



# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

*Illinois State University*

## Master's Degree in Communication

### Program Philosophy & Curriculum:

The School of Communication at Illinois State University approaches the study of human communication from humanistic, social scientific, and critical perspectives. Our curriculum includes over 20 graduate seminars that examine a wide range of topics in the study of human communication, including interpersonal communication, small group communication, mass communication, organizational communication, intercultural communication, persuasion, public relations, rhetoric, training & development, social media, and quantitative, qualitative, and rhetorical research methods. With only three required courses, students have the freedom to develop plans of study that balance theoretical offerings with applied courses to meet personal and professional needs. Students may pick either a 32-hour thesis or a 39-hour non-thesis option to complete the degree.

### Program Advantages:

We have one of the top master's-only programs in the nation, having been awarded the 2013 Outstanding Master's Program by the National Communication Association. Our energetic and professionally active faculty is ranked in the top-10 for productivity by the Communication Institute for Online Scholarship. Our state-of-the-art Social Media Analytics Command Center (SMACC) provides a tool for faculty and graduate students to analyze public conversations from social media outlets, popular discussion forums, and major blogs. The SMACC uses customized software that identifies social media conversations and displays them as dynamic charts, graphs, word clouds, and other visualizations to help researchers analyze social media trends, sentiment, share of voice, and geo-location. See a virtual tour here: <http://communication.illinoisstate.edu/tours/>

### Career Options:

Graduates of our nationally recognized program pursue careers in college teaching, training & development, human & employee relations, public relations, media management, media relations, and community relations. Many alumni go on to complete Ph.D. degrees at some of the top programs in the nation (including Ohio University, the University of Kansas, the University of Texas, the University of North Carolina, the University of Missouri, Rutgers University, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Arizona State University).

### Admission Requirements:

To be admitted, students should have a minimum 3.00 GPA over the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework. International students should obtain a minimum TOEFL score of 250 (computer-based testing), 100 (Internet-based testing), or 600 (paper-based). Applicants must submit a Letter of Application describing their background, academic interests, and career objectives, a Resume/Curriculum Vitae, and Writing Sample, and arrange to have 3 Letters of Recommendation submitted. To ensure full consideration, your application should be complete and submitted no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> for a Fall admission, or October 1<sup>st</sup> for a Spring admission. The Graduate School's online Admission Application is available at: <https://go.illinoisstate.edu>.

### Graduate Assistantships:

Graduate assistants are trained to teach an introductory course in communication and/or to perform other services for the School of Communication. The assistantship carries a full-tuition waiver and a monthly stipend of \$1,000. The Assistantship Application is available at: <https://www.jobs.ilstu.edu> (then click "Graduate Assistant Postings"). Students who do not receive an assistantship can apply for a partial-tuition waiver. The graduate tuition waiver application is on the School of Communication's graduate website.

### For More Information:

Please visit our website (<http://communication.illinoisstate.edu/graduate/>) for information regarding our faculty, graduate seminars, and degree options. To discuss your application or our program, please contact: Dr. Kevin R. Meyer, Graduate Coordinator, Campus Box 4480, Normal, IL 61790-4480, Office: (309) 438-3277, Cell: (309) 299-1961, E-mail: [kmeyer@ilstu.edu](mailto:kmeyer@ilstu.edu)