



# SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

*Illinois State University*

## **Tuition Waiver Guidelines for Graduate Students**

The School of Communication graduate program offers financial assistance to eligible graduate students in the form of partial tuition waivers. The availability of these funds is always subject to what we receive from Illinois State University each year. Award amounts typically fluctuate each semester due to the number of eligible applicants in our master's program. Recipients and exact award amounts are set by the Award Committee (Graduate Coordinator, Executive Director of the School of Communication, and Assistant to the Graduate Coordinator).

### Required Paperwork

Students must submit an Application for Graduate Tuition Waiver and Statement of Registration Compliance (Selective Service Form), found on our website, to apply for funding. The application must be submitted each semester a student desires a tuition waiver. Submission of these forms does not guarantee students will receive an award. There is no guarantee students will receive an increase or even the same award amount each consecutive semester. Submission of these forms acknowledges the student's consent for the Graduate Coordinator to check and monitor the student's grades, class attendance, and other academic-related indicators. The deadline for application materials is the first day of class each semester.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for graduate tuition waivers, students must: 1. Maintain a 3.00 cumulative GPA or higher (students falling below a 3.00 cumulative GPA are not be eligible), 2. Maintain a 3.00 semester GPA or higher (a semester GPA below 3.00 will likely result in a small award or simply no award at all as priority in funding first goes to all students with semester GPAs above 3.00), 3. Not have an assistantship, fellowship, or other award funding tuition costs, 4. Be accepted to the School of Communication graduate program, and 5. Be enrolled in graduate courses taught in the School of Communication (or courses outside of our School we approve to count toward a communication degree, although outside courses may not receive funding priority). Meeting these criteria is necessary, but not sufficient, to receive an award. Failure to meet the eligibility criteria can result in a reduction or revocation of funds at any point in the semester. For example, failure to sustain one's eligibility may result in full or partial funding being withdrawn at any point in the semester (i.e., falling below the minimum academic performance standards, quitting the program, or reducing credit hours enrolled). Once given, awards can be rescinded for failing to meet the criteria or abiding by guidelines set forth in our Graduate Student Handbook as well as all applicable Graduate School and University rules and regulations. Violations of the Code of Student Conduct will likely cause awards to be revoked.

### Determination of Award Amounts

Graduate tuition waivers are awarded on a competitive basis to students who show promise for success. Exact award amounts are determined each semester according to: 1. Academic/performance merit (i.e., cumulative and semester grade point average), 2. Making satisfactory progress toward completing the degree, 3. Residency status (i.e., in-state or out-of-state residency - including international students), and 4. Financial need or situation. Award amounts are considered private information, and may not be disclosed to any individuals not on the Award Committee. Waivers cover tuition only; students are responsible for paying the required fees.