



Description of Departmental Awards

The Department of Communication's Awards Committee seeks nominations for eight departmental awards: five for graduate students, two for undergraduates, and one for a departmental supporter. The awards and materials required for nomination are described below.

Graduate Student Awards

James J. Bradac Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research. The Bradac Award is presented to a graduate student who has made significant contributions to the field of human communication through a record of sustained excellence in research projects and publications. A variety of research activities will be considered for the award including publications, conference papers, grants, papers submitted for publication or under review, works in press, and book chapters. The committee will place considerable emphasis on the quality of the work and its outcomes. Faculty members and/or peers can make nominations. Self-nominations are also strongly encouraged. Eligible graduate students include those who are either ABD or who are currently in the qualifying exam reading or writing quarters.

Nomination process: Nominees must provide a curriculum vitae that contains details on research and publications and a brief narrative describing the nature and scope of their research activities, including the nominee's role and unique contributions to research projects. Although a faculty letter is not required, nominees should also include the name(s) of faculty most familiar with their research experience.

Edwin Schoell Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. Named in honor of Edwin Schoell, Professor Emeritus and past Chair of the Department of Communication, this award honors a graduate student who has set an example of outstanding teaching service through interaction with undergraduate students. Qualifications for the award include high quality classroom performance, use of sound pedagogical techniques, professional attitude and manner, substantial and proactive assistance to course directors, and evidence of collaborative behaviors. The nominee should also demonstrate innovative techniques in the classroom and serve as a role model for fellow teaching assistants.

Nomination process: Nominations from faculty, fellow graduate students, and self-nominations are encouraged. Names of nominees should be submitted to the chair of the Awards Committee, who will contact the nominated graduate students to solicit a curriculum vita with teaching experiences, a summary of lower and upper division teaching activities, and a narrative about how they envision their role as teachers. Feedback from faculty will be solicited directly by the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee will also obtain any other support materials, such as ESCI scores for the nominees. No other documentation should be submitted.

Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award. This award is given to a graduate student in recognition of and involvement in the intellectual and professional life of the Department of Communication. Examples of this leadership might include (but are in no way limited to) organizing recruitment weekend, organizing workshops for teaching assistants, organizing

department colloquia and brownbag seminars, trouble-shooting problems in the department and addressing them, and helping with departmental events. The recipient of this award will receive a one year free dues/membership payment to the National Communication Association. This award is not necessarily given every year.

Nomination process: Faculty members and/or peers can make nominations. Self-nominations are also encouraged. Nominees will be required to submit a curriculum vitae and a narrative statement that describes the nature and scope of their departmental service/leadership activities.

Communication Dissertation Award for Societal Impact. The award recognizes outstanding dissertation research proposals in communication with a clear application for societal impact. The award provides a cash award of \$2,000 before the final year of dissertation work. There are two key criteria for selecting the successful applicant: A) Excellence and Innovation: Applicants must demonstrate exceptional innovation in theoretical, methodological, or analytical scholarship and research activity; B) Societal Impact: Applicants must demonstrate how their research benefits society or advances desired societal outcomes. To apply, students must have successfully defended their dissertation proposals. Students who are not in good standing based on time to degree or other issues are not eligible for this award.

Nomination process: A completed application must be sent to Chair of the Awards Committee no later than the deadline in the call. The application needs to include (in one PDF):

1. A letter of application. The letter of application should be no longer than one page (single spaced), and should address the applicant's progress to date (e.g., finishing coursework, advancing to candidacy, successful defense of the dissertation proposal) in the graduate program, and how the cash award will benefit the applicant.
2. An extended abstract of the dissertation proposal. The extended abstract should be a narrative description of the proposed dissertation and should not exceed 3 pages (single spaced), excluding references, figures, and tables. The proposal should be written in language that is accessible to a broad audience of communication scholars. The abstract should be organized into the following sections:
 - a. background and theoretical foundation of the proposed research
 - b. design and procedures
 - c. significance of the research (including theories and practices in Communication research, as well as applications for societal change)
 - d. time frame for the completion of the project.
3. Curriculum vitae.
4. One letter of recommendation sent directly to the Awards Committee Chair. One letter of endorsement from a faculty member in the Communication Department is required. The recommender should comment on
 - a. the applicant's academic progress to date,
 - b. the merits of the applicant's dissertation and the likelihood of its completion during the subsequent year,
 - c. the extent to which the proposal meets the criteria enlisted above (excellence and innovation in theory, methods, or analysis, and applications for societal impact).

Putnam Interdisciplinary Scholar Award. Named in honor of Linda L. Putnam, Distinguished Professor Emerita, faculty at UCSB from 2007-2015, who was active in interdisciplinary research in management, organizational studies, conflict, and negotiation. The award recognizes

a graduate student who has demonstrated active involvement in interdisciplinary research activities. These activities include: publishing in journals/books outside the field, collaborating in cross-discipline research projects, serving on multi-disciplinary grants, presenting at professional conferences outside communication, engaging with interdisciplinary centers and institutes, earning interdisciplinary certificates, and/or crossing research areas across the Department. The committee will look for quality as well as quantity of interdisciplinary outreach, type of work, and sustained engagement with other disciplines in scholarship. Preference will be given to research activities during a student's tenure at UCSB. The recipient will receive a \$1000 honorarium.

Nomination process: Nominations from faculty, graduate students, and self-nominations are encouraged for this award. Submit names of nominees to the Chair of the Awards Committee who will contact nominated graduate students and ask them to submit a curriculum vita, a detailed list or summary of interdisciplinary projects and activities, and a short narrative of the interdisciplinary research.

Undergraduate Student Awards

Steven H. Chaffee Award for Excellence in Research. This award is given to an undergraduate student who demonstrates excellence in research and scholarship. Faculty should consider nominating deserving senior honors thesis students and/or research assistants who have contributed substantive research ideas to a project. This award is not necessarily given every year.

Nomination process: Faculty should provide a nomination letter and a copy of the student's resume that includes information on research and scholarship.

Communication Alumni Association Award for Service to the Dept. of Communication. This award is given to a graduating senior in the Department of Communication who has demonstrated outstanding involvement, service, and leadership to the university and/or community. Faculty should consider nominating students who have been active in the Student Communication Association, Lambda Pi Eta, American Marketing Association, faculty committees, and departmental projects.

Nomination process: Faculty should provide a nomination letter and a copy of the student's resume that lists the service roles and activities for the department and student associations.

The Prince Family Communication Scholarship. Established in 2024 by UCSB alumni Jen '94 and Chris Prince '95, the Prince Family Communication Scholarship is intended to empower students in communication-related endeavors or fields by sustaining and further developing their leadership skills.

Communication Alumni Council Internship Scholarship. Established in 2024 by the UCSB Department of Communication Alumni Council, this scholarship aims to expand access to experiential learning and professional development for Communication majors by providing financial support to students in an unpaid internship at a non-profit organization.

Departmental Supporter Award

Sara Miller McCune Award for Service to the Department. This award is named in honor of Sara Miller McCune, co-founder and Past President of SAGE Publications and is awarded to

someone outside the department in recognition of their involvement in the intellectual and professional life of the department. Nominees may be community members, alumni, faculty members, or staff who have made major contributions to the intellectual and professional life of our department. This award is not necessarily given every year.

Nomination process: Faculty interested in nominating someone should provide a nomination letter that documents the intellectual contributions and professional involvement that this person has given to the Department of Communication.