# COMMUNICATION ARTS, PH.D.

## ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. *Applicants must meet* the minimum requirements (*https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/*) *of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).* Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

| Requirements | Detail |
| --- | --- |
| Fall Deadline | December 15 |
| Spring Deadline | This program does not admit in the spring. |
| Summer Deadline | This program does not admit in the summer. |
| GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) | Required.* |
| English Proficiency Test | Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency). |
| Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT) | n/a |
| Letters of Recommendation Required | 3 |

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Due to COVID-19, there have been challenges for students attempting to take the GRE. For students applying in Fall 2023 (for Fall 2024 admission), the GRE requirement is optional. Regardless of whether GRE scores are submitted, all applications will be held in equal regard.

Applicants must have earned a master's degree from an accredited institution. The Graduate School minimum GPA is 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The department likes to see at least a 3.25 in courses relevant to the area in which you apply, although successful applicants usually have much higher GPAs.

Within the department, **students may apply to only one pathway of study, which must be indicated on the statement of purpose**: Communication Science; Film; Media and Cultural Studies; or Rhetoric, Politics, and Culture.

**There are five supporting documents which complete the application:**

1. **Statement of purpose** clearly telling us what you want to study and why you think you can do it here. Although it cannot be said to be the most important part of your application, the statement of purpose is our introduction to you as a student and as such, you will want it to be as professional and persuasive as possible to put your application in the best light.
2. **Three letters of recommendation**, preferably from academic sources. Email addresses of recommenders are submitted within the online application.
3. Official **GRE results** sent to us from ETS. The department requires no minimum GRE scores; however, successful candidates typically score well on portions of the examination related to their area of study. We don't set absolute numbers because each year's applicants are judged against all others in that year only. UW-Madison is institution #1846; no department code is necessary.
4. **PDFs of transcripts** from all post-secondary schools attended after high school. Official transcripts will be requested upon admission.
5. **A writing sample** (in English), 15-20 pages long. The best writing sample is an academic paper you wrote for a class related to the area in which you apply. It should have citations and footnotes. You may send a portion of a longer thesis if you wish, but please select a representative sample no longer than 20 pages. Include a cover page identifying it as a chapter or section of a longer work.

**INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS:** An official **TOEFL, IELTS or MELAB score** sent to us from ETS is required for all applicants whose native language is not English. UW-Madison is institution #1846; no department code is necessary. The minimum scores are as follows:

- TOEFL: 92 on an internet-based exam; 580 on a paper-based exam
- IELTS: 7
- MELAB: 82

We will waive the TOEFL requirement if you have a master's degree from an English-speaking institution.