



Application Deadlines

Our priority registration date is March 31. We begin reviewing applications and admitting students on April 1. If you wish to apply for financial aid, including scholarships and assistantships, you must have all of your application materials submitted by March 31. Applications submitted after that date will not be considered for financial aid.

Our final application deadline is April 30. All materials must be received by that date.

Admission Requirements/Prerequisites

- Complete and submit application before the deadline.
- Agree to live BYU's standards of personal conduct as stated in the Honor Code.
- Earn a 4-year bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. university or the equivalent from a university outside the United States. (If undergraduate preparations in communications are not adequate, the department coordinator may require certain undergraduate communications courses to satisfy the deficiency.)
- Earn a minimum 3.0 grade-point average in your last 60 credit hours of course work.
- Possess professional competence in written and spoken English.
- Provide three academic letters of recommendation.

Required Tests

If your native language is not English, we require either the IELTS (overall band score of 7.0 with a minimum band score of 6.0 in each module); TOEFL Paper-Based (580); or TOEFL iBT (minimum score of 22 in Speaking and minimum of 21 in Listening, Reading and Writing.)

There is no required score for the GRE, but applications are recommended to have a minimum score of 297 with a minimum score of 153 on the verbal section and a minimum score of 4.5 on the written section.

Exceptions are considered based on prior experience or other evidence of competence. Potential students are encouraged to prepare thoroughly before taking the test.

General Information

The School of Communications offers a broad-based master's program designed to promote critical thinking and research with a particular focus on the interface between media and society. The program of study prepares students with the theoretical background, methodological expertise, and critical thinking skills needed both for continued studies at the doctoral level and informed professional practice by emphasizing communications theory and research.

Specialized topical areas include literature and philosophy of communications; communications history and historical research methods; media, religion, and family; international media and communications; communications law and legal research methods; media ethics; persuasion and public opinion; critical approaches to media; mass communications and gender; and media and current societal issues.

The School of Communications offers one graduate degree: an MA in Mass Communications. Between ten and fifteen students are admitted to the master's program each fall semester. The anticipated time to be spent in completing requirements for the master's degree is two years.

Scholarships and Financial Aid:

A variety of assistantships are available based on ability and program resources. The two types of assistantships available are research assistants and teaching assistants. Research assistants will work with faculty members on their research while teaching assistants generally teach the undergraduate news writing class. Other opportunities may be available based on professional experience and educational training. Some half and full scholarships may also be available.

Every year, the Honor Society of Phi Eta Sigma awards 4 Fellowships of \$7,500 each to members entering the first year of graduate or professional study. Those applying for graduate scholarships or awards must be nominated by the BYU Phi Eta Sigma chapter. For other graduate scholarships, please see the website at <http://opsf.byu.edu/recommended-scholarships-grad>.

The Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) is a university award sponsored by Graduate Studies to support innovative research and creative works conducted by graduate students under the guidance of faculty advisors. Twenty-five to thirty GRF awards are offered each year. The level of support is \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 for one year.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

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Faculty/Research Interests

- Ed Adams: Media Management and Economics
- Kristoffer Boyle: Journalism, Newspapers and Editing, Social and New Media
- Pamela Brubaker: Public Relations, use of social media, campaigns and political communications
- Clark Callahan: Media Ecology, Intercultural Adaptation, Cultural diffusion
- Mark Callister: Adolescents and media studies, Messaging for nonprofit fundraising campaigns, Impact of puffery and visual rhetoric in advertising
- Ed Carter: First Amendment jurisprudence, Copyright law and policy, Supreme Court oral arguments and history
- Scott Church: Media and Rhetoric
- Dale Cressman: Journalism history. Broadcast history, New York journalism history
- Chris Cutri: Creative works, Producing documentaries, Semiotics and pop culture, Sociology of sport in surfing culture
- Kevin John: Health Communications and Media
- Ken Plowman: Strategic communication, Leadership and strategic management, Conflict resolution. Intersection of strategic planning and social media
- Quint Randle: News media adaptations by traditional media, Internet news, Media marketing, Media and religion
- Tom Robinson: Portrayal of the elderly in media advertising
- Steve Thomsen: Media effects, Media and adolescent socialization
- Rob Wakefield: Public relations, International communications
- Christopher Wilson: Public relations management

Career Opportunities

Fields where a master's degree in Communications is valuable:

- Corporate communications
- Public relations
- Media management and media criticism
- Human resources
- Advertising/marketing research
- Strategic planning
- Training and consulting
- Media literacy
- Community college teaching
- Ph.D. work in Communications
- Health care
- Entertainment
- Journalism
- Non-profit work