USC Graduate School while students are on Fellowship during the first year of doctoral study. **Once you become a Graduate Assistant, you are responsible for paying these fees each semester.**

More details on fees here: <https://classes.usc.edu/term-20193/tuition-and-fees/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://webreg.usc.edu/Login>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.annenbergdl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-Tech-Requirements.pdf>

## ***Non-Annenberg Tuition and Lab Fees***

Some USC schools, including the School of Cinematic Arts, the Marshall School of Business, the Viterbi School of Engineering, and the Gould School of Law, charge more per unit for tuition than Annenberg. Some courses also charge lab fees. If you have approval to count the class toward your degree requirements, the School of Communication will cover the additional costs.

Tuition for courses outside of Annenberg will only be covered if the course will count toward your degree requirements or if the course is necessary for your degree (i.e., a language or programming course).

If you plan to take a class outside of Annenberg, please let Sarah know when you register so adjustments can be made to your account before you receive your bill.

## ***Summer Funding, Study, & Research***

The summer provides many opportunities for doctoral students to progress towards their degrees, as well as other academic and professional objectives. Students are also expected to continue their own research efforts.

In addition to the June and July stipends that are part of the \$34,000 annual funding package, the Annenberg School provides additional opportunities for financial support during the summer months to as many doctoral students as possible.

Fall and spring semester graduate assistantships automatically include tuition for the following summer. Annenberg Graduate Fellows receive summer tuition support through the Graduate School as part of their Annenberg Graduate Fellowship support packages.

Annenberg offers the following additional summer opportunities for PhD students:

### **Summer Educational Fellowships**

Students may apply for financial support to participate at a summer educational institute or workshop. Funding is competitive and not guaranteed to all students. In the past, students have attended programs such as the Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Institute, the Oxford Internet Institute, and the Harvard University Berkman Klein Center for the Internet & Society.

Students are required to provide a one page summary and evaluation of their experiences at their Summer Institutes. Summer Educational Fellowships are paid as taxable stipends.

### **Summer Research Fellowships**

Students may apply for financial support up to \$2,500 to conduct a summer research project. Proposals are judged competitively and funding is not guaranteed. Every funded student is required to provide a final written report that explains the research conducted and provides the substantive findings of the work. Students are also asked to present their work in the fall during an Annenberg Research Seminar. Summer Research Fellowships are paid as taxable stipends.

These reports are generally 12-20 pages (including references), double spaced.

## **COMPASS Summer Fellowship Program**

The COMPASS (Consortium on Media Policy Studies) Summer Fellowship Program<sup>23</sup> is designed to provide PhD students in Communication and Media Studies with hands on experience in the development and implementation of communication policy. COMPASS fellows intern for 8 to 10 weeks in Washington, D.C. at government offices or agencies, think tanks, political party or advocacy organizations, or other communication-related public or private sector institutions.

The current sponsoring programs include: Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania; Annenberg School of Communication, USC; Moody College of Communication, University of Texas – Austin; School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University; and Communication Studies, University of Michigan. Clinical Professor Mark Lloyd ([marklloyd@usc.edu](mailto:marklloyd@usc.edu)) coordinates the program at USC. A call for applications is sent to doctoral students each December.

## ***Travel Support***

### **Annenberg School Travel Support**

#### ***Travel Support Basics***

Annenberg provides conference travel funding to students in their first through fifth years. Each student is provided with up to \$1,000 per fiscal year (July 1 – July 30).

In order to be eligible for travel support, students must be active participants in a qualifying conference: delivering competitively selected papers and posters, participating on competitively selected panels, serving as program discussants, etc.

Students must also have advisor approval for their travel and conference participation. The only two conferences where advisor approval is not required are the annual conferences of the National Communication Association (NCA) and the International Communication Association (ICA).

One exception to the participation requirement is the NCA conference in November for first year students. In order to experience and become acclimated with conferences, first year students may attend NCA without being active participants. The funding still comes from their annual \$1,000.

#### ***Pre-booking Travel***

To pre-book your airfare to an approved conference, please take the following steps:

- Check how much funding you have available. If you're not sure, ask Sarah.
- Email Franck Provost at STA Travel ([fprovost@statravel.com](mailto:fprovost@statravel.com)) with a cc: to Sarah, Christine Lloreda, and Fabian Ledesma.
- In your email to Franck, include the conference you're attending, as well as your full legal name; date of birth; destination and arrival cities; preferred dates and times.
- Once you have okayed the itinerary, I will approve it and Christine will pay for the airfare directly.

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<sup>23</sup> <http://compassconsortium.org/>

### ***Cancelling Pre-booked Travel***

In the event that you need to cancel or change a flight that was booked through STA Travel, please contact Franck Provost directly. Do not make the cancellation or change through the airline itself.

### ***Submitting a Reimbursement***

After your trip is complete, you may submit a reimbursement request for expenses accrued during your travel, such as airfare, lodging, ride share, per diem, meals, registration fees, etc. University rules state that you may not submit a reimbursement request before travel. The request must be submitted within 60 days of travel. If that deadline has passed, the amount of your reimbursement will be taxed as income. This policy covers all University faculty, staff, and students.

Gather the following items before beginning your reimbursement request:

- **Proof of conference participation.** This can be an email from the conference notifying you of your acceptance or you may PDF the page of the conference program with your presentation.
- **Advisor approval.** This should be a PDF of an email from your advisor stating their approval of your participation. This does not have to be sent prior to your travel but **MUST** be included in your reimbursement request.
- **Receipts for expenses.** A credit card statement is not acceptable proof of purchase; please make sure you have emails from airlines with both your itinerary and payment; emailed receipts from Lyft/Uber; receipts/emails from hotels or Airbnb.
- **Make sure you know how much travel funding you have available.** If you submit a request for more funding than you have available, it will be returned to you. It is recommended that students keep track of their own travel balance; to confirm current available funds, contact Sarah.

Reimbursement requests are submitted through Concur. Please see Appendix IX for detailed instructions on submitting your reimbursement. (First year students must submit reimbursement receipts directly to Christine Lloreda. She will then process the request in Concur on their behalf.)

### ***Rental Cars***

Rental car expenses will only be approved under exceptional circumstances. A written request must be sent to the Director of the Doctoral Program prior to travel explaining the circumstances that justify an exception.

### ***Mileage***

Students who use their personal vehicles to attend conferences may claim reimbursement at the following graduated rate:

One student in the car – 200 miles round trip limit  
 Two students in the car – 400 miles round trip limit  
 Three+ students in the car – 600 miles round trip limit

Standard University mileage reimbursement rates apply. To receive reimbursement for mileage, students must include a map that shows the mileage from USC or their home to the conference location. Additional mileage at the destination site is not eligible for reimbursement.

## **Other Travel Support**

### ***Graduate School Grants***

Twice a year, the Graduate School opens applications for Graduate School PhD Fellow travel and research grants of \$1,000. You will be notified by the Graduate School when the application period opens.

Reimbursements from these funds are processed by the School of Communication. Unlike annual travel support, Graduate School funds only expire when you graduate or otherwise leave the University. You may reimburse travel and research from these funds via Concur.

### ***Graduate Student Government***

Travel funds are sometimes available through the Graduate Student Government (GSG)<sup>24</sup> association, provided the student has already exhausted all possibilities of school funding. Please be aware that the GSG reimbursement process takes approximately 5 months from the time that the student first submits their application and requires proof that you have no more school funding available.

### **Professional Association Membership Support**

Annenberg pays the membership fees for all doctoral students (during their first five years) to belong to ICA and NCA.

While the school will pay for registration fees for approved conferences (provided that the student meets the participation requirements and has sufficient funds available), we will not pay for membership fees for other professional associations.

## ***Dissertation Research Support***

All students who have passed their qualifying exams and have successfully defended the prospectus for their dissertations are eligible to receive up to \$3,000 in funding for approved dissertation-related research expenses.

Once a student has passed quals, they must submit a Dissertation Research Funds Application<sup>25</sup> (signed by their advisor) to Sarah Holterman. This form is not binding, but it is expected to be a well-thought-out plan.

**Dissertation funding is limited to expenses related to the research and writing of the dissertation only.** You may not use dissertation funding for University fees, including but not limited to dissertation submission fees and regalia rental fees, or for travel to conferences for the sole purpose of presenting “dissertation-related” work. Any travel must be related to the research and writing of a student’s dissertation.

Approval of dissertation expenses is always at the discretion of the Director of the Doctoral Program and the Director of the School of Communication. As with travel expenses, dissertation expenses are reimbursed via the online Concur system.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://gsg.usc.edu/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Dissertation%20Research%20Funds%20Application%202017.pdf>

## ***Electronic Equipment Purchases***

Any purchase of electronic or other equipment using Annenberg School of Communication funds must be approved in writing by the student's advisor and by the Director of the Doctoral Program. Typically, the request will be part of a research proposal for summer research funds, or a request attached to an approved dissertation prospectus.

All equipment purchased using Annenberg funds is the property of the USC Annenberg School of Communication.

All equipment must be tagged as Annenberg property by Annenberg Technical Services and Operations (TechOps).<sup>26</sup> In the case of computers and other electronic equipment, Annenberg Information Technology must certify that the equipment conforms to all USC security and safety requirements. Please contact the Director of Information Technology, Frank Miuccio ([miuccio@usc.edu](mailto:miuccio@usc.edu)), to fulfill this requirement.

All equipment purchased with School of Communication funds must be returned to the school when students have completed the tasks for which the equipment was purchased. At the very latest, equipment must be returned by the time of the dissertation defense or when the student leaves the school for any other reason.

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<sup>26</sup> <http://annenbergtechops.com/>



**Part Four:**

**Citizenship & Life at  
Annenberg**

## **PART FOUR: CITIZENSHIP & LIFE AT ANNENBERG**

All students are expected to participate in the intellectual life of the Annenberg School. Each year, there are many opportunities for scholarly and professional development. Students are asked to attend public lectures and events, consistent with fulfilling academic and teaching assignments.

Announcements about events will be made via the Commgrad mailing list.

### **Annenberg Research Seminar (ARS)**

Colloquia and research seminars are scheduled for most Mondays at noon. Job talks and other public events are held at this time and doctoral students will sometimes be asked to present their work. Students should plan to attend, consistent with other course and assignment obligations. Lunch is provided.

### **Professional Development**

Events that focus on professional development will be held throughout the year. Topics will be developed in consultation with ACGSA. Past topics have included: qualifying exam preparation, job interviewing, prospectus writing, publishing, the Institutional Review Board and human subjects research, meetings of professional associations, and grants. All students are expected to participate.

### **Pedagogy Workshops**

There will be several workshops per semester covering topics such as TA responsibilities, writing a syllabus, facilitating discussions, grading, ethical issues in the classroom, and more. Clinical Associate Professor Carmen Lee ([carmenml@usc.edu](mailto:carmenml@usc.edu)) will facilitate these sessions.

### **Graduate Writing Coach**

The School of Communication provides a writing coach who is available to all Communication graduate students, including PhD students. She holds in-person and online office hours, during which she is available to meet with students individually. She also presents workshops and organizes PhD-specific writing groups and writing boot camps. More information can be found here: <http://cmgtwriting.uscannenberg.org/> or email her directly: Francesca Gacho, [fgacho@usc.edu](mailto:fgacho@usc.edu).

### **Doctoral Student Website Profiles**

All Annenberg School of Communication doctoral students have a profile on the Annenberg website: <http://annenberg.usc.edu/communication/communication-phd/doctoral-students>.

For updates and changes to your bio and/or photo, please contact Sarah Holterman.

### **Academic Integrity**

The School of Communication is committed to upholding the University's Academic Integrity Code, outlined in the *SCampus Student Guidebook*.<sup>27</sup> It is the policy of the School of Communication to report all violations of the code. Any violation of the Academic Integrity Code will result in the student's expulsion from the doctoral program.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/>

Because of their special status as role models for undergraduate students and as future professors whose degrees and reputations will be based on their capacity to conduct their own scholarly research, doctoral students are held to the highest standards of academic integrity. It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, fabricating data for a project, submitting a paper to more than one professor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone but yourself.

If you have questions about any of these practices, please confer with a faculty member and/or the Director of the Annenberg Doctoral Program. More information can be found at the following links:

<https://sjacs.usc.edu/students/academic-integrity/>

<https://sjacs.usc.edu/files/2015/03/GradIntegrity.pdf>

### **Annenberg Communication Graduate Student Association (ACGSA)**

The Annenberg Communication Graduate Student Association (ACGSA) is the student organization for doctoral students in Communication. ACGSA is a registered USC student organization and has access to funds through the Graduate Student Government (GSG), USC's graduate student assembly.<sup>28</sup>

The general principle of the graduate student association is to promote collegiality and to support a feeling of community among fellow students and in the School generally. ACGSA officers are elected each spring for the following academic year, with the exception of the First Year Representative, who is elected by the new cohort within a few weeks of the beginning of the fall semester. Officers meet regularly with the administration.

The 2019-2020 ACGSA officers and their major duties are listed in Appendix XII.

### **ACGSA Listserv**

ACGSA has its own listserv that is limited to ACGSA members. No faculty, staff, or non-doctoral students are able to send or receive email from it. Messages on this list should be considered to be confidential communication among the PhD students and should not be forwarded or shown outside the community without approval of the sender. At the same time, everyone using the system must recognize that the computers are not themselves secure systems.

Students are not required to subscribe to the list, but should note that ACGSA conducts a large part of its regular business in discussions via the listserv. Students who choose not to subscribe need to be aware that they are opting out of an important mode of participation in the scholarly community life.

### **Commgrad Listserv**

This is the mailing list for current PhD students that Annenberg faculty and staff will use to contact all students. As a currently enrolled student, you are automatically subscribed to the list with your USC email account.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://gsg.usc.edu/>

### **PhD Student Offices**

Offices for doctoral students are in the Garden Level West of the ASC building.

3502 Watt Way  
Suites G4 & G6  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0281

### **Access to Facilities**

All PhD students in the School of Communication should have keys to access the building and a USC identification card to access the PhD student offices. Contact Annenberg TechOps in ANN L103 to obtain an ASC key and have your card programmed for access.

### **USCard**

You can obtain a USCard by visiting Card Services, which is located in the McCarthy Way Parking Structure, next door to the Transportation Services Office.

<http://mycard.usc.edu/>

### **Security**

Security is important at USC. Classrooms and offices must be locked when not in use. Undergraduates and other non-PhD graduate students should not be left alone in the PhD offices if there are no doctoral students present. The PhD offices in particular require close attention so that the offices are not left unlocked.

### **Do not leave your belongings unattended on campus, even for a short amount of time.**

If you need an Annenberg classroom unlocked, contact TechOps: 213-740-4137 (ASC) or 213-740-5297 (ANN).

### **Desk Assignments**

PhD student desk space is allocated based on seniority and standing in the program. In general, every effort will be made to make desk space available for any doctoral student who is frequently on campus. Depending on the size of the doctoral student population at any given time, this may require that some people share a desk. First year doctoral students should expect to share desks.

The ACGSA board makes desk assignments at the beginning of the academic year; students should indicate their preferences at that time. Continuing students will remain at the same desk unless they express a desire to change. New students will not have an initial opportunity to request a specific desk, but may change locations if another student is willing to swap.

### **Kitchen**

All of the food-related appliances (refrigerators, microwave, coffeemakers, etc.) in the Garden Level West kitchen belong to the PhD students. Please note that the School custodial staff does not clean or maintain the appliances. They are maintained by the PhD students.

Please keep these appliances clean.

### **General Maintenance**

The custodial staff regularly vacuums the floors and empties the trash cans in the PhD student offices. Please note that while trash in the kitchen will be emptied daily, trash cans in the

cubicles and work areas will be emptied on Mondays and Thursdays only. If you are throwing out food, please do so in the kitchen trash can.

Large items for disposal that don't fit inside trash cans should be clearly marked for disposal. The custodians do not clean desks or equipment of any kind. PhD students are responsible for the general tidiness of the offices, the appliances, and personal areas.

The physical plant of the School (plumbing, electrical, telephone lines, computers, etc.) is overseen by Annenberg TechOps. The furnishings in the student offices (desks, bookcases, chairs, phones, office supplies, etc.) fall under the School of Communication Director's Office. If you don't know the correct person to contact for a specific problem about the student offices, please ask either an ACGSA officer or contact Kenny Langer ([klanger@usc.edu](mailto:klanger@usc.edu)) in the Director's Office. Kenny is also in charge of ordering office supplies for the PhD offices.

### **Telephones**

PhD students share telephones in their offices. Doctoral students serving as TAs with office hours are expected to answer their phones during those office hours.

Campus phone numbers all have a 213 area code and a prefix of either 740 or 821. When calling a campus number from another on-campus phone, you will use a five digit extension number. This consists of the final five digits of the full number. For example: The Comm School's full phone number is 213-740-3951 and its on-campus extension is x03951. The Annenberg admissions office's full phone number is 213-821-0770 and its on-campus extension is x10770.

### **USC Email**

Student email accounts are free for all USC students. All students are expected to obtain and use their accounts. All correspondence from both USC and the Annenberg School will be sent to the student's USC email address.

Log in here to access your USC mail and affiliated Google Apps: <https://google.usc.edu/>

### **USC Business Cards**

The School of Communication provides USC business cards for current PhD students. You will be given forms at the beginning of your first year that should be returned to Kenny Langer in ASC 305 or via email to [commdir@usc.edu](mailto:commdir@usc.edu). Once you have passed your qualifying exam, you may apply for new business cards to change your title from "PhD Student" to "PhD Candidate."

**Part Five:**

**School of Communication  
Administration**



## **PART FIVE: SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATION**

The three major administrative centers of the Annenberg School are the Dean's Office, the School of Communication, and the School of Journalism.

- Dean's Office – ANN 402 – 213-740-6180 – [ascdean@usc.edu](mailto:ascdean@usc.edu)
- School of Communication – ASC 305 – 213-740-3951 – [commdir@usc.edu](mailto:commdir@usc.edu)
- School of Journalism – ASC 303 – 213-740-3914 – [jourbks@usc.edu](mailto:jourbks@usc.edu)

The Dean of the Annenberg School is Willow Bay, the Director of the School of Communication is Josh Kun, and the Director of the School of Journalism is Gordon Stables.

### ***Director of the Annenberg Doctoral Program***

The Director of the Annenberg Doctoral Program is a member of the faculty and is responsible for the overall operation of the program. The Director develops long-term programs and policies, and presents them to the faculty for discussion and approval. The Director also administers the day to day functions of the program, including:

- Advising all first year students until after they have been screened and formed their guidance committees
- Consulting with students about their programs
- Reviewing and approving Annenberg and Graduate School documents, such as requests for D-clearance, transfer credits, qualifying examination requests, and other petitions
- Coordinating and overseeing the administration of the qualifying examination
- Chairing the Doctoral Admissions Committee and the Doctoral Screening and Review Committee
- Coordinating reports for the faculty

The current Director is:

Professor Tom Hollihan  
ASC 202B  
Phone: 213-740-3947  
Email: [hollihan@usc.edu](mailto:hollihan@usc.edu)

## ***Graduate Advisor, PhD in Communication***

The PhD Advisor provides academic support to doctoral students and serves as a liaison between students and other University departments. The PhD advisor maintains and supervises administrative procedures pertaining to academic progress, including:

- Graduate student records
- Registration
- General petitions and all program forms

The PhD Advisor is:

Anne Marie Campian

ASC 146

Phone: 213-740-0903

Email: [campian@usc.edu](mailto:campian@usc.edu)

## ***Coordinator, Graduate Programs & Student Aid***

The Graduate Programs & Student Aid Coordinator for the School of Communication is responsible for finances and student aid, including fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships; curriculum updates; doctoral program administration; and the coordination of program policy for the Communication PhD program and all master's programs within the School of Communication.

The Coordinator oversees the following items for PhD students:

- Stipend payments
- Fellowships
- GA assignments
- Health insurance/health center access
- Over 50% GA petitions
- Parental leave petitions
- Health leave
- Travel and dissertation expenses
- School of Communication newsletter
- Web updates

The Graduate Programs Coordinator is:

Sarah Holterman

ASC 305D

Phone: 213-740-2538

Email: [holterma@usc.edu](mailto:holterma@usc.edu)

Both Sarah and Anne Marie are part of the Director's Office, though Anne Marie's office is downstairs in Student Services.

## ***Director's Office, School of Communication***

**Josh Kun, Director and Professor**

[jkun@usc.edu](mailto:jkun@usc.edu)

213-740-4088 / ASC 305C

As Director, Josh Kun is responsible for overseeing all academic programs, both graduate and undergraduate, in the School of Communication. He is the inaugural holder of the Annenberg Chair in Cross-Cultural Communication, as well as a member of the School of Communication faculty.

**Hector Amaya, Professor**

[hectoram@usc.edu](mailto:hectoram@usc.edu)

213-740-0934 / ASC 305B

Hector Amaya will be the Director of the School of Communication starting Fall 2020.

**Allyson Arguello, Coordinator, Undergraduate Programs & Scheduling**

[aarguell@usc.edu](mailto:aarguell@usc.edu)

213-821-0462 / ASC 305D

Ally is responsible for course scheduling, undergrad curriculum, and TA access.

**Kenny Langer, Administrative Assistant II**

[klanger@usc.edu](mailto:klanger@usc.edu)

213-740-7004 / ASC 305

Contact Kenny for issues related to the doctoral student office and student business cards.

**Billie Shotlow, Appointment/Promotion Coordinator**

[shotlow@usc.edu](mailto:shotlow@usc.edu)

213-821-2718 / ASC 305A

Billie handles faculty affairs, including job searches and promotions.

**Front Desk/Student Workers**

[commdir@usc.edu](mailto:commdir@usc.edu)

213-740-3951 / ASC 305

## ***Financial Services, School of Communication***

**Christine Lloreda, Budget/Business Analyst**

[lloreda@usc.edu](mailto:lloreda@usc.edu)

213-821-3037 / ASC 306

Christine is responsible for financial affairs for the School of Communication. She processes reimbursement requests on behalf of first year students.

**Fabian Ledesma**

[fledesma@usc.edu](mailto:fledesma@usc.edu)

213-821-5356 / ASC 307B

Fabian oversees financial affairs for both the School of Communication and School of Journalism.

# Appendices

## **APPENDIX I: CONCENTRATIONS**

Students specialize in one of seven concentrations<sup>29</sup> by completing a minimum of three courses (12 units) in one of the following:

### ***Groups, Organizations and Networks***

- COMM 508 Power, Politics and Conflict in Communication
- COMM 524 Small Group Process
- COMM 585 Organizational Communication
- COMM 635 Economics of Information
- COMM 636 Interpretive and Cultural Approaches in Organizational Communication
- COMM 637 Current Readings in Organizational Communication
- COMM 638 Global, International and Intercultural Communication in Organizations
- COMM 640 Communication and Organizational Change
- COMM 641 Organizations and Communication Technologies
- COMM 645 Communication Networks
- COMM 648 Online Communities and Networks
- COMM 652 Field Research in Communication

### ***Health Communication and Social Dynamics***

- COMM 554 Regression and Multivariate Communication Research
- COMM 602 Seminar in Persuasion
- COMM 611 Communication Technology and Healthcare
- COMM 612 Designing Health Communication Interventions
- COMM 613 Grant Writing in Communication
- COMM 614 Computational Approaches in Health Communication
- COMM 615 Health Communication
- COMM 616 Health Communication for Prevention
- COMM 650 Survey Construction and Validation
- COMM 651 Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs
- CMGT 581 Media in Social Services: Design and Evaluation of Campaigns
- CMGT 583 Social Marketing and Entertainment Education
- CMGT 587 Audience Analysis
- CMGT 588 Global Storytelling: The Power of Narrative

### ***Information, Political Economy and Entertainment***

- COMM 516 Feminist Theory and Communication
- COMM 559 Globalization, Communication and Society
- COMM 560 Global Media and Communication in China and Asia
- COMM 563 Black Popular Culture: Theory and Central Debates

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<sup>29</sup> [https://catalogue.usc.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=11&poid=10770&returnto=3756](https://catalogue.usc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&poid=10770&returnto=3756)

- COMM 564 Communication, Culture and Capitalism
- COMM 566 Using Theory to Craft Policies to Affect Change
- COMM 570 Economics of the Communication Industries
- COMM 630 Communication Technology and Social Change
- COMM 647 Network Society
- COMM 654 Art, Artists and Society
- COMM 660 Entertainment and Games
- COMM 662 Video Games Research
- COMM 670 Economic Cultures
- CMGT 582 International Communication: National Development

### ***Media, Culture and Community***

- COMM 516 Feminist Theory and Community
- COMM 517 Rhetorical Theory and Culture
- COMM 519 Cultural Studies in Communication
- COMM 564 Communication, Culture and Capitalism
- COMM 573 Networked Publics: Theories and Encounters
- COMM 574 Science and Technology Studies for Communication and Media
- COMM 575 Advocacy and Social Change in Entertainment and the Media
- COMM 580 Media and Politics
- COMM 605 Advanced Macro Theories of Communication
- COMM 618 Mass Media Effects
- COMM 629 Global Culture
- COMM 653 Research, Practice and Social Change
- COMM 654 Art, Artists and Society
- COMM 655 Studies in Sound, Music and Communication
- COMM 656 Theorizing Race, Culture, Cross-Cultural Exchange
- COMM 662 Video Games Research
- COMM 672 Experiments in Critical Writing
- CMGT 587 Audience Analysis

### ***New Media and Technology***

- COMM 524 Small Group Process
- COMM 570 Economics of the Communication Industries
- COMM 572 Theories of Computer Mediated Communication
- COMM 573 Networked Publics: Theories and Encounters
- COMM 574 Science and Technology Studies for Communication and Media
- COMM 576 Civic Media and Participatory Politics
- COMM 577 Fandom, Participatory Culture and Web 2.0
- COMM 578 New Media Literacies
- COMM 611 Communication Technology and Healthcare
- COMM 641 Organizations and Communication Technologies
- COMM 647 Network Society
- CMGT 530 Social Dynamics of Communication Technologies



- CMGT 531 Communication and the International Economy
- CMGT 537 The Industry, Science and Culture of Video Games

### ***Political Economy of Global Communication***

- COMM 546 The Political Economy of Innovation
- COMM 553 Political Economy of Global Telecommunications and Information
- COMM 559 Globalization, Communication and Society
- COMM 560 Global Media and Communication in China and Asia
- COMM 561 Leading and Communicating Change in Global Organizations
- COMM 567 The Political Economy of Privacy and Cybersecurity
- COMM 570 Economics of the Communication Industries
- COMM 582 Information and Communication Technology for Development
- COMM 629 Global Culture
- COMM 630 Communication Technology and Social Change
- COMM 635 Economic of Information
- COMM 645 Communication Networks
- COMM 647 Network Society
- PUBD 504 Global Issues and Public Diplomacy
- PUBD 510 Technologies and Public Diplomacy
- PUBD 515 Transnational Diplomacy and Global Security
- PUBD 516 International Broadcasting
- PUBD 522 Hard Power, Soft Power and Smart Power

### ***Rhetoric, Politics and Publics***

- COMM 509 Classical Rhetorical Theory
- COMM 511 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory
- COMM 512 Rhetorical Criticism
- COMM 513 Neoclassical Rhetorical Theory
- COMM 514 Social Movements as Rhetorical Form
- COMM 515 Postmodern Rhetorical Theory
- COMM 517 Rhetorical Theory and Culture
- COMM 518 American Public Address
- COMM 520 The Rhetoric of the Presidential Campaign Trail
- COMM 521 Argumentation
- COMM 522 Kenneth Burke's Dramatistic Theory
- COMM 573 Networked Publics: Theories and Encounters
- COMM 576 Civic Media and Participatory Politics
- COMM 580 Media and Politics

These courses and concentrations are current as of fall 2019.

## **APPENDIX II: THE FIVE YEAR TRACK**

Here's what to expect during your time in the Annenberg doctoral program. This schedule allows students to make efficient progress toward completing the PhD in five years.

### ***First Year***

The first year involves completing core courses, being screened, and beginning to decide whom to invite to be your faculty advisor: either your current mentor or another School of Communication faculty member.

During the fall and spring semesters, each first year student will be enrolled in two core courses (4 units each) and will typically enroll in a third class (4 units) of their choice.

Each student should consult with the Director of the Doctoral Program and/or a faculty mentor on course work during their first year and the beginning of their second year. During a student's time at Annenberg, Anne Marie Campian and the Director of the Doctoral Program will track course work electronically by means of the STARS Report, which students can access by logging onto OASIS: <https://camel2.usc.edu/OASIS/>.

Students must complete a PhD Registration Authorization form<sup>30</sup> each time they register for a class. Anne Marie Campian will provide departmental approval for the student's registration. This is called "d-clearance."

Screening takes place at the end of the first year. After a successful screening, students should begin the process of transitioning from their assigned mentor to an advisor.

**NOTE:** The Transfer Credit Petition form<sup>31</sup> may be used to request transfer credit for graduate classes taken elsewhere to be applied to the USC program of study.

### ***Second Year***

In the second year, students typically register for courses in their primary and minor areas of concentration as well as their cognate area.

It is critically important that students work with their advisors and their Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committees. Among the important topics to address during the second year are:

1. Development of a program of study
2. The selection of cognate courses
3. The parameters for the working paper, i.e., topic, theories, methodology, length, etc.

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<sup>30</sup> [http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/PhD\\_D-Clearance\\_Form\\_2017.pdf](http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/PhD_D-Clearance_Form_2017.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> [http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Transfer\\_Credit\\_Petition\\_2017.pdf](http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Transfer_Credit_Petition_2017.pdf)

### **Advisor and Guidance Committee Selection**

In the fall semester of the second year, students should select an advisor who will also serve as the chair for the guidance committee. The Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee consists of at least three faculty members from the Annenberg School, one of whom is the student's advisor.

### ***Third Year***

During the third year, students will finish course work and complete their working paper, which will be distributed to the three members of the Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee. Once the working paper is approved, the Working Paper form<sup>32</sup>, along with a copy of the working paper, must be filed with Anne Marie Campian.

During the third year, students typically also begin to form their Qualifying Examination Committees. This usually means inviting two additional faculty members to join the three members of the Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee to constitute the Qualifying Examination Committee, although students are free to change any or all of the original three members. In either case, this effectively transforms the Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committee into the Qualifying Examination Committee. Once the committee is created, students should meet with each faculty member to select areas of examination, discuss the relevant parameters and domain of the examination, and develop a reading list over which the examination will be held.

During the semester in which students complete their working papers, they may wish to devote more time to the paper rather than enrolling in three courses. Students may choose between three alternatives:

- Enroll in two courses
- Enroll in one four-unit class, plus two units of COMM 694: Preliminary Research Paper, thus enrolling in six units, which is considered to be a full load by USC
- Enroll in one unit of GRSC 800: Studies for the Qualifying Examination, which is also considered a full load by USC

### ***Fourth Year***

#### **Arranging for the Qualifying Examination (“Quals”)**

When faculty members of the Annenberg Doctoral Guidance Committees have approved student working papers on the Working Paper form, students are ready to take the qualifying examination. This usually occurs near the beginning of year four.

Students are expected to meet with Anne Marie Campian, who will provide them with the Request to Take the PhD Qualifying Examination form. The form must be returned, completed, to Anne Marie at least 30 days prior to starting the qualifying examination. At the completion of the qualifying examination, all committee members should sign the Report on Qualifying Examination form and the student should submit it within 48 hours to Anne Marie Campian.

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<sup>32</sup> [http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Working\\_Paper\\_Form\\_2017.pdf](http://annenberg.usc.edu/sites/default/files/Working_Paper_Form_2017.pdf)

When students pass their qualifying examinations, Anne Marie Campian will submit the signed Verification of Completion of the Requirements for the Master's Degree form, along with the signed and dated Report on Qualifying Examination form to the Graduate School. Students will then receive their MA degrees.

### **Dissertation Prospectus**

At this time students form a dissertation committee. This typically means selecting three of the five members of the Qualifying Examination Committee to continue to serve as members of the Dissertation Committee, though again, students are free to ask other faculty to serve as members of their dissertation committees.

The student will choose one of three options for completing the prospectus (see page 15). Upon completion, the Approval of Dissertation Prospectus form must be signed and submitted (along with a copy of the prospectus) to Anne Marie Campian. At the same time, submit the Dissertation Research Funds Application to Sarah Holterman.

By the end of the fall semester of the fourth year of studies, the following items should be completed:

- Qualifying Examination process completed
- Dissertation advisor selected
- Dissertation committee formed
- Prospectus successfully defended

*If these four items are not completed by the end of the fall semester of the fourth year, students may no longer be considered to be making satisfactory progress toward a degree.*

## ***Fifth Year***

The fifth year of study is spent in research, completing the dissertation, and preparing to enter the job market. Continuous enrollment in COMM 794 dissertation units is required each term, excluding summers, from the date of candidacy until the final version of the dissertation is submitted through the Thesis Center and accepted by the Graduate School. **If you have not been continuously enrolled, USC will not grant you a degree.**<sup>33</sup>

If you miss the deadline provided by the Graduate School for submitting your dissertation to the Thesis Center, or if you submit a version that does not meet Thesis Center guidelines, you will not receive your degree in that academic term. If that occurs, you must enroll in the following academic semester and pay for two units of 794 dissertation credits plus fees. The Annenberg School will not pay for these charges once you have successfully defended your dissertation.

The USC requirement for continuous enrollment stays in effect until you submit an acceptable version of your dissertation via Thesis Center. If you fail to do this, USC will withhold official awarding of your degree until the dissertation is submitted and fees are paid.

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<sup>33</sup>[https://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=3424&hl=continuous+enrollment&returnto=search#continuous\\_enrollment](https://catalogue.usc.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=3424&hl=continuous+enrollment&returnto=search#continuous_enrollment)

## **APPENDIX III: THE QUALIFYING EXAM**

The process of putting together a qualifying examination takes communication, strategic choices, and planning. During this process, you will primarily consult with your advisor and must communicate with the other four members of your committee.

The qualifying exam is a test, which can be open to the public, and is a challenge for you to think about, reflect on, and critically integrate knowledge. Strategic choices are needed so that the books, articles, and other documents you read produce a workable and productive experience for you and your committee.

It's important to remember that the qualifying exam requires planning. You'll need to develop an overall schedule, ending with a confirmed defense date, as well as take care of details such as getting a room where the defense can be held.

As you read through the guidelines, please remember that no two cases are identical. You should act early, ask questions, be engaged in planning, and communicate frequently with your advisor and committee members.

### ***Setting up the Qualifying Exam***

Usually, the students solicit questions from committee members. Anne Marie Campian assembles the exam, releases the exam to the student at the appropriate time, receives the written answers when completed, and distributes these answers to members of the committee.

Answers may be submitted electronically or in print. Regardless of the process followed, it is essential that a complete copy of the exam and answers be returned to Anne Marie for placement in the student's file.

### ***Written Qualifying Exam Options***

#### **Open Book Exam**

In consultation with their advisors, some students select four or five substantive areas over which they wish to be examined. Three or four questions cover areas deemed important to the students' major and minor concentrations. In some cases, at least one question will address a topic outside those areas of concentration.

Members of qualifying examination committees are responsible for approving reading lists in these areas and for writing questions. Students may request to select from a pool of two or three questions per area.

The open book exam should take a minimum of 10 consecutive days or a maximum of 14 consecutive days. Regardless of how you manage your own writing schedule within that block of time, all students will have a maximum of 14 consecutive days to complete the exam. This decision should be made by the candidate and their advisor, and must be confirmed in advance of the exam period with Anne Marie Campian.

Students may write at home or at another location of their choosing. Answers should be typed and conform to an appropriate professional style manual (APA, MLA, etc.) specified by the committee.

### **Closed Book Exam**

In closed book exams, students are typically required to write for a minimum of 12 hours, normally spread out over several days. At least eight hours are devoted to questions in the student's major and minor concentrations. At least four hours cover the cognate and outside areas. This decision should be made by the candidate and their advisor, and must be confirmed in advance of the exam period with Anne Marie Campian.

For a closed book exam, faculty members are responsible for approving reading lists in these areas and for writing questions. Students may request to select from a pool of two or three questions per area.

For the closed book exam, students who are writing in the same specialization, or in the same area for the same faculty member, should write on the same days and times. Students are responsible for reserving an appropriate location and arranging for computer access with Annenberg TechOps.

Absolutely no notes or other materials are permitted during the closed book exam. A blank USB drive will be provided and should be returned to Anne Marie Campian at the conclusion of each writing period.

### **Scheduling the Exam**

Students are encouraged to write during the fall or spring semester. Summer exams are rare but may be permitted with approval from the Director of the Doctoral Program. The Graduate School requires that all portions of the exam (including the oral defense) be completed within 60 days.

## ***Six Month Path to the Qualifying Exam***<sup>34</sup>

### **SIX MONTHS BEFORE QUALS**

Those taking quals in the spring should start this process at the beginning of the academic year. Those taking quals in the fall should start during the prior spring semester. This initial phase is meant to be a time of discovery and organization.

### **Reading Lists**

Students generally develop one reading list per quals area. These lists include books and articles, collections and original works, classics in the area that everyone should know, latest research articles in the area, as well as specialized materials related to key debates in the field.

Readings can be assembled from class syllabi and/or lists borrowed from fellow students, but they should always be developed in relation to what you have read and what you need to read.

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<sup>34</sup> See Appendix IV for a simplified Qualifying Exam checklist.

Talk to your advisor about different ways of generating reading lists, but do not limit yourself too much at this point.

For the initial lists, you will want to generate a range of material that is of interest to both you and your committee members. Start early, because not everything you come up with can be read and mastered in your qualifying exam semester.

### **Dissertation Ideas**

Dissertation project ideas should also be developed during this time. You are encouraged to integrate the dissertation topic into the process of qualifying exam development, although the means of integration are left up to the advisor and committee members.

A dissertation idea can be represented by a complete prospectus, or it can be sketched out in terms of methods, data, cases, and contributions. Some advisors accept a prospectus for the working paper requirement, but this is not a common practice. You should discuss both the working paper requirement and the integration of the dissertation at the beginning of the process.

## **BEGINNING OF THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION SEMESTER**

### **First Meeting with Advisor**

Schedule a meeting with your advisor as early as possible. You should discuss the following issues in this meeting:

#### **❑ Committee Membership**

Who will the members be? These members should be faculty members you have taken courses with, whose competencies you wish to be identified with, and who may become part of your dissertation committee. Remember that faculty may or may not suspend duties while on leave or sabbatical. Another factor to consider when choosing: letters for job applications are usually written by faculty who know you well.

#### **❑ Committee Membership: Outside Members**

An outside member is a faculty member of some other USC department or school who represents an area of expertise you wish to claim or a person who has knowledge relevant to your dissertation project. The purpose of the outside member is twofold: to provide guidance in an area of expertise that the student wishes to claim and/or knowledge relevant to the student's dissertation project and to provide an external perspective on the qualifying exam project. You are not required to have an outside member, but Annenberg faculty strongly support this practice and most advisors will encourage you to invite an outside member.

Any faculty member – external, outside, or from the School of Communication – who serves on PhD dissertation and qualifying exam committees must have a professional profile that demonstrates academic impact on the field in significant, measurable ways.

You and your advisor should agree on what the role of the outside member will be in the examination. Generally, the outside member will have three major responsibilities: assisting in the generation and approval of the reading lists, writing and/or contributing to the student's qualifying exam questions, and reading and evaluating written answers in preparation for the student's oral defense. Outside members are not required to provide

written evaluations or comments on the exam. If the student has elected to integrate the dissertation proposal with the qualifying exam, the outside committee member may also be asked to read the proposal prior to the oral defense.

When asking the professor to sit on the committee, you should be able to describe the duties and process concisely. Work with your advisor to create a personalized memo for the outside member, covering such topics as: the areas covered by the exam, the length of the reading lists, open book vs. closed book, the outside member's responsibilities for generating questions, how often the student will meet with the outside member, the timeline and details of the qualifying exam process, etc. Discuss with your advisor how you will contact committee members.

#### **Committee Membership: External Members**

An external member is a faculty member from an institution other than USC who represents an area of expertise you wish to claim or a person who has knowledge relevant to your dissertation project. The purpose of the external member, should you choose to have one, is twofold: to provide guidance in an area of expertise that the student wishes to claim and/or knowledge relevant to the student's dissertation project and to provide an external perspective on the qualifying exam project. You are not required to have an external member.

Guidelines for the external member's professional profile and role on the committee are the same as those listed above for outside members.

If you choose to include an external member who does not live in the Los Angeles area, Annenberg will not pay for their travel or accommodations. External members may participate remotely in the defense.

The CV of the external member must be uploaded along with the Appointment of Committee form and will become part of the official record.

#### **Open Book or Closed Book?**

In general, Annenberg faculty members prefer the open-book exam. Advisors will typically recommend that their students select the exam format that they prefer.

#### **What areas will the exam cover?**

Students write in three to five areas, with most settling on four. As there are five members on a committee, faculty members will double up in at least one area. This is not always the case—an advisor and student can decide to mix and match faculty across areas. The question of what constitutes an “area” of study varies. Here are some representative types of understandings:

- An area identifies a claim of your own expertise to be tested
- An area identifies a concept or concepts that are discussed and debated in the field of communication
- An area identifies a methodological competency
- An area is a theory that contains a recognized corpus of research



### **Reading Lists**

Reading lists should be shaped to fit the areas you have developed with your advisor. Students vary in regard to the length of these lists, as the definition of area also varies. Generally, your list should include fifty to a hundred sources (books and articles) per area. It is useful to arrange the sources in a way that makes sense for your project, e.g., by expert source, issues in the field, or chronological order. The better prepared the list, the better the conversations you will have when asking faculty members to serve on your committee. Remember that the list should be flexible; committee members will offer input on prioritizing or adding sources. Draw materials from previous courses, research projects, and areas of interest. This is a time of discovery, so make the lists broad and obtain the materials.

- Select what is crucial and what seems peripheral
- Develop a justification for selecting these readings
- Write a narrative for each area that ties the readings together

### **Scheduling Exam and Defense**

Before meeting with your committee members, you and your advisor should determine when you will take the qualifying exam and when you will defend the exam. It is recommended that you schedule the defense as soon as you know the dates of the qualifying exam. Your first round of meetings with committee members provides an excellent opportunity to ascertain availability of members for a defense date. Remember that it is always easier to coordinate faculty schedules at the beginning of the semester.

The Annenberg School acknowledges that it may be necessary for a committee member to participate from a remote location. Committee members may use Skype, conference calls, or other forms of video communication to facilitate their participation in the qualifying exam. However, students should create a backup plan in the event of a failed connection.

### **Meetings with Committee Members**

As soon as plans are set with your advisor, you should arrange meetings with your committee members. This should ideally happen in the first few weeks of the semester before you will take your qualifying exam. In these meetings, you should:

- Explain the role they are being asked to play in the examination. This is especially important for an “outside” or “external” member, who may not be familiar with the Annenberg examination process. Explain the customs of preparation, writing, and evaluation.
- Show the faculty your reading list and have it reviewed on the spot, or leave an opening for suggestions.
- Refine agreement on the areas. Communicate whether the committee member will be a sole or collaborative writer of questions. (Make this decision with your advisor prior to meeting with committee members.)
- Discuss the number of questions, and whether you will be asked to choose between questions.

- ❑ Discuss the relation of the exam and its various areas to the dissertation project.
- ❑ After the meeting, summarize what was agreed upon and email this information to the committee member, requesting modification if memory varies. Include a modified reading list and request feedback to make sure you are on the same page.

### **Finalizing Plans**

#### **❑ Meet with your Advisor Again**

After you have met with your entire committee, meet again with your advisor to finalize plans: develop a concise description of the exam; identify the when, where, and method of the exam; construct memo (see below) and determine with your advisor which one of you will communicate this information to the committee.

#### **❑ Create the Memo**

After meeting with your committee members, you should construct a summary document that details the areas, committee members, who is writing which questions, and number of hours (closed book) or days (open book). In this memo, be sure to specify when and to whom the questions should be sent. Sometimes committee members send questions to Anne Marie to distribute and sometimes to the chair.

#### **❑ Send the Memo**

Some advisors prefer to send the memo to the committee members; some will let the student do this. Either way, once the final plan is put in place, notify everyone quickly. Emailing the final plan (with reading lists attached) helps to ensure everyone is on the same page.

### **Visit the Office of the PhD Advisor**

Please check with Anne Marie Campian to make sure all of the necessary forms are filled out in the appropriate sequence by the required deadlines. If you are uncertain about when to take the examination, how to get rooms for writing or for your defense, or about any other step of the quals process, please inquire with Anne Marie as early as possible.

### **Prepare for the Examination**

For closed book examinations, students may concentrate notes to a page per source, develop memory devices, and formulate answers in their minds. For open book exams, students may select quotations, develop a bibliography, and familiarize themselves with key research.

In either case, preparation should involve strategic thinking about what is important to know, which terms are important to define, which arguments can be made about a topic area, and how debates articulated in classes, seminars, or meetings can be responded to. Many students find it useful to consult with others who have already taken their exams or to form working groups with students who are taking exams in the same semester.

While preparation techniques for the exam vary, preparation always requires a systematic schedule that combines good time management with self-discipline.

- Plan a systematic, weekly approach to reading, note-taking, organization, and integration of materials. Ask questions if you hit snags or are uncertain. Develop a support team to talk through issues.
- Outlines or notes should be comprehensive but brief, useful, and incisive. Consult with peers on reading and preparation strategies. As open- and closed-book strategies differ, talk to those who have taken the same format.
- Two weeks prior to the exam, confirm your arrangements, rechecking space availability with Annenberg TechOps. You should also check in with your committee members a few days before they are scheduled to begin writing. These meetings give you an opportunity to talk about your experience with the reading list (what you got out of it, what posed difficulties, what questions the reading generated for you, etc.). Discussing these topics serves as an excellent preparation for the exam itself and may aid the faculty members in writing questions that are genuinely interesting and useful for you to write on.
- One week before the exam, send a reminder notice to the committee. Make sure it indicates to whom the questions should be sent, when you will write the exam, when you will defend the exam, and where the defense will be held.

### **The Oral Defense**

The scope of the defense is open in the sense that it can cover material from previous courses, although oral defenses usually focus on the written answers. Experiences vary. Sometimes committee members ask for elaboration, pose a counter-position, or ask you to repair a weak answer. Frequently, the defense explores areas, synthesizes ideas, or covers information relevant to the working paper or dissertation. You should meet with your advisor before the defense to discuss what you need to prepare.

## **APPENDIX IV: QUALIFYING EXAM CHECKLIST**

### **SIX MONTHS BEFORE QUALS**

- Meet with advisor to discuss choice of committee members and areas.
- Begin to construct a broad reading list for each area.
- Take courses that will help you fill in the gaps and answer questions.
- Check with a potential “outside” or “external” person on availability to serve on your committee.
- Check with PhD Advisor Anne Marie Campian to make sure you have met all requirements.

### **DURING THE SEMESTER PRIOR TO TAKING THE QUALIFYING EXAM**

- Meet with Anne Marie to obtain proper forms and discuss timing.
- Complete and obtain signatures on the **Request to Take the PhD Qualifying Examination form**.
- Complete and obtain signatures on the **Appointment of Committee form**.
- Complete and obtain signatures on the **Selecting Working Paper and Dissertation Prospectus Options form**, which indicates which of the two options you will exercise.
- Complete and obtain signatures on the approved **Working Paper form**. Submit with a copy of the approved working paper.
- In lieu of the working paper, an approved dissertation prospectus may be submitted.
- Submit all signed forms to Anne Marie no later than thirty days prior to beginning the exam.

### **BEGINNING OF THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION SEMESTER**

- Meet with your advisor.
- Determine when you will take the qualifying exam and when you will defend the exam.
- Shape reading lists in preparation to discuss with committee.
- In the first two to three weeks of the semester, meet with committee members.
- After meeting with your committee, meet with your advisor again to confirm plans.

**PREPARING FOR THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION**

- Plan a systematic, weekly approach to reading, note taking, and organization.
- Two weeks before the exam, confirm room reservation with TechOps.
- Check in with committee members a few days before they are scheduled to begin writing.
- A week before the exam, send a reminder notice to the committee.

## **APPENDIX V: STIPEND DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULES FOR 2019-2020**

Students in their first through fifth years receive an annual stipend of \$34,000, divided evenly over 12 months. For first year students, this is a full fellowship. For second through fifth year students, this is a combination of GA funding and fellowship funding.

Depending on the type of funding and year of the program, domestic and international students may receive stipends on slightly different schedules. Please see the following pages for 2019-2020 pay dates.

<b>Domestic Fellowships:</b>	Middle of the month (generally between the 13 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> of the month, on a Thursday or Friday)
<b>International Fellowships:</b>	On the 26 <sup>th</sup> of the month (or closest business day prior)
<b>Domestic GA:</b>	On the 26 <sup>th</sup> of the month (or closest business day prior)
<b>International GA:</b>	On the 26 <sup>th</sup> of the month (or closest business day prior)

Stipend calendars can be found online here:

<b>Domestic Fellowship:</b>	<a href="https://financialaid.usc.edu/general/stipend-domestic.html">https://financialaid.usc.edu/general/stipend-domestic.html</a>
<b>International Fellowship:</b>	<a href="https://financialaid.usc.edu/general/stipend-international.html">https://financialaid.usc.edu/general/stipend-international.html</a>
<b>Domestic GA:</b>	<a href="http://ais-ss.usc.edu/empldoc/schedule/p_2019/p2019-mo.html">http://ais-ss.usc.edu/empldoc/schedule/p_2019/p2019-mo.html</a> <sup>35</sup>
<b>International GA:</b>	<a href="http://ais-ss.usc.edu/empldoc/schedule/p_2019/p2019-mo.html">http://ais-ss.usc.edu/empldoc/schedule/p_2019/p2019-mo.html</a>

A stipend is not considered late by USC until the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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<sup>35</sup> This is the 2019 Monthly Payroll Schedule for the University. The schedule runs through December 2019. There will be a new schedule posted for the 2020 calendar year.

## **FIRST YEAR STUDENTS – FELLOWSHIP**

During their first year in the program, all students are Annenberg Fellows. These stipends are paid to domestic students each month on an earlier date.

### ***Domestic Fellowship Stipend Calendar***

Domestic students are those students who are U.S. Citizens or Permanent Resident Aliens.

Month	Amount of Stipend	Checks Paid By
August 2019	\$2,833.33	8/15/19 (Thursday)
September 2019	\$2,833.33	9/13/19 (Friday)
October 2019	\$2,833.33	10/18/19 (Friday)
November 2019	\$2,833.33	11/15/19 (Friday)
December 2019	\$2,833.33	12/10/19 (Friday)
January 2020	\$2,833.33	1/16/20 (Thursday)
February 2020	\$2,833.33	2/13/20 (Thursday)
March 2020	\$2,833.33	3/13/20 (Friday)
April 2020	\$2,833.33	4/16/20 (Thursday)
May 2020	\$2,833.33	5/14/20 (Thursday)
June 2020	\$2,833.35	6/18/20 (Thursday)
July 2020	\$2,833.35	7/15/20 (Thursday)

### ***International Fellowship Stipend Calendar***

International students are those students who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Resident Aliens.

Month	Amount of Stipend	Checks Paid By
August 2019	\$2,833.33	8/26/19 (Monday)
September 2019	\$2,833.33	9/26/19 (Thursday)
October 2019	\$2,833.33	10/25/19 (Friday)
November 2019	\$2,833.33	11/26/19 (Tuesday)
December 2019	\$2,833.33	12/24/19 (Tuesday)
January 2020	\$2,833.33	1/24/20 (Friday)
February 2020	\$2,833.33	2/26/20 (Wednesday)
March 2020	\$2,833.33	3/26/20 (Thursday)
April 2020	\$2,833.33	4/24/20 (Friday)
May 2020	\$2,833.33	5/26/20 (Friday)
June 2020	\$2,833.35	6/26/20 (Friday)
July 2020	\$2,833.35	7/24/20 (Friday)

## SECOND THROUGH FIFTH YEAR STUDENTS – GA + FELLOWSHIP

During their second through fifth years in the program, students are funded mainly as GAs with some fellowship funding from the Graduate School. This means that domestic students will receive their monthly fellowship amount on an earlier date. International students will receive both amounts on the same date each month.

### *Domestic Stipend Calendar*

Domestic students are those students who are U.S. Citizens or Permanent Resident Aliens.

Month	Amount of Stipend	Checks Paid By
August 2019	\$750	8/15/19 (Thursday)
	\$2,083.33	8/26/19 (Monday)
September 2019	\$750	9/13/19 (Friday)
	\$2,083.33	9/26/19 (Thursday)
October 2019	\$750	10/18/19 (Friday)
	\$2,083.33	10/25/19 (Friday)
November 2019	\$750	11/15/19 (Friday)
	\$2,083.33	11/26/19 (Tuesday)
December 2019	\$750	12/10/19 (Friday)
	\$2,083.33	12/24/19 (Tuesday)
January 2020	\$750	1/16/20 (Thursday)
	\$2,083.33	1/24/20 (Friday)
February 2020	\$750	2/13/20 (Thursday)
	\$2,083.33	2/26/20 (Wednesday)
March 2020	\$750	3/13/20 (Friday)
	\$2,083.33	3/26/20 (Thursday)
April 2020	\$750	4/16/20 (Thursday)
	\$2,083.33	4/24/20 (Friday)
May 2020	\$750	5/14/20 (Thursday)
	\$2,083.33	5/26/20 (Friday)
June 2020	\$750	6/18/20 (Thursday)
	\$2,083.33	6/26/20 (Friday)
July 2020	\$750	7/15/20 (Thursday)
	\$2,083.33	7/24/20 (Friday)



### ***International Stipend Calendar***

International students are those students who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Resident Aliens.

Month	Amount of Stipend	Both Checks Paid By
August 2019	\$750 \$2,083.33	8/26/19 (Monday)
September 2019	\$750 \$2,083.33	9/26/19 (Thursday)
October 2019	\$750 \$2,083.33	10/25/19 (Friday)
November 2019	\$750 \$2,083.33	11/26/19 (Tuesday)
December 2019	\$750 \$2,083.33	12/24/19 (Tuesday)
January 2020	\$750 \$2,083.33	1/24/20 (Friday)
February 2020	\$750 \$2,083.33	2/26/20 (Wednesday)
March 2020	\$750 \$2,083.33	3/26/20 (Thursday)
April 2020	\$750 \$2,083.33	4/24/20 (Friday)
May 2020	\$750 \$2,083.33	5/26/20 (Friday)
June 2020	\$750 \$2,083.33	6/26/20 (Friday)
July 2020	\$750 \$2,083.33	7/24/20 (Friday)

## ADVANCED STUDENTS – FELLOWSHIP

A non-first year student receiving any advanced fellowship from USC will be paid on this schedule. Like the stipends for first year students who are Annenberg Fellows, these fellowship stipends are paid to domestic students each month on an earlier date.

### *Domestic Fellowship Stipend Calendar*

Domestic students are those students who are U.S. Citizens or Permanent Resident Aliens.

Month	Amount of Stipend	Checks Paid By
August 2019	\$2,833.33	8/15/19 (Thursday)
September 2019	\$2,833.33	9/13/19 (Friday)
October 2019	\$2,833.33	10/18/19 (Friday)
November 2019	\$2,833.33	11/15/19 (Friday)
December 2019	\$2,833.33	12/10/19 (Friday)
January 2020	\$2,833.33	1/16/20 (Thursday)
February 2020	\$2,833.33	2/13/20 (Thursday)
March 2020	\$2,833.33	3/13/20 (Friday)
April 2020	\$2,833.33	4/16/20 (Thursday)
May 2020	\$2,833.33	5/14/20 (Thursday)
June 2020	\$2,833.35	6/18/20 (Thursday)
July 2020	\$2,833.35	7/15/20 (Thursday)

### *International Fellowship Stipend Calendar*

International students are those students who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Resident Aliens.

Month	Amount of Stipend	Checks Paid By
August 2019	\$2,833.33	8/26/19 (Monday)
September 2019	\$2,833.33	9/26/19 (Thursday)
October 2019	\$2,833.33	10/25/19 (Friday)
November 2019	\$2,833.33	11/26/19 (Tuesday)
December 2019	\$2,833.33	12/24/19 (Tuesday)
January 2020	\$2,833.33	1/24/20 (Friday)
February 2020	\$2,833.33	2/26/20 (Wednesday)
March 2020	\$2,833.33	3/26/20 (Thursday)
April 2020	\$2,833.33	4/24/20 (Friday)
May 2020	\$2,833.33	5/26/20 (Friday)
June 2020	\$2,833.35	6/26/20 (Friday)
July 2020	\$2,833.35	7/24/20 (Friday)

## 6<sup>th</sup> YEAR + STUDENTS – GA

If a student is funded as a GA any year after their fifth year, they will not receive Graduate School fellowship funding during those years. This means that their stipend will be a maximum of \$25,000 annually if funded as a 50% GA during both fall and spring semesters. They will not be funded during June or July.

GA funding past the fifth year is never guaranteed.

Because they are not receiving any additional fellowship money, students serving as GAs in their 6<sup>th</sup> year or above will receive stipends on the same date of every month, regardless of whether they are international or domestic students.

A stipend is not considered late by USC until the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### *Domestic and International GA Stipend Calendar*

Month	Amount of Stipend	Checks Paid By
August 2019	\$2,500	8/26/19 (Monday)
September 2019	\$2,500	9/26/19 (Thursday)
October 2019	\$2,500	10/25/19 (Friday)
November 2019	\$2,500	11/26/19 (Tuesday)
December 2019	\$2,500	12/24/19 (Tuesday)
January 2020	\$2,500	1/24/20 (Friday)
February 2020	\$2,500	2/26/20 (Wednesday)
March 2020	\$2,500	3/26/20 (Thursday)
April 2020	\$2,500	4/24/20 (Friday)
May 2020	\$2,500	5/26/20 (Friday)

## **APPENDIX VI: HEALTH INSURANCE & HEALTH CARE AT USC**

### ***Your Funding Package***

Your funding package as a fellow or a graduate assistant (TA or RA) covers your USC-Aetna health insurance premium (including vision care), your Delta Dental premium, and your USC Student Health fee, which allows you to utilize the on-campus Engemann Student Health Center as your primary source of health care. You are covered year-round; there is no gap in coverage between academic years. You must be registered for classes for your insurance to go into effect.

#### USC – Aetna Student Health Plan (Includes vision care through EyeMed)

Fall 2019	August 19, 2019 to January 12, 2020	\$753
Spring 2020	January 13, 2020 to August 16, 2020	\$1,365

#### USC Student Health Fee

Fall 2019	August 19, 2019 to January 12, 2020	\$367
Spring 2020	January 13, 2020 to August 16, 2020	\$366

#### Student Dental Insurance

Fall 2019	August 19, 2019 to January 12, 2020	\$51
Spring 2020	January 13, 2020 to August 16, 2020	\$85

### ***How to get medical care under the USC – Aetna Student Health Plan:***

- Visit USC Student Health Services for non-emergency care. This is where you will receive primary care. Make an appointment online (for both routine medical visits and for illness) at <http://usc.edu/mySHR>.
- Once you've seen a medical professional at Student Health Services and it is determined that you require additional medical care, you will be given a referral.
- Student Health Services will make every attempt to refer you to a USC Designated Tier 1 Provider; you should verify this, as well.
- Details on Aetna Student Health can be found here: <https://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/>

### ***How to get eye care through EyeMed:***

- Students enrolled in the USC Student Health Insurance Plan automatically have vision coverage included through EyeMed.
- Find a provider here: <https://eyemed.com/en-us>

### ***How to get dental care through Delta Dental PPO:***

- Find a network dentist here: <http://deltadentalins.com/usc>
- You can visit any licensed dentist, but you'll usually pay the lowest out-of-pocket costs when you choose a PPO network dentist.

### ***What does the USC Student Health Fee cover?***

It covers most medical services at the USC Student Health Center, but there are some additional fees for tests, immunizations, medications, and other services. These additional fees are the student's responsibility and *are not* covered by Annenberg. Please see the Student Health website for prices: <https://studenthealth.usc.edu/fees-deadlines/>

## **APPENDIX VII: TRAVEL & RESEARCH REIMBURSEMENT**

All travel and research reimbursement requests must be made via the online Concur system:  
<https://usc.edu/travelportal>.

### **AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

- Students in their first five years of the program are provided with \$1,000 in conference travel funding per fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).
- Students who have successfully passed their qualifying exam have up to \$3,000 available in dissertation expenses. This funding may only be used on travel or items used in the research or writing of the dissertation. It cannot be used for conference travel or University fees.

### **ANNENBERG POLICIES**

- To be reimbursed, a student must be a participant in the conference. (There is one exception: students may attend NCA in their first year without participating.)
- For travel to conferences other than NCA/ICA, student must provide advisor's approval.
- For dissertation expenses, the student must have an approved Dissertation Research Funds Application on file.
- USC Disbursement Control will only reimburse expenses for a trip once the trip has been completed.

### **ACCOUNTS**

- Annual conference travel is reimbursed from account 12-3702-2743.
- Dissertation expenses are reimbursed from account 22-3701-3722.
- Graduate School funding (Fellowship or Boot Camp award) is reimbursed from account 22-3701-3722.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Please attach the following items as pdfs when you submit your reimbursement request. The request will be returned to you if any items are missing:

- Advisor's approval for participation in conference. This may be a pdf of an email.
- Proof of participation in the conference, such as an email with your acceptance to the conference or the page in the conference program that includes your name and presentation title. Please highlight your name.
- Receipts for your expenses. Credit card statements will not be accepted in lieu of receipts.

### **CONTACTS**

For questions about your available funding: Sarah Holterman, [holterma@usc.edu](mailto:holterma@usc.edu)

For questions about the Concur system: Christine Lloreda, [lloreda@usc.edu](mailto:lloreda@usc.edu)

## APPENDIX VIII: USING CONCUR

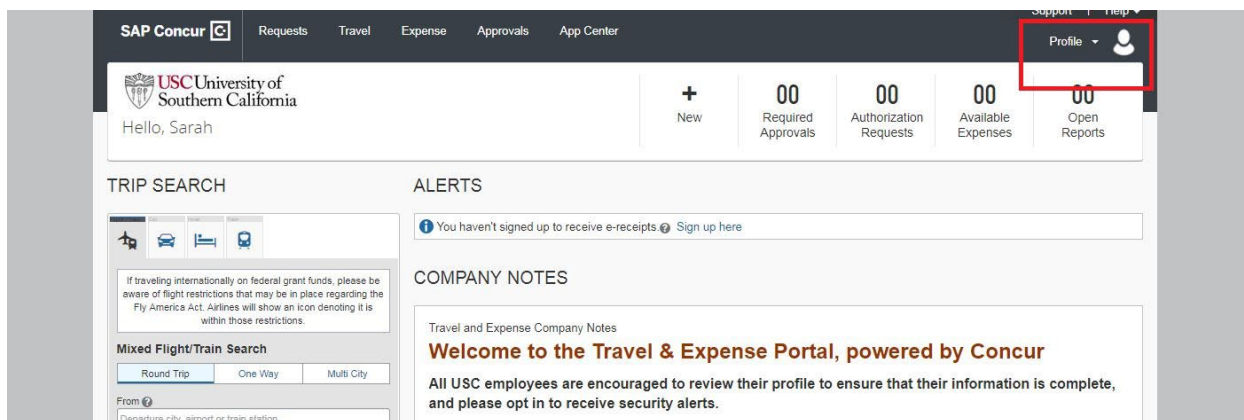
Concur is the online system USC uses for requesting reimbursements for travel and research expenses. This system replaced Quali in Summer 2019 for all reimbursements.

### Logging into Concur

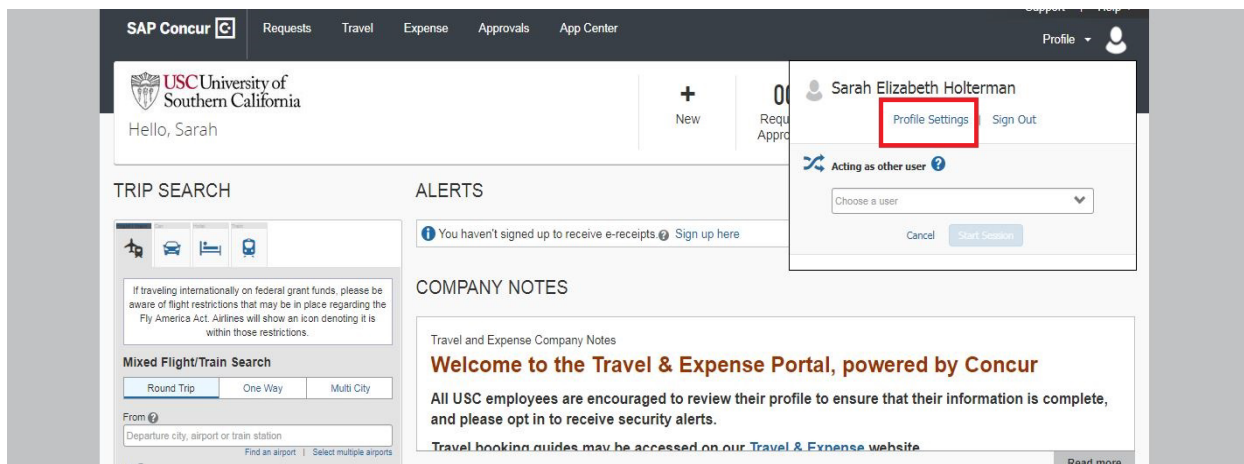
- Go to <https://usc.edu/travelportal> and sign in using your USC Shibboleth ID.
- This will take you to the Concur home page.

### Setting up your Profile

- Click on “Profile” at the top right of the page.



- Click on “Profile Settings”



- Fill out all required sections
- Make sure to save once sections are completed!

### Adding Delegates

A delegate is a USC employee you have designated as an individual who can access Concur reports on your behalf. By adding delegates, Comm School staff will be able to assist you with your reimbursement requests.

- On the Profile Options page, click “Request Delegates” on the left side of the page.

- Add the following people as delegates:
  - Mary Christine Lloreda ([lloreda@usc.edu](mailto:lloreda@usc.edu))
  - Fabian Ledesma ([fledesma@usc.edu](mailto:fledesma@usc.edu))
  - Sarah Holterman ([holterma@usc.edu](mailto:holterma@usc.edu))
- Please check all items as seen below when adding delegates:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Can Prepare	Can Book Travel	Can Submit Reports	Can Submit Requests	Can View Receipts	Can Use Reporting	Receives Emails	Can Approve	Can Approve Temporary	Can Preview For Approver	Receives Approval Emails
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gordillo, Eugenia egordill@usc.edu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ledesma, Fabian fledesma@usc.edu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Click SAVE once all three people have been added as delegates.

### Creating a New Report

- On the Concur home page, click on EXPENSE at the top of the page.
- Then click on CREATE NEW REPORT.

Create New Report x

\* Indicates required field

Type of Report \*

Report Name \*  Trip Type \*  Expense Purpose \*

Detailed Business Purpose \*

Traveler Type \*  Business Travel Start Date \*  Business Travel End Date \*

Does this trip include personal travel? \*  Personal Travel Dates  Account Number \*  1

Organization Code \*  2

Cancel

**Type of Report:** Employee Travel

**Report Name:** Include your last name and conference you attended/type of expense. For example, “Smith ICA 2019” or “Smith dissertation transcription.”

**Trip Type:** Choose Domestic, International, or Non-travel from the dropdown.

**Expense Purpose:** For conference travel, choose “Professional Development/ Conference/ Training”  
 For dissertation expenses, choose “Research Support”

**Detailed Business Purpose:**

Enter a short explanation of the expense, such as:

“Traveled to Washington, D.C. to present at the annual ICA conference”

“Transcription for dissertation writing”

“Field work in San Francisco for dissertation research”

**Traveler Type:** Student

**Business Travel Start and End Date:** Your travel dates

**Does this trip include personal travel?**

Only choose “yes” here if a portion of the trip *within the above dates* was personal travel. If you did personal travel before or after the business travel dates above, choose “no.”

**Account Number:** Click on the dropdown to select “SEARCH BY CODE,” which will allow you to type in the ten-digit account number, without dashes.

For annual travel funds:	1237022743
For dissertation funds:	2237013722
For grad school funds:	2237013722



**Organization Code:** Once you have entered the correct account number, when you click on the “Organization Code” box, the Annenberg org code will appear. Choose that code: (2030300000) ANNENBERG.

### **Claim Travel Allowance:**

If you plan to request per diem meal reimbursement, click on “Yes, I want to claim Travel Allowance” at the bottom of the page.

Once you have entered all of these fields, click CREATE REPORT at the bottom right.

### **Adding Expenses to your Report**

On the next page, you will be able to enter your individual expenses and receipts.

- Click on the blue ADD EXPENSE button. This will bring up a smaller window that says “Add Expense.”
- Choose the TYPE OF EXPENSE from the list.
- Once you have chosen the type of expense, it will take you to a new page. On this page, complete the requested information, including transaction date, vendor, and amount. Enter the amount of the expense AND attach the receipt image.
- Save the expense.
- Do this for each individual type of expense.

Please also upload your advisor’s approval; proof of your participation (i.e., page from the program with your name highlighted or email acceptance to conference); dissertation expense approval form.

### **Allocating Expenses**

If you are asking to be reimbursed from two different accounts (i.e., some funding will be from your annual Annenberg travel funds, some will be from graduate school funds) you will need to allocate your expenses.

- Select all expenses—make sure that all boxes are checked.
- Click the blue ALLOCATE button at the top.
- When the new Allocate window pops up, you’ll most likely want to switch it to “Amount” rather than “Percent.” This will allow you to enter dollar amounts.
- Click the blue ADD button. Use the same process to search for the accounts using code, not text. You will need to add BOTH accounts here:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Account Number	Organization Code	Code ▲	Amount USD
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMM PHD STUDENT TRAVEL AND RESEARCH	ANNENBERG	1237022743-2030300000	<input type="text" value="50.00"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ASCJ Doctoral Student Summer Fellowships	ANNENBERG	2237013722-2030300000	<input type="text" value="50.00"/>

- Choose the dollar amounts that should be reimbursed from each account. Make sure that the full amount is 100% allocated between the two accounts.
- Click SAVE, which will take you back to your main report page.

### **Submitting Your Report**

Once you have entered all expenses and properly allocated your expenses (if necessary), you will click SUBMIT REPORT at the top right corner of the screen.

The new report will now appear in your Active Reports page.

## APPENDIX IX: CAMPUS GROUPS AND RESOURCES

### **Asian Pacific American Student Assembly**

<https://www.uscapasa.com/#title>

### **Asian Pacific American Students Services (APASS)**

<https://apass.usc.edu/>

### **Campus Wellbeing & Education**

<https://wellbeing.usc.edu/>

### **Black Graduate Student Network**

<http://uscbgsn.wixsite.com/blackgrad>

### **Black Student Assembly (BSA)**

<http://www.uscbasa.com/>

### **Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs (CBCSA)**

<http://cbcsa.usc.edu/>

### **Counseling and Mental Health Services**

Counseling and mental health services, located on-campus at the Engemann Student Health Center, are available to all students. Student Health provides workshops, individual counseling, group counseling, and other resources.

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/>

### **Department of Public Safety (DPS)**

The University Park Campus DPS emergency line is 213-740-4321 or x04321 from an on-campus phone. For non-emergency matters, the number is 213-740-6000 (x06000 from an on-campus phone).

DPS compiles crime alerts on their website, as well as sending out emails and texts to members of the campus community: <https://dps.usc.edu/category/alerts/>.

If you sign up for TrojansAlert, you will receive emergency messages via text and email:

<https://dps.usc.edu/services/trojans-alerts/>. DPS also provides access to the LiveSafe app, which allows users to initiate contact with emergency responders around the University Park and Health Science campuses: <https://dps.usc.edu/services/safety-app/>.

DPS also operates the University's centralized lost and found service:

<https://dps.usc.edu/services/lost-and-found/>

If you plan to ride a bicycle on campus, you should register it (for free) with DPS:

<https://dps.usc.edu/services/bikes/>.

### **Disability Services and Programs (DSP)**

DSP provides support services and accommodations such as: assistance in providing readers, scribes, notetakers, and/or interpreters; special accommodations for test taking needs; assistance

with architectural barriers; assistance in obtaining books and supplies from the University Bookstore; information regarding accessible seating at USC sporting events; auxiliary aid equipment loans; assistive technology; and support for individual needs that are unique to a student's disability.

You may register for accommodations on their website: <https://dsp.usc.edu/register/>. The DSP office is located in GFS 120 and can be contacted at 213-740-0776 or [ability@usc.edu](mailto:ability@usc.edu).

### **Fitness Centers**

All USC students receive a free membership when they are registered for classes. During the summer session, continuing USC students not registered for classes must buy a summer membership for the gym. There are two rec centers at the University Park Campus: the Lyon Center, which is at the corner of McClintock and W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, and the USC Village Fitness Center, which is across the street from the main campus, in the USC Village.

<https://sait.usc.edu/recsports/>

### **La CASA**

La CASA works with all USC Latinx students, providing academic, personal and cultural support as well as helping students develop leadership skills.

<https://lacasa.usc.edu/>

### **LGBT Resource Center**

<http://lgbtrc.usc.edu/>

The USC LGBT Resource Center provides support, education, and advocacy for LGBTQ+ and Ally undergraduate and graduate students. They also provide resources and referrals, such as information about neighboring LGBTQ+ support services, to all campus members.

The LGBT Resource Center is located in STU202B and can be contacted at [lgbt@usc.edu](mailto:lgbt@usc.edu) or 213-740-7619.

### **Meditation and Mindfulness**

The USC Office of Religious life holds a mindfulness meditation practice group for faculty, staff, and students every Wednesday from 12:00 to 12:30: <https://orl.usc.edu/life/meditation/>.

The USC Mindfulness Initiative offers classes in mindfulness and meditation:

<http://mindful.usc.edu/class-descriptions/>.

### **Queer & Ally Student Assembly (QuASA)**

<https://lgbtrc.usc.edu/involvement/undergraduate-2/quasa/>

### **Queer Graduate Alliance**

<http://lgbtrc.usc.edu/involvement/graduate-2/>

### **Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP)**

RSVP provides immediate therapy services for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (e.g., sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking). They are located in the Engemann Student Health Center, suite 365, and all of their services are confidential.

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/>

*For immediate assistance in case of a sexual assault*, please call the on-call counselor at USC Student Health to confidentially discuss medical options, reporting options, and emotional support: 213-740-9355. Press zero after hours to speak to an on-call counselor.

*For immediate medical exam and evidence collection after an assault*, you can visit Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center or LAC+USC Violence Intervention Program. Please note that a USC Student Health counselor can accompany you, and it is recommended you speak with a confidential counselor to guide you through this process. Call 213-740-9355 and press zero after hours to speak to an on-call counselor.

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center  
1250 Sixteenth Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
424-259-7208

LAC+USC Violence Intervention Program  
1721 Griffin Avenue.  
Los Angeles, CA 90031  
323-221-4134

<https://www.uclahealth.org/santa-monica/rape-treatment> <https://violenceinterventionprogram.org/>

### **Religious and Spiritual Life**

<https://orl.usc.edu/>

### **Support and Advocacy**

USC Support and Advocacy (USCSA) is an office within Campus Wellbeing and Crisis Intervention. They are available to assist students with academic concerns; health and wellness needs; basic needs such as financial issues, legal aid, housing, and food insecurity; and crisis and safety. USCSA staff members are available for consultation and can help connect you with the right department for your needs. Call 213-821-4710 for a consultation.

<https://uscsa.usc.edu/>

### **Title IX**

<http://titleix.usc.edu/>

### **Trojans Care for Trojans (TC4T)**

An initiative within the Office of Campus Wellness and Crisis Intervention that empowers USC students, faculty and staff to take action when they are concerned about a fellow Trojan challenged with personal difficulties.

<https://uscsa.usc.edu/trojans-care-4-trojans/>

### **VOICE Peer Outreach Program**

Violence Outreach Intervention and Community Empowerment (VOICE) is a peer outreach program created by Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) to engage USC students in supporting survivors of trauma and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in their respective communities on campus.

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/voice-peer-outreach-and-advocacy/>

### **Yoga**

Yoga classes are offered through USC Recreational Sports <https://recsports.usc.edu/>. The USC Fisher Museum of Art also offers free “Yoga at the Museum” once a week. Check their website for fall schedule: <https://fisher.usc.edu/>.

## **APPENDIX X: OTHER USEFUL LINKS**

### **Academic Calendar**

<https://academics.usc.edu/calendar/academic-calendar-2019-2020/>

### **Academic Integrity**

<https://policy.usc.edu/student/>

<https://sjacs.usc.edu/students/academic-integrity/>

<https://sjacs.usc.edu/files/2015/03/GradIntegrity.pdf>

### **Annenberg House**

Annenberg House is a USC Housing-owned apartment complex for currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students of communication, journalism, and public relations.

<http://housing.usc.edu/index.php/buildings/annenberg-house/>

### **Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism**

<http://annenberg.usc.edu/>

### **Annenberg Faculty**

<http://annenberg.usc.edu/faculty>

### **Annenberg Technical Services and Operations (TechOps)**

ANN L103 and ASC 124 / 213-740-5297

<http://annenbergtechops.com/>

### **Blackboard Help**

<http://studentblackboardhelp.usc.edu/>

### **FERPA Tutorial**

<http://ferpa.usc.edu/>

### **Graduate School**

<http://graduateschool.usc.edu/>

### **Graduate Student Government**

<https://gsg.usc.edu>

### **OASIS – Online Academic Student Information System**

<https://camel2.usc.edu/OASIS/>

### **Office of International Services**

<https://ois.usc.edu/>

### **Online Registration**

<https://webreg.usc.edu/>

**Public Transit**

USC graduate students can purchase a reduced fare U-Pass that allows unlimited rides on Metro's rail and bus lines for a given semester. The U-Pass can be purchased from USC Transportation Services. Sales of Fall 2019 U-Passes close on September 12, 2019. No passes will be sold after this date. The Fall 2019 U-Pass is valid for use from August 12, 2019 through January 19, 2020.

<https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/graduate-student-u-pass/>

<https://www.metro.net/#>

**SCampus**

<https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/>

**Schedule of Classes**

<http://classes.usc.edu/>

**STARS Report**

<http://arr.usc.edu/services/stars/starsrequest.html>

**Student Affairs**

<http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/>

**Transportation Services**

<http://transnet.usc.edu>

Parking permits for USC-owned parking structures can be purchased online or at the Transportation Services office in the McCarthy Way Parking Structure. Transportation Services also offers shuttles between the two campuses and to Union Station downtown. There are also buses that pick up in the University Park neighborhood near campus.

**USCard Services**

<http://mycard.usc.edu/>

Card Services is in the McCarthy Way Parking Structure, next door to the Transportation Services Office. You will need an ID card for access to the PhD office, as well as to use on-campus gyms and USC libraries.

**USC Catalogue**

<http://catalogue.usc.edu/>

## **APPENDIX XI: 2019-2020 ACGSA OFFICERS**

### ***President***

**Sierra Bray** // [sierra.bray@usc.edu](mailto:sierra.bray@usc.edu)

Organizes and directs meetings, proposes and administers the budget, organizes student office and makes desk assignments, acts as intermediary to the faculty along with the Faculty Representative.

### ***Vice President & GSG Representative***

**Cerianne Robertson** // [ceriannr@usc.edu](mailto:ceriannr@usc.edu)

Represents ACGSA to the GSG, records and reports minutes of meetings, assists the President.

### ***Treasurer & Faculty Representative***

**Jessica Hatrick** // [hatrick@usc.edu](mailto:hatrick@usc.edu)

Manages ACGSA checking account, coordinates GSG funding, collects dues, handles disbursements. Attends faculty meetings and reports minutes to ACGSA, acts as intermediary to the faculty along with the President.

### ***Technology Representative***

**Simogne Hudson** // [simogneh@usc.edu](mailto:simogneh@usc.edu)

Acts as a liaison to Annenberg's tech support staff.

### ***TA/RA Representative***

**Lauren Sowa** // [lsowa@usc.edu](mailto:lsowa@usc.edu)

Coordinates requests for teaching and research assignments in the late fall and spring semesters.

### ***Post-Quals Representative***

**Matt Le Bui** // [matthew.bui@usc.edu](mailto:matthew.bui@usc.edu)

Represents students who have passed qualifying exams/entered the dissertation stage. Collects monthly updates for the Comm School newsletter.

### ***International Student Advocate***

**Paulina Lanz** // [paulina.lanz@usc.edu](mailto:paulina.lanz@usc.edu)

Works to prevent and solve specific challenges facing international students in graduate school; the point person for international students to contact with difficulties or concerns.

### ***First-Year Representative***

**Pam Perrimon** // [perrimon@usc.edu](mailto:perrimon@usc.edu)

Represents the first-year cohort.