

**The Ph.D. in Communication:
A Handbook
2018 - 2019**

The Ph.D. in Communication

The Ph.D. Handbook tries to represent the program and its requirements and policies clearly and comprehensively. It is both an outline of basic requirements for the Ph.D. and a compilation of policies. The handbook is designed for students, faculty, and staff to consult as needed. Questions it does not address may be directed to the Graduate Program Coordinator, Director of Graduate Studies, or Graduate Committee. For most purposes, authoritative interpretation of departmental policies and requirements rests with the Department's Director of Graduate Studies, Committee, and Chair. Final interpretation of departmental policies and requirements rests ultimately with the Department of Communication faculty as a whole.

Requirements and policies change. New, updated editions of this handbook will be issued as needed.

Contents

1.	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	5
1.2	Areas of Emphasis.....	5
2.	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	7
2.1	Courses.....	7
2.2	First Year Examination	8
2.3	Language Requirement	9
2.4	Teaching Requirement.....	10
2.5	Academic Standing.....	10
2.6	Selecting an Adviser	10
2.7	Annual Spring Evaluation	11
2.8	The Doctoral Committee.....	11
2.9	Reconstituting the Doctoral Committee.....	12
2.10	The Qualifying Examination ("Orals") and Advancement to Candidacy.....	12
2.11	Dissertation and Final Examination	14
3.	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	14
3.1	Course Substitutions	14
3.2	Academic Residence	15
3.3	Time Limits.....	15
3.4	Grading.....	16
3.5	Leave of Absence	16
3.6	Master of Arts	17
3.7	Quantitative Methods.....	17
3.8	Research Involving Human Subjects.....	18
4.	ADMINISTRATION	18
4.1	Department of Communication.....	18
4.2	Graduate Student Office Space.....	20
4.3	The Graduate Division.....	21
4.4	UCSD Graduate Student Association	21
4.5	Office for Students with Disabilities.....	22

5.	FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.....	22
5.1	Teaching Assistantships and Readerships.....	22
5.2	Research Assistantships	24
5.3	Departmental Scholarships and Fellowships	24
5.4	Campus-wide Fellowships and Awards.....	25
5.5	Conference Travel Awards.....	25
5.6	Externally-funded Fellowships and Awards.....	26
5.7	Summer Funding Opportunities	26

1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1.1 Overview

In the Communication Department at UCSD we vigorously engage in the social investigation and transformation of communication practices, weaving together perspectives, theories, and methods from sociology, psychology, education, political science, anthropology, philosophy of science, history, media studies and production, computer science, cultural studies, and critical legal theory. Our department grew out of an inter-disciplinary undergraduate program jointly sponsored by the departments of drama, political science, psychology, and sociology. It became an autonomous department in 1982 and instituted a Ph.D. program in 1986. Our expansion into old and new disciplines reflects our faculty's shared commitment to innovative work, crossing disciplines, media forms and social contexts. The graduate program blends two traditions: critical communication research and empirical interdisciplinary scholarship. Study is organized around the following three analytic perspectives: [communication as a social force](#), [communication and culture](#), and [communication and the person](#). In addition, the Department believes that investigation into communication requires a blending of theory and practice, hence our attention to [media practices](#).

Our courses incorporate methods, theories and texts from a range of fields. Several of our faculty members have joint appointments with other departments and programs including teacher education, sociology, psychology, ethnic studies, cognitive science, critical gender studies, and science studies. Most have ongoing professional connections with other fields. Despite the diversity in faculty approaches, some common points of reference exist. The faculty emphasizes embedded, historical, and comparative approaches to the study of communication. The question of power is central to most faculty research. Individual faculty research and teaching interests seek to bridge these components of the curriculum.

1.2 Areas of Emphasis

Communication as a Social Force

Communication as a Social Force examines the relation of communication institutions to the broad structures of power in society. In this part of the curriculum, we examine institutional arrangements and structural characteristics regarding:

- Communication and political systems: state, law, regulation, social movements and political parties, democracy
- Communication and economic systems: markets, ownership, access; "demographics" and class/gender/racial and national stratification
- The production of content within media industries

Faculty research includes the following topics, among others:

- The study of news as public information and political ideology
- Telecommunications and the information economy
- Intellectual property and the flow of culture between global North and South

- The relationships among law, communication technologies, ownership, democracy and the public sphere.
- Comparative analysis of media systems
- Communication, globalization and economic development

Communication and Culture

We experience our everyday lives through a variety of cultural artifacts and discourses including news reporting, law and public policy, commodity markets, popular music, films and television shows, advertisements, museum displays, landscape and urban design, and health and identity documentation systems. How can we understand the histories and changing practices associated with these forms of representation? What is the role of media (print, visual, electronic, material) in forming ideas about social identity and in shaping subjectivity? This part of the curriculum draws on the humanities, anthropology, history, political theory, cultural studies and the sociology of culture to offer students a range of methods and theoretical frameworks for interpreting the production and circulation of artifacts, discourses, and meanings in a range of local, national, transnational, and diasporic cultural contexts.

Faculty research includes the following topics, among others:

- Collective memory and the struggles over the meaning of the past
- The study of power and politics in the interaction of nature and culture
- The politics of representation of women, children, reproductive rights, and childbearing
- Performance, film, and feminist theory
- The representation of race, gender, and nationalism in colonial settings.

Communication and The Person (sometimes known as Communication and Human Information Processing, or "HIP")

How are individuals constituted in language and culture? How do minds develop and how are persons formed in interaction through various media? This part of the curriculum draws particularly on the fields of psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education.

Faculty research includes the following topics, among others:

- The study of work settings as sites of collective cognition and problem solving
- The development of reading and writing in deaf children
- Critical studies of artificial intelligence
- Design and implementation of new forms of educational activity mediated by computers and telecommunication networks
- Bilingual and bi-cultural development

Media Practices

Hands-on practice is crucial to the experience of a communication student. The major has a required production component that complements the three areas of theoretical inquiry. Through courses in

production, students may produce a documentary video or audio program, create a web site or software project, or organize a media event. Projects may be individually produced, collaborative and/or community-based. With departmental approval, a media project may count toward the degree requirements. Direct involvement in production gives students opportunities to expand their understanding of how media is made, distributed, and interpreted, and how authorship is determined in media arts and industry.

Some communication faculty production interests include:

- Hybrid documentary and narrative forms
- Alternative representation of gender, race, and ethnicity in film and electronic media
- Distributed and networked media production
- Digital media based on game-like forms
- Altering and diversifying the terrain of mass media
- Development and use of media technology in and for educational contexts
- History, Theory and Development of world cinema and folklore
- Global media networks
- Experimental approaches to cinematography and sound design
- Media as a tool for social and political activism

2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Courses

The First Year Core Curriculum:

- COGR 200A - Introduction to the Theory of Communication as a Social Force
- COGR 200B - Introduction to the Theory of Communication and Culture
- COGR 200C - Introduction to the Theory of Communication And Human Information Processing
- COGR 294 - History of Communication Research
- COGR 296 - Communication Research as an Interdisciplinary Activity
- Colloquium Attendance - In addition to completing the core curriculum, students are required to attend Communication Department Colloquiums. These are usually held during Course Group on Wednesdays from 12:00-2:00pm.

Other Required Courses:

- Four [4] courses in communication history and theory. These courses are normally chosen from among the graduate seminars offered by the Department. (Independent study courses (COGR 299) do not meet this requirement; their function is to provide for specialized study in areas not served by the standard curriculum.)
- Communication 280 - Advanced Workshop in Communication Media (not open to first-year students)
- Three [3] courses from the Communication 201 Methods sequence.

All required courses must be taken for letter grades.

2.2 First Year Examination

At the end of the Spring quarter of the student's first year, the student must pass a comprehensive written examination based on the first year core courses (COGR 200 A-B-C and COGR 294).

Exam Procedures

Exams are graded Pass-Fail, without the designation of 'high' or 'low.' The exam is a take-home exam and is normally scheduled for the first full week following the week in which spring quarter grades are due (usually the last week of June). Requests for special accommodations should be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies **at least 3 weeks** prior to the exam.

The exam takes the form of 2 questions for each of the four core courses, for a total of 8 questions. Responses to each question should be 5-6 pages (1250-1500 words). Each section will include one compulsory question, followed by a choice of three questions for the second essay. Students should write clear, coherent, analytically sound answers responsive to the question and making use primarily of materials taught in the pertinent core course.

The instructors of the core courses, in consultation with a designated faculty member assigned as a second reader for each exam, are responsible for writing exam questions. Exams are graded anonymously, using pseudonyms for each student. If the two readers disagree in their evaluation of a particular section, a third reader is consulted. In some cases, including those where a student has failed one or more exams, the Director of Graduate Studies may assemble all the readers as a committee and/or consult with the Department Chair to make a final determination.

First-year exams may not be taken by anyone with an incomplete in a required first year course (200 A-B-C, 294, 296), nor may first year exams be taken by anyone with more than one incomplete in an elective course at the time of the exams.

In the unusual circumstance that a student fails a first year core course [200 A-B-C or 294]: this student will be permitted to take the first-year exams, but must retake and pass the failed course at the first opportunity in order to qualify for good standing and continue graduate study.

First-year students may choose to enroll in four units of COGR 298 (Directed Group Study) in the spring quarter as a self-guided review to prepare for the first-year exam, and may call upon instructors from the first-year courses to provide some advice and counsel. A file of old exam questions may be available from the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Make-Up Exams

Students failing an exam in one area of the curriculum can take a make-up exam. Students who fail two or more areas cannot continue with graduate study in the program.

Only students with medical emergencies may be excused from a regularly scheduled first-year examination and allowed to take a make-up exam. Those who fail to take the exam in their first year of graduate study will not be allowed to continue in the program.

The make-up exam must be completed before the beginning of the second year of the program, except in the most extraordinary circumstances (and with approval of the Graduate Committee). It will consist of a new set of questions written by the first year course instructor.

Students who fail any portion of the make-up exam cannot continue in the program.

Appeals

Students may appeal any failed exam by sending a letter stating grounds for appeal to the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. An appeal must be filed within 15 days after notification of exam results. The response to the appeal will be issued within 15 days of filing.

2.3 Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate competence in a natural language other than English. Students must complete this requirement prior to the date of the Qualifying Examination.

Options for completing this requirement:

- Pass the [UCSD Language Proficiency Exam](#) (reading portion only). Proficiency examinations for French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish are offered once each quarter (twice in Fall Quarter); proficiency exams in other languages are available by arrangement. See the proficiency exam website for more details.
- Pass the fourth quarter of a Linguistics language course sequence at UCSD (examples include linguistics courses numbered 1D/DX or 11 and language courses numbered 2A). For the purposes of this requirement, the language course(s) may be taken for letter grade or satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading option.
- Pass an exam or academic translation administered by a UCSD faculty member who is considered an expert in the language to be tested. This will be set up with the Director of Graduate Studies and requires departmental approval.
- Successfully complete courses offered at various California community colleges. If students select this option, the courses must be pre-approved by the Department and completed prior to scheduling the qualifying exam.
- If a student wishes to be tested in a language that is not taught at UCSD or is not among the languages available via UCSD's Proficiency Exam, a special examination may be arranged with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. This specialized exam must be equivalent to the MLA language examinations in scope and depth. Determination of the qualifications of the exam administrator and suitability of the exam content, structure, and process will be determined by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Department Chair and/or Graduate Committee.
- Substitution of AP scores or transfer credit will not be accepted.

Native speakers of a language other than English are exempt from the Language Requirement. For the purposes of this exemption, a student is considered a native speaker of a foreign language if either (1) it

was the language (or one of the languages) continuously spoken in the home during childhood, and was the primary language of instruction in all schools the student attended through high school (or equivalent), or (2) they obtained a degree (undergraduate or higher) in a program taught in a language other than English.

2.4 Teaching Requirement

Students are required to teach (as a teaching assistant) in the Department for a minimum of two quarters prior to the date of the Qualifying Examination. The courses taught must include a minimum of one quarter TAing COMM 10 (Introduction to Communication) and a minimum of one quarter TAing a course from the 100 series (COMM 100A – Situated Practices, COMM 100B – Interpretive Strategies, or COMM 100C Social Formations) or COMM 101 (Introduction to Audiovisual Media Practices).

2.5 Academic Standing

In order to qualify for departmental support in the form of teaching assistantships, fellowships or stipends, students must maintain good standing. Good standing is a minimum GPA of 3.0, and no more than 8 units of "U" or "F". (See the Graduate Division's [Academic Standing policy](#) for more information.)

Additionally:

At the end of the first year: Minimum requirements for good standing at the end of the first year include completing and passing all required courses and passing all parts of the first year exams.

After the first year: Minimum requirements for good standing include: 1) a satisfactory (minimum 3.0) grade point average, 2) a satisfactory annual spring evaluation, and 3) an agreement with a Department of Communication ladder-rank faculty member that they will serve as the student's Faculty Adviser on qualifying papers and dissertation. Students who fail to meet the minimum requirements for good standing may be placed on academic probation by the Department.

In the unusual circumstance that a student fails a first year core course [200 A-B-C or 294]: this student will be permitted to take the first-year exams, but must retake and pass the failed course at the first opportunity in order to qualify for good standing and continue graduate study.

2.6 Selecting an Adviser

Entering students will be assigned a temporary Faculty Advisor to help them with program planning during the first year.

The permanent Faculty Advisor for each student should be finalized before fall quarter of the second year. Together the student and the Faculty Advisor plan an overall program of study, covering courses to be taken, qualifying papers, and dissertation. The Faculty Adviser is likely to become the Chair of the student's qualifying and dissertation committees.

Academic advisers are also responsible for writing yearly progress evaluations each spring for their advisees. These annual evaluations are required by the Graduate Division for all continuing students.

Your relationship with your adviser is vital: make a point of staying in touch with your adviser on a regular basis concerning your scholarly direction and academic progress.

2.7 Annual Spring Evaluation

Procedure

Graduate Council policy requires that all doctoral students be evaluated annually via the online Spring Evaluation.

The Department faculty meet during spring quarter to discuss graduate student progress. After the faculty meetings have taken place, each student's faculty advisor will complete the online Spring Evaluation. The evaluation is to contain cogent and clear advice to the student. As part of this process, students may also reflect on their own progress, academic milestones, funding, professional development, and any barriers that they may face (optional).

It is important to note that Spring/Annual evaluations affect not only future support but are required before any exception can be requested of the Graduate Council, and, if there are academic difficulties, will be relied upon heavily in the Dean's action. In many instances, they are the only narrative documentation of a student's progress, other than the transcript.

Pre-Candidacy Students

The Spring Evaluation for students who have not yet advanced to candidacy reflects on how the student is progressing academically and as teaching and/or research assistants. First year students will receive general comments after completion of the First Year Exam. The evaluation is signed by the graduate student, the student's advisor (in the first year, the advisor is the Director of Graduate Studies), the Department Chair, and finally Graduate Division for approval.

In-Candidacy Students

The Spring Evaluation for students in doctoral candidacy should cover the student's progress to date, recommend modifications to the dissertation's scope or methodology, timetable for completion, and recommendation for support in the following year. The evaluation is signed by the graduate student, the student's advisor/Chair, at least three members of the student's doctoral committee, the Department Chair, and finally Graduate Division for approval.

2.8 The Doctoral Committee *(online form required)*

After three quarters of residency in good standing, the student may ask faculty members to serve on their doctoral committee. The doctoral committee conducts the Qualifying Examination, supervises the preparation of the dissertation, and administers the dissertation defense. **Students are encouraged to speak openly and explicitly with mentors, advisors, and committee members about their expectations for mentorship and about each faculty member's own expectations for student progress.**

The appointment of the doctoral committee is discussed at length on the [Graduate Division's website](#). In summary:

- A doctoral committee consists of five or more officers of instruction, with no fewer than four holding titles in the professorial ranks.
- Membership of the committee must represent more than one department, and at least two members should have academic specialties differing from that of the student.
- The committee must include one tenured or emeritus UCSD faculty member from outside the student's major department.
- The committee's Chair must be a Department of Communication ladder-rank faculty member. (Visiting and temporary instructors may not be committee chairs.)
- Assistant Professors and Lecturers with security of employment may be members, including chairs, of doctoral committees.

Students are to choose their own doctoral committee, usually in close consultation with their adviser. All committees must be approved by the Department Chair and the Dean of the Graduate Division. The Dean formally appoints the committee. Confirmation of appointment is sent to each committee member and to the student.

The Qualifying Examination may not be held until the official doctoral committee has been approved. Students are advised to submit their doctoral committee for approval at least six weeks prior to the Qualifying Examination date.

2.9 Reconstituting the Doctoral Committee *(online form required)*

Doctoral committees may undergo changes in membership. All parties involved must be notified prior to the reconstitution; **it is the student's responsibility to make this notification and to secure from any new committee members a willingness to serve**. Online approval by the Committee and Department Chair must be obtained prior to submitting the request to the Dean of the Graduate Division. Requests for committee changes must reach the Graduate Division at least two weeks prior to the defense.

2.10 The Qualifying Examination ("Orals") and Advancement to Candidacy *(form required)*

The Qualifying Examination is intended to demonstrate breadth of knowledge as well as competence in an area in which one plans to carry out dissertation research. The purpose of the exam is to demonstrate command of a relevant body of research literature in the context of developing an approach to a significant issue, problem, or perspective in communication.

To advance to the qualifying exam phase a student must be in good standing, which includes successful completion of all required courses, exams, teaching, and language requirements, with no incomplete grades on the student's record. The department's deadline to successfully pass the Qualifying Examination is the end of the third year in the Ph.D. program.

Qualifying Examination Part 1

Two papers are required. Each of the two required qualifying papers should demonstrate competence in a different one of the three basic areas of the curriculum. The length of a qualifying paper varies, but it is normally expected to run 30 to 40 pages, double-spaced (no more than 10,000 words). The two papers also must address different substantive topics [e.g., one about a cultural reading of a historical event and another about philosophy of language], and demonstrate competence by developing an argument on each topic and providing an appropriate review of the literature. Thus the papers need to show facility in a range of intellectual topics, as well as in theory and methodology. Customarily, one of the qualifying papers is related to the planned dissertation.

A media project may count as one orals paper with prior approval of the adviser and committee members. This project must be accompanied by a written statement. The format of the media project and accompanying written text should be agreed upon by the adviser and committee prior to the exam.

PLEASE NOTE: Different members of the faculty prescribe somewhat different emphases for the qualifying papers. Be certain to confer with your faculty adviser and other members of your committee so that your understanding of what the qualifying paper should be is consistent with theirs.

Qualifying Examination Part 2

The dissertation proposal should be a separate short document (11 to 15 pages, double-spaced, no more than 3,750 words), and should discuss the planned dissertation research project as a practical enterprise. It should describe what the student plans for the dissertation research project, what methods they will use, where the data might be located and how it could be obtained, what timetable for the research the student expects to follow, and a proposed chapter breakdown.

Scheduling the Examination

The Qualifying Examination may not be held until the official doctoral committee has been approved. Students are advised to submit their doctoral committee for approval at least six weeks prior to the Qualifying Examination date.

It is the responsibility of the student in consultation with the Committee Chair to communicate with all members of the committee to establish a timetable for preparation and completion of the Qualifying Examination. When the two papers and dissertation proposal are completed, they will be read by your doctoral committee. Students must disseminate the final versions of their exam materials to all members of the committee at least three weeks prior to the Qualifying Examination. The committee will thus be given a minimum of three weeks to read the papers and the proposal prior to each exam. In truly extraordinary circumstances, a student may request an exception to this rule; but the threshold for approving any exceptions is very high.

It is recommended by the Department that qualifying exams be “closed” (only the committee in attendance). The final decision to have “closed” or “open” (attendees outside the committee allowed) qualifying exams is at the discretion of the committee chair in consultation with the student.

The Graduate Program Coordinator can assist in securing a meeting room for the Qualifying Examination once the date and time are finalized. The Qualifying Examination is typically scheduled for two hours.

Current UCSD policy requires a unanimous decision on passing the Qualifying Examination. This means that in order to pass the exam, all committee members must vote “yes” on the relevant forms. Any dissenting opinions or “no” votes must be resolved into a unanimous decision in order for the student to pass the examination. Following the Qualifying Examination, and after all members of the committee have approved the student’s qualifications, the candidate should immediately apply for candidacy by paying the Candidacy Fee to the cashier and submitting the completed Report of the Qualifying Examination form with the Graduate Division.

2.11 Dissertation and Final Examination *(form required)*

A dissertation is required of every candidate for the Ph.D. degree. The form of the dissertation must conform to the procedures set forth in Graduate Division’s [Preparation and Submission of Doctoral Dissertations and Masters' Theses](#). The dissertation must be written. A media project may be included as part of the overall dissertation project with prior approval of the dissertation adviser and committee members. The adviser and committee members should be consulted and must agree upon the format and role of the media project in the overall dissertation.

It is the responsibility of the student and his/her Committee Chair to establish a timetable for completion that includes time for all committee members to read and respond and for the student to revise chapters before final submission of the dissertation. Per [Graduate Division policy](#), the final draft of the dissertation must be submitted to each member of the doctoral committee at least four weeks prior to the final examination.

The final examination, which is public, is scheduled and conducted by the candidate's doctoral committee three or more academic quarters after advancement to candidacy. Scheduling of the final examination is determined by the student in close consultation with the Committee. (Defenses are typically two hours in length.) The Graduate Program Coordinator can assist in securing a meeting room for the defense once the date and time are finalized.

Current UCSD policy requires a unanimous decision on passing the exam and the defense. This means that in order to pass the exam all committee members must vote “yes” on the relevant forms. Any dissenting opinions or “no” votes must be resolved into a unanimous decision in order for the degree to be conferred (in other words, a split vote indicates that the defense has not been approved).

Following the final defense of the dissertation, and after all members of the committee have approved the dissertation, the Ph.D. Final Report form must be signed by the committee and Department Chair, and the dissertation presented to Graduate Division along with the requisite forms. Acceptance of the dissertation by the librarian represents the final step in the completion of all requirements by the candidate.

3. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

3.1 Course Substitutions *(petition required)*

While we encourage students to take relevant courses in other departments, we expect that all required courses will be taken within the Department of Communication.

Prior to advancement to candidacy, students may petition graduate courses taken at other universities.

Course credits may be freely transferred for electives, and occasionally students have substituted extra-departmental courses for the "History and Theory" seminar requirement. However, no substitutes for core required classes [200s, 280, 294, 296] will be approved. Likewise, students should take their three methods courses [201s] inside the Department of Communication. Occasionally there may be a pressing reason for a student to take one methods course outside the Department, for example, in the case of a rarely offered course that is important to the student's planned work. In this case, the student should pre-petition. The Director of Graduate Studies must be informed of the intended course substitution no later than 2nd week of the quarter in which a course is to be taken.

For all substitutions, after the course has been completed, a petition must be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies and must have the support of the student's Faculty Adviser. The petition should include the following documents:

- 1) A memo* indicating the desired petitioned course and supplemental information.
- 2) Documents* such as a syllabus from the class, a transcript showing the grade received, and a list of texts or readings required for the class.

**The memo and supporting documents may be submitted electronically.*

Substitutions are limited: at a maximum a) two history/theory seminars or b) one history/theory seminar and one methods course may be substituted.

COGR 299 - Graduate Research courses may not be used to fulfill specific course requirements (see section 2.1). In addition, no transfer credit may be given for lab courses, language courses, or undergraduate courses.

3.2 Academic Residence

The minimum academic residence requirement is six quarters: three quarters pre-candidacy, three quarters in candidacy. A student establishes academic residence each quarter by the satisfactory completion of at least six units, some of which can be at the undergraduate level.

3.3 Time Limits

In order to encourage students to complete their Ph.D.s in a timely manner, the University has established a normative time guideline. Normative time is the period within which students, under normal circumstances, are expected to complete requirements for the Ph.D. Normative time to a Ph.D. in Communication is six [6] years.

In addition, there are four other time limits Ph.D. students must abide by:

- **Qualifying Time Limit** - Maximum registered time in which a student must advance to Ph.D. candidacy is four [4] years. (The department expects students to advance to Ph.D. candidacy in three [3] years.)
- **Teaching Limit** - service as a Teaching Assistant, Associate (in lieu of TA), and/or Associate (Teaching a Course) is limited to 18 quarters, or six [6] years. (Summer TAing does not count in this calculation.)
- **Support Time Limit** - Maximum time a doctoral student may receive financial support in any form through the University is seven [7] years.
- **Registration Time Limit** - Maximum registered time in which a student must complete all Ph.D. requirements is eight [8] years.

These time limits may be adjusted for students maintaining half-time status upon recommendation from the Department of Communication and approval by the Dean of Graduate Division. Via petition to the Graduate Division, time spent on leave (up to 3 quarters) may not count towards these time limits.

3.4 Grading

Graduate grading differs from undergraduate. The student must maintain at least a GPA of 3.0 for all upper-division and graduate course work. Customarily instructors confine themselves to using grades A through C. C is a failing grade. Grades falling below B, including B-, are serious warning signs; they require reciprocally higher grades to maintain the 3.0 GPA.

University policy specifies that students with a C or D grade may not repeat the failed course for credit; however, students who receive an F may retake the course for credit.

Incompletes

Frequent Incomplete (I) grades are cause for concern in the Department of Communication and at the Graduate Division. They may jeopardize a student's good standing. An "I" must be resolved within one quarter after the "I" grade was assigned or will lapse to a "U" or "F" whether or not the student is enrolled in that quarter. To avoid problems, students should use the option of the incomplete grade very sparingly; it is expected that incomplete work will be completed with all dispatch.

First-year exams may not be taken by anyone with an incomplete in a required first year course (200 A-B-C, 294, 296), nor may first year exams be taken by anyone with more than one incomplete in an elective course at the time of the exams.

Qualifying Examinations may not be taken by anyone with any incompletes.

3.5 Leave of Absence *(form required)*

Students can request up to three quarters of leave from the program. A graduate student who is bearing a child, who has primary responsibility for the care of an infant or child under the age of five, and is in good academic standing may request an additional 3 quarters leave of absence.

Students may petition the Graduate Division to request that time spent on leave, up to three quarters, will not be applied to normative time or Ph.D. time limits. During this time, students cannot be

employed by the university. Students should also be advised that campus privileges may be affected while on leave. Students need to check with Student Health Services to understand health coverage or fees while on leave.

3.6 Master of Arts *(forms required)*

The graduate program in Communication is intended as a Ph.D. program. The M.A. degree may be awarded only:

- To students who do not satisfy all requirements for continuing in the program, but have met core requirements, or
- To allow continuing students to acquire an M.A. on their way to a Ph.D. if they do not already have one.

To earn a Master of Arts in Communication a student must, prior to submitting the required forms, complete the core sequence (COGR 200 A-B-C, COGR 294 and COGR 296) and an additional sixteen (16) units of credit while maintaining a GPA of 3.2 or better. Graduate Research courses (COGR 299) may not be used in the fulfillment of requirements for the M.A., nor will transfer units be accepted. However, students may apply four units of teaching credit toward the requirement.

By approval of the Department, students who are unable to complete the first year exams may file for the M.A, provided they have passed core courses. These students may be required to complete a thesis in lieu of the first year exam.

Application to receive the Master of Arts in Communication must be filed no later than two weeks after the first day of the quarter in which the degree requirements are to be completed. It is the student's responsibility to notify the graduate coordinator of his/her intent to file for a Master's degree one quarter before advancing to candidacy or as soon as all requirements for an MA degree are completed. Please note that the University's academic residency requirement for the Master of Arts is a minimum three academic quarters, at least one of which must follow advancement to candidacy.

Master's degrees will not be awarded retroactively to graduated students that have already been awarded the Ph.D.

Second Master's Degree

Graduate Council policy states that any current Ph.D. student who holds a M.A. or M.S. degree and has completed or will complete the requirements for a second Master's degree during their course of progress to the doctorate may apply to receive the degree with the consent of the Department. However, the second degree must be in a different field. Students are not eligible to receive an M.A. in Communication from UCSD if they have been granted an M.A. in Communication (or a closely related field) from another university. This is because it is expected that these students have received training similar to that received at UCSD.

3.7 Quantitative Methods

Communication graduate programs often require at least one course in quantitative methods. Because of the diversity of scholarly approaches represented in our Department, we do not have such a requirement, and our offerings in methodology emphasize our strength in a range of qualitative methods. Courses in quantitative methods are available in a number of social science departments, (including Sociology, Political Science, Economics and Psychology), and students should discuss with their advisers whether such courses would be appropriate to their intellectual interests. Courses in quantitative methods can be petitioned to substitute for one Methods (COGR 201 sequence) requirements.

3.8 Research Involving Human Subjects

Research performed at UCSD must be in conformity with human subject protection regulations. Students whose research involves living human subjects, including observation, interviewing and ethnographic fieldwork, must comply with these regulations which supersede the requirements and standards of any course, professor or laboratory project. Students and faculty are responsible for obtaining Human Subjects approval before beginning research. For more information, check with the Human Subjects Protection Committee.

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Department of Communication

The following is a list of advising resources and committees in the Department and the areas in which they assume responsibility:

Graduate Program Coordinator

- Manage all administrative aspects of the graduate program: curricular, programmatic, financial
- Help students navigate various department and university policies and procedures
- Maintains graduate student records
- Develop and plan departmental graduate student activities
- Questions concerning general requirements and procedures

Director of Graduate Studies

- Department funding questions and requests
- General advising and course program planning
- Guidance of new students
- Quarterly approval of course program (first-year students only)
- Reviews petitions
- University and Department policy and regulations
- Questions concerning academic requirements, courses and procedures

Faculty Adviser (*chairs Doctoral Committee*)

- Annual letters of evaluation ("*spring evaluations*")

- Guidance in developing Qualifying Examination papers, dissertation proposal and dissertation
- Quarterly approval of course program

Department Chair

- Oversees departmental activities, functions, and responsibilities
- Appoints faculty representatives and chairs to faculty committees
- Schedules and chairs Department-wide meetings
- Reviews appeals and grievances of all kinds, and if necessary, refers them to the appropriate University committee or office

Departmental Committees

The Chair of the Department appoints chairs and faculty members to a wide variety of departmental committees. Meetings are scheduled by the chairs of the committees.

Graduate students are invited on an annual basis to participate in the Graduate Committee (below). Graduate student participation on the Faculty Search Committee is requested when the department conducts a faculty recruitment. Graduate student participation on other department committees is solicited on an ad hoc basis, when the topics under discussion have a direct impact on graduate student life.

The Graduate Committee

This committee is primarily responsible for the administration of the graduate program. Its membership is composed of the graduate coordinator and a minimum of three faculty members: the Director of Graduate Studies, who chairs the committee, and at least two others. In addition, there are two graduate student representatives. They are elected by the graduate students, usually at the start of each academic year. The graduate committee as a whole performs the following functions, with final decisions about programmatic, admissions, and funding matters made by the faculty:

- Reviews requirements, procedures, and policies of the graduate program
- Makes policy recommendations

When students and their advisers are unclear about how requirements or procedures should be carried out, an email explaining the circumstances can be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies and the committee, and their advice may be solicited. Otherwise, all advising about program goals and intellectual content of graduate work remain within the scope of the student-adviser/professor relationship.

Routine matters such as filling out petitions and questions about meeting requirements are carried out by either the Graduate Program Coordinator or the Director of Graduate Studies

Graduate student representatives to the committee participate in discussions and vote. There are other matters with which only the faculty members of the committee are concerned, including evaluating academic progress and merit of graduate students, awarding financial support, and making final determination of admissions offers. All decisions of the graduate committee are in effect recommendations to the faculty as a whole who serve as final arbiters on all matters relating to the graduate program.

The Graduate Admissions Committee

This committee is made up of faculty members and graduate student representatives, drawn from the Graduate Committee. This committee reads admissions applications. The faculty as a whole make all admissions recommendations to the Dean of the Graduate Division. After a slate of names has been determined, faculty members of this committee make recommendations about amounts of financial support to be offered to the applicants (subject to Graduate Division approval) and which applicants, if any, to nominate for campus-wide fellowships. Once initial offers are made, the Director of Graduate Studies, consulting as appropriate with the Graduate Program Coordinator and the Department Chair, takes responsibility for negotiating any revisions in initial offers.

Course Group

“Course Group” is the name we give to the meetings of faculty and graduate students held Wednesdays, generally at noon, throughout the academic year. The Department Chair presides. Course Group meetings may include anything from announcements and review of matters of policy to guest lectures and specially convened discussions. Some matters, such as graduate student financial aid and admissions decisions, are open only to faculty participation. The general rule is: unless otherwise advised, Course Group meetings are open.

4.2 Graduate Student Office Space

Availability of Office Space

The Department's efforts are tempered by certain realities about our current space. Space in the Communication building is extremely limited, with priority given to permanent faculty offices, production facilities, and administrative offices. The Department has limited space in adjacent Sequoyah Hall and the Cognitive Science Building.

The Department may supplement its limited space with student offices contributed by research programs affiliated with the Department. Offices in such research laboratories are assigned by the relevant faculty director on an ad hoc basis and in consultation with the Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Assignment of Space

A graduate student in good standing, in residence, and living locally will be assigned an office, pending availability. The expectation is that the student has continuing use of the office for the duration of the

student's residence in the program. Students who already have offices in a research program or elsewhere on campus will not be assigned offices in Communication, Sequoyah, or Cognitive Science.

In the event that all possible offices are taken, the Graduate Coordinator will maintain a waitlist of students wanting an office.

Use of Graduate Office Space

Because most graduate student office space will be shared, students are responsible for general good upkeep of the offices. As a matter of courtesy, students who share an office should agree on which personal items they will use in the office. Students may not sleep overnight in their offices, or otherwise treat their office space as housing.

Vacating Office Space

A student who moves out of the San Diego area and is living elsewhere must vacate their office. A student who completes studies in the program must vacate their office. When vacating, students must remove all belongings and return the space to a clean and workable condition for the next occupant. The Department will not store personal belongings after a student has vacated.

4.3 The Graduate Division

There are some matters beyond those listed above which fall under the domain of the campus-wide Graduate Division. Graduate Division staff members are prepared to handle most routine matters. These are:

- Official approval of doctoral committees
- Determination of time limits
- Awards of campus-wide fellowships to graduate students
- Determination of Teaching Assistantship support limits

Some matters involve special dispensations or interpretations of Graduate Division policies and procedures. These are directed to the Graduate Council, a standing committee of the Academic Senate comprised of faculty members from the campus and the Dean of Graduate Division. Examples of matters that have gone before the Graduate Council are:

- Policies regarding graduate students
- Individual requests for extending time limits
- Individual requests for extending leaves of absence due to medical reasons

4.4 UCSD Graduate Student Association

The [Graduate Student Association \(GSA\)](#) describes itself as "dedicated to the betterment of graduate student life at UCSD. The purpose demands that the organization take several roles. These roles include: advocate, mediator, funding source, social planner and generalized resource." Some of the services

provided by or through the GSA office include funding of graduate student organizations, programs, events, socials and other functions; and acting as an information resource concerning the many issues facing graduate students.

4.5 Office for Students with Disabilities

The Department of Communication has a long history of support for faculty, students, and staff with disabilities and in the interdisciplinary field of Disability Studies. Students with disabilities should be aware of the existence of the [Office for Students with Disabilities \(OSD\)](#). A range of support services and accommodations are provided at UCSD, with the coordination of the OSD. For more information, contact the OSD. It is the student's responsibility to register with OSD, which is the official campus office for the administration of all accommodation requests.

5. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There are six general sources of funding for Communication graduate students:

- Teaching Assistantships and Readerships
- Research Assistantships
- Department fellowships
- Campus-wide fellowships and awards
- Research and travel awards
- Externally funded fellowships and awards

Normally a student who is enrolled for full-time study in a quarter cannot be employed by the university for more than 50% time (20 hours a week). Support limits are strictly monitored by Graduate Division. A special waiver to work more than 50% time can be granted only by the Dean of Graduate Division on request from the Chair of the Department. At present, the Dean grants such waivers only under limited conditions: the waiver does not extend beyond one quarter in one year; the student has an outstanding GPA, and no other graduate student is available to take the additional hours.

A student can elect to work off-campus, where support limits are outside the scope of Graduate Division and the Department. However, students contemplating work off-campus should discuss very seriously with their advisers whether such work could potentially interfere with normal progress in full-time graduate study.

5.1 Teaching Assistantships and Readerships

Departmental Teaching Assistantships

The Department gives first priority to its own graduate students for all Communication teaching assistantships (TAs). The Department agrees in principle to allocate three quarters of TAs first to second-year students in good standing who have successfully passed their first-year exams. (As in all cases of support, the availability of TAs is contingent on the allocation we receive from the University.) Continuing students are considered for TAs based on merit, need, and "reverse

seniority." More advanced students are given less priority than lesser advanced students. The reasoning is that after the second year, the student is likely to be more familiar with funding possibilities and is better equipped to seek out these sources of funding. The longer a student remains in the program, the greater the student's responsibility for finding support.

Continuing awards of TAs are based on good standing in the Department and satisfactory performance as a TA in the past (if relevant) as measured by student and professor evaluations. Offers of TAs for the coming year are typically made during the preceding spring and/or summer quarter(s), and acceptances are due shortly afterward. Specific assignment schedules are firmed up thereafter. Whenever possible, the Graduate Committee will assign students to courses compatible with their areas of concentration. The limited number of slots and the need to provide as much TA support as possible may mean that matches are not always ideal. Students should also understand that scheduling complexities and the needs of large numbers of graduate students mean that preferred teaching schedules are not always met; in other words, although the Graduate Coordinator solicits TA preferences, actual assignments will be made based on departmental resources and need. Graduate students are responsible for letting the Graduate Committee know in spring in writing of any circumstances requiring special attention, such as an upcoming leave of absence.

After the initial round of TA offers, additional TA allocations may open up and new offers may be made. As in the first set of offers, new offers are determined by the Graduate Coordinator employing the criteria given above.

Teaching Assistantships in Other Departments

Graduate students can also apply for TAs in other departments and in various undergraduate programs on campus. Some of the largest employers of graduate students from different departments are the undergraduate writing programs. Also available, but to a smaller extent, are foreign language teaching assistantships (e.g. French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian) and TAs in large lecture courses in other departments. Students must contact the individual departments and programs to find out deadlines and criteria for applying.

Readerships

Readers assist course instructors in the grading of homework, papers, or exams. They also may hold office hours to answer students' questions about such assignments. Readers do not assist the teaching of a course. Consequently, a Readership does not fulfill the teaching requirement for the Ph.D. Reader salaries are also much less than that of a Teaching Assistant.

Teaching Assistantships, Readerships, and the UAW

Effective Fall 2000, all Teaching Assistant and Reader positions are represented by a collective bargaining agreement between the University and the UAW. This contract clearly defines job responsibilities, compensation, work conditions, benefits, grievance procedures, etc. All students are encouraged to review the [current contract](#).

Communication Department Senior TA

The departmental Senior TA is responsible for carrying out training for all departmental TAs, and providing support on matters of teaching and relationships with students and professors. The Senior TA updates and distributes the annual [Communication Department TA Handbook](#).

The Senior TA is usually appointed for the academic year. The appointment is made by faculty members of the Graduate Affairs Committee based on an outstanding record of teaching experience. Funding of the Senior TA varies from year to year and is provided from departmental TA or block grant funds.

Teaching Excellence

Graduate Division also makes a small amount of money available for awards to TAs whose teaching has been outstanding. Usually, two awards will be made in any year. Nominations are by faculty to the Graduate Committee.

5.2 Research Assistantships

Unlike TAs, there is no regular allocation of Research Assistantships (RAs) to the Department. Funds for RAs are usually awarded via a grant to individual faculty members. RAs vary in number of quarters and hours per week of support, depending on the amount of the award.

RAs become available at any time, and filling them is left to the discretion of the individual faculty member. Because a faculty member requesting a RA usually has to specify the duties of the RA, it is up to the faculty member to determine which graduate student best serves the research needs of the project.

It is also possible that students may take the lead in proposing and designing a research project with a faculty member. This is the exception, not the rule, but it is possible for a student who has discovered common interests with a faculty member to propose a joint research project. What makes this feasible is that the Academic Senate's Committee on Research (COR) calls for faculty research proposals several times a year. Faculty can obtain small "COR" grants (from a few hundred dollars up to \$10,000 in unusual cases) with very little bureaucracy to wade through. COR grants are readily available for junior faculty who apply for them, but senior faculty may also apply. COR grants are a primary source of current RA funding in the Department.

5.3 Departmental Scholarships and Fellowships

Each spring, the Department announces the availability of funding for its graduate students. The following categories are examples of awards that **may** be available:

- **Fees Scholarships** - pays for one or more quarters of California resident fees only.
- **Tuition Scholarships** - pays for one or more quarters of non-resident tuition only.
- **Dissertation Writing Quarter and Herbert I. Schiller Dissertation Year Fellowship** - students in the final stages of dissertation writing and research may apply for either a Dissertation Writing Quarter Fellowship or the Herbert I. Schiller Dissertation Year Fellowship. The Dissertation Writing Quarter Fellowship provides one quarter of stipend and coverage of the quarter's

registration fees; the Schiller Fellowship provides stipend and coverage of registration fees for an academic year. These fellowships are terminal awards; recipients are not eligible for further funding from the Department (including teaching assistantships). The fellowships preclude any campus employment during the duration of the award. To apply for either fellowship, students are required to outline their schedule for completing and defending their dissertation in the coming year. A letter from the student's advisor in support of the fellowship application, including approval of the student's proposed timeline, is also required.

The award categories, how many, and for which amounts depend on the Department's "block grant," the amount of funding awarded to the Department by Graduate Division. (This funding is separate from the University's TA allocation funding.) Once the level of funding is known to the Department (typically in late winter), the department determines the number and amounts of awards we can provide to our students. An announcement is then delivered to students specifying necessary criteria and a deadline for submitting applications.

If you are in doubt about your eligibility, see the Graduate Program Coordinator.

5.4 Campus-wide Fellowships and Awards

Graduate Division regularly announces fellowships and small awards open for competition among graduate students of different departments. These fellowships usually have specific criteria and requirements. Many opportunities are posted to the Graduate Division's online [Fellowships and Traineeships webpage](#).

5.5 Conference Travel Awards

The Department of Communication sets aside funding for students to present their work at conferences. The Department's criteria for awarding this support is as follows:

- ***One award per year (July 1 - June 30)***
- ***Domestic travel*** - no more than \$500.00 may be requested
- ***International travel*** - no more than \$700.00 may be requested

Requests are made to the Director of Graduate Studies and must include an official letter of invitation or the relevant page from the conference program with their application.

Dean of Social Sciences Travel Fund

For students with legitimate requests that the Department is unable to support, the Dean of Social Sciences may have a research travel fund that graduate students may apply to. Consult the Director of Graduate Studies or contact the Dean's office directly.

Intercampus Travel Fund

There is also financial support available, from a different source of funds, for "intercampus travel," travel for research purposes between the University of California campuses. Consult the Graduate Program Coordinator for more information and application guidelines.

5.6 Externally-funded Fellowships and Awards

Students are encouraged to seek out funding for graduate study from foundations, federal agencies and other private sources. Some of these programs offer more generous stipends and support for tuition and/or fees than can be offered by the Department or the campus. In addition, the process of presenting a coherent and persuasive account of one's research serves vital pedagogical purposes. We encourage students to train themselves in this type of writing.

The library and Graduate Division are the primary sources of information about external funding. The Department has from time to time organized efforts to collect and compile some of this information for students, but the primary responsibility for researching external funding sources and meeting their deadlines rests with the student.

5.7 Summer Funding Opportunities

Students often need to secure financial support for the summer months, and there is no organized way to go about this. Students are advised to start looking for support early. They should be aware of the following possibilities:

Summer School Teaching

Students who have advanced to candidacy may propose to teach their own courses in summer school or to teach basic departmental courses like COMM 10. Proposals to teach a course are normally due to the Department Chair in November. The Chair decides which course proposals to forward to the Summer Session Office, and Summer Session makes final decisions on what courses to sponsor. (A chief criterion for Summer School is: will the course draw enough enrollment to pay for itself -- i.e. 20 or more students?) Summer School decisions are made during winter quarter.

Students who have not qualified may seek positions as TAs or Readers for Summer School courses. To be considered, advise the Graduate Program Coordinator in the late spring. However, whether TAships will be available is generally not known until the last minute (late June), when Summer Session enrollments finalize.

Students with special skills in foreign languages, math, statistics, or ESL have sometimes taught in these fields at UCSD Extension during the summer (or during the year).

Faculty Research Assistantships

If a faculty member has a funded research project, they may be able to employ graduate students during the summer. If professors have not approached you, you may approach them and ask if they might have any RA-ships available at that time or in the near future.

External Research and Media Grants

External organizations sometimes fund graduate students directly. The California Council on the Humanities has supported student projects in the past and so has the National Endowment for the Humanities. Further information on external funding agencies can be obtained at the library and from Graduate Division.

External Employment

There are other employment opportunities in the UCSD vicinity. Students in the past have written abstracts for Sociological Abstracts (a locally based business), have worked in the computer industry, have earned money through freelance journalism, and have taken teaching positions at community colleges and other institutions nearby. These jobs may occasionally come from a tip from a faculty member, but more often students learn of these opportunities through the graduate student grapevine or on their own initiative.