

COMMUNICATION ARTS, PH.D.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Beginning Ph.D. students in Communication Arts receive six consecutive semesters of guaranteed funding if they are entering with an M.A. in their area of focus. Students who enter with an M.A. outside of their area of focus may be required to complete an M.A. in their area of focus prior to continuing on to the Ph.D. In these cases, students receive 10 consecutive semesters of guaranteed support. The guaranteed funding package for graduate students includes full tuition remission, monthly compensation, and benefits including health insurance.

Most communication arts graduate students are supported by teaching assistantships (TA). Additional funding comes in the form of research assistantships (RA), project assistantships (PA), senior lecturer appointments (SLA), Graduate School-supported fellowships, dissertation scholarships, departmental awards, and conference travel awards.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate students who hold an appointment as a TA, RA, or PA will be entitled to remission of tuition in any semester in which their appointment equals at least 33.4% of a full-time appointment for the semester. Graduate assistantships in communication arts are typically offered at the 50% level, which is a full-time appointment for a full-time student.

Senior Lecturer Appointments

Students are assigned to SLA by faculty each semester based on need.

Graduate School Supported Fellowships

A limited number of fellowships are available. All students are considered for fellowships at the time of application; no separate application is necessary. These fellowships may be for terms from one semester to two years and include tuition remission and benefits including health insurance.

Dissertation Scholarships

The department awards Elliott Dissertation Scholarships to students who have successfully defended their dissertation proposal no later than 12 months after passing their preliminary exams. This award is designed to facilitate progress on researching and writing the dissertation.

Department Awards

The Department of Communication Arts is pleased to be able to grant yearly monetary awards to graduate students based on scholastic performance. Nominations for the awards are generated by the faculty in the four areas of graduate study. To be eligible for consideration, graduate students must be continuing in the program, must be making satisfactory progress toward their degree, and must not have any incompletes on their transcript. The amount and number of awards vary from year to year depending on funds available.

Conference Travel Awards

The department provides a once-per-academic-year travel stipend for students to present academic papers at a conference. Students not residing in Madison during the semester in which they present at a conference are not eligible for this funding.