ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our MA/PhD program is known for some of the most distinguished faculty in the field working closely with the best and brightest graduate students. We provide research, teaching, and service experience in communication science that is socially relevant, theoretically motivated, and methodologically rigorous and eclectic. Our program provides a solid background in quantitative methods, and also classes in qualitative and mixed methods. With more than 20 faculty and about 35 graduate students, we specialize in providing our doctoral students with personalized attention.

Areas of Concentration

The department bridges three core interrelated areas of communication: Interpersonal & Intergroup, Media & Digital, and Organizational & Group, with cross-cutting subareas in political, health, persuasion, family, neuroscience, computational, global, identity, well-being, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Graduate students also can add an interdisciplinary focus to their work through a doctoral emphasis in one or more of 7 different areas. Students can earn certificates in College & University Teaching and the Graduate Program in Management Practice.

Fellowship Opportunities

Students who enter with a Master’s degree complete their PhD in 4 years; students who enter with a Bachelor’s degree finish in 5 years. We offer funding through fellowships and paid teaching and research opportunities.

Additional Program Details

The online application for the upcoming academic year is available in early September. The application deadline is December 15.

www.comm.ucsb.edu/graduate
REQUIREMENT

Online application
www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/eapp

Statement of Purpose, Personal Achievements/Contributions, and Resume or CV (submitted in the online application)

Three Letters of Recommendation (submitted online)

TOEFL scores: minimum of 550 Paper-Based Test (PBT) or 80 Internet-Based Test (IBT), or IELTS (International English Language Testing System scores: Overall Band score of 7 or higher (if applicable).

GRE not required

Writing sample (required)

Unofficial transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (submitted online)

Final/Official transcripts will be required for all applicants who are admitted and have indicated their intent to enroll at UC Santa Barbara by submitting a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR). UC Santa Barbara reserves the right to require official transcripts at any time during the admissions process, and rescind any offer of admission made if discrepancies between uploaded and official transcript(s) are found.

DEADLINES

We admit in the fall only; applications are due on December 15 for the following year.

CONTACT US

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JACOB FISHER, PH.D ALUMNI
“UCSB is a tremendously interdisciplinary campus. I’ve had the opportunity to collaborate with (and learn from!) researchers in a wide variety of areas. In the department, faculty are engaged and interested in graduate student work. I always feel like I can drop by and chat about our work.”

ROSELIA MENDEZ MURILLO, PH.D ALUMNI
“I personally enjoy working with my advisor, Dr. Jennifer Kam, because she’s completely understanding of what we’re all going through whether that be academically or personally. She’s a great mentor and individual who really cares about her advisees. She’s always seeking ways to improve our experience as graduate students and always finds a way to relate to us.”

STEPHENSON BROOKS WHISTSTONE, PH.D CANDIDATE
“There are globally-recognized leaders and icons in several areas of comm right down the hall.”

NITZAN NAVICK, MA/PH.D STUDENT
Learning from and working alongside faculty whom I admired in my early research career is an incredible experience. The research being done is exciting and the department as a whole is welcoming and very social.”

GAVIN KIRKWOOD, PH.D ALUMNI
“Being a part of such a research intensive program has given me so much opportunity to grow. While my area is organizational communication, I have been working on an NSF grant focusing on technology and nonverbal communication. Opportunities like this have helped me engage with the discipline more holistically and learn how to position my research for audiences in different subfields.”

RACHYL PINES, PH.D ALUMNI
“It’s so exciting to have so many incredibly smart faculty in one hallway who always have their doors open to talk about research and help grad students.”