



SCHOOL *of* COMMUNICATION
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

Graduate Program Application

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

November–August	Applications accepted
February 1	Deadline for merit award and fellowship consideration
February–March	Admission, merit award, and fellowship notification begins
February 15	FAFSA application deadline for priority consideration
April 15	Response to award offers due
June 1	Priority application deadline for weekday programs
June–July	Registration information sent to students
August 1	Priority application deadline for weekend programs
November 15	Deadline to submit applications for spring admission (MA in film and video, MFA in film and electronic media, and MA in international media programs only)

Consult chart below for individual program deadlines.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the School of Communication's Graduate Office at gradcomm@american.edu or by calling 202-885-2040, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. eastern standard time.

Deadlines and Test Requirements*

Area of Study	Degree	Admission Period	GRE Required	Deadline
Film and video	MA	Fall/spring	Yes	NOVEMBER 15 for spring admission FEBRUARY 1 for merit award consideration JUNE 1 priority deadline for fall admission
Film and electronic media	MFA	Fall/spring	Yes	NOVEMBER 15 for spring admission FEBRUARY 1 for merit award consideration JUNE 1 priority deadline for fall admission
Producing for film and video (<i>weekend</i>)	MA	Fall only	No	AUGUST 1 priority deadline for fall admission
Print journalism	MA	Fall only	Yes	FEBRUARY 1 for merit award consideration JUNE 1 priority deadline for fall admission
Broadcast journalism	MA	Fall only	Yes	FEBRUARY 1 for merit award consideration JUNE 1 priority deadline for fall admission
Interactive journalism (<i>weekend</i>)	MA	Fall only	No	AUGUST 1 priority deadline for fall admission
Public communication	MA	Fall only	Yes	FEBRUARY 1 for merit award consideration JUNE 1 priority deadline for fall admission
Public communication (<i>weekend</i>)	MA	Fall only	No	AUGUST 1 priority deadline for fall admission
International media	MA	Fall/spring	Yes	NOVEMBER 15 for spring admission FEBRUARY 1 for merit award consideration JUNE 1 priority deadline for fall admission

* The TOEFL exam is required for most applicants whose first language is not English. Please refer to the Graduate Admissions Requirements section for minimum acceptable scores.

GRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for a master's degree program, you must:

- hold a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- have earned a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA), based on a 4.0 scale during the last two years of undergraduate study
- present satisfactory official scores on the Graduate Record Examination General Test (GRE) (verbal, quantitative, analytical) taken within the last five years
- demonstrate proficiency in English (both speaking and writing)
- meet any special individual program requirements
- submit a School of Communication Application for Graduate Admission and all supporting documents to the address on this page

Other important information on requirements to be considered for a master's degree program:

- Applicants to the international media program must show a minimum GPA of 3.3 in the last two years of undergraduate study.
- GRE scores should be sent directly to American University by the Educational Testing Service (AU's CEEB code is 007995).
- Weekend Program applicants are exempt from the GRE test requirement.
- International students must have a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 600 on the paper-based version, a 250 on the computer-based version, or a 100 on the IBT version. This requirement is waived for international applicants who have completed an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited U.S. institution.



GRADUATE APPLICATION PROCESS

The School of Communication's (SOC) application is "self-managed." This means that applicants must assemble all the components of the application and submit them to the SOC Graduate Admissions Office. If applying online, submit the application, résumé, statement of purpose, and supplemental forms. The application fee may also be paid electronically. Please note that letters of recommendation and transcript(s) must be submitted through the U.S. Postal Service. If applying using a paper copy of the application, please send all components of the completed application in one envelope to the following address:

American University Graduate School of Communication
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Mary Graydon Center 328
Washington, DC 20016-8017

COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS

Please submit one official* transcript from each college, university, professional school, or other post-secondary institution attended. All institutions must be reported. Transcripts must be in sealed envelopes from the school or college attended. Applicants holding a master's degree must still submit official transcripts of their undergraduate work.

Some institutions will not release official* transcripts to students. In that case, transcripts should be sent directly from the issuing institution to the School of Communication Graduate Office.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT

SOC considers the final 60 credit hours of coursework for the baccalaureate degree from U.S. institutions. The Graduate Admissions Office will calculate this GPA.

All credits taken at the graduate level must be reported.

Grades will be converted to a four-point grading system. Pass/fail, satisfactory, completed credit, HP, and similar grades are not included in calculations. Quarter hours are multiplied by 0.66 to get the equivalent semester hours.

Please record the cumulative undergraduate GPA on your application.

* The term *official* means a copy of your original document certified by an officer of your school or by a notary public. Faxed copies and photocopies that are uncertified will not be accepted. The university requires transcripts to be written in the native language of the school. If this language is not English, the documents must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

GRADUATE CREDIT

Please record your cumulative graduate GPA on your application.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you attended a non-U.S. institution, an SOC graduate transcript evaluator will assess your undergraduate work. Please do not compute a GPA.

MERIT-BASED ASSISTANCE

Full-time applicants meeting the February 1 deadline will be considered for merit-based financial awards from the university. No separate application is required. Awards are competitive and are based on academic and work achievement, specifically GRE scores and undergraduate grade point average (last 60 credits), not financial need. Additional educational experience is also taken into consideration. Most merit awards are offered on an annual cycle for fall semester applicants only and are valid for one year. The award is divided evenly between the fall and spring semesters and each award varies in amount. Please note that only MFA students may qualify for a second year of funding at a reduced level based on satisfactory academic progress.

Assistantships

Assistantships may provide a monetary stipend, tuition remission for a designated number of credit hours of degree-related courses, or both. Awardees are usually given the opportunity to work part time assisting faculty as a teaching or research assistant.

Graduate Study Grants

Graduate study grants provide tuition remission for up to 9 credit hours of degree-related courses. A part-time assistantship is usually offered.

Journalism Fellows

SOC offers fellowships to full-time journalism graduate students in partnership with the organizations listed below. MA candidates receive a scholarship for a designated number of academic credits plus a stipend and an opportunity to pursue professional projects with some of the country's finest news organizations. For details and a supplemental application form, please visit www.american.edu/soc.

Center for Public Integrity Fellowship

BNA Fellowship

USA TODAY Fellowship

DESIGNATED AWARDS (UNIVERSITY ADMINISTERED)

Designated awards are privately funded merit awards granted to students who meet specific criteria. For consideration, supplemental application forms, and details please visit www.american.edu/soc.

United Methodist Graduate Scholarships

Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning (CTRL)

Massey Foundation Awards

OTHER FUNDING

Applicants are advised to explore employment opportunities on the university's HR Web site and by contacting non-academic units directly because many hire graduate students on a part-time basis.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships may be offered to graduate students in the full-time journalism program. No separate application is necessary; however, a complete application to the journalism graduate program must be received by February 1.

Ed Bliss Scholarship

Robert Allen Bunnell Scholarship

Pauline Frederick Robbins Scholarship

Van Swearingen Scholarship

NEED-BASED ASSISTANCE

Full-time, part-time, and weekend students may apply for need-based aid. Only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible for federal need-based aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed and submitted to the processing center by February 15 (priority) or as early as possible.

GRE AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Please check the deadlines chart to determine whether your intended program requires the Graduate Record Examination or other standardized test scores. If so, scores must be sent to American University as well as to you. The School's CEEB code number is 007995. If available, a photocopy of test scores may be included in the graduate application packet. Test scores may not be more than five years old.

For more information on the GRE or to request a registration form, please contact the Educational Testing Service at www.ets.org.

Applicants whose first language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The School of Communication requires a score of 600 on the written test, 250 on the computer-based test, and 100 on the IBT version. This requirement is waived for international applicants who have completed an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited U.S. institution. More information about the TOEFL can be obtained at www.toefl.org. In addition to meeting the TOEFL requirement, you must take the GRE, if required.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Two letters of recommendation are required for all programs and may be either academic or professional references. For more information regarding the content of the letters of recommendation, please contact the Graduate Office or program division directors. All letters of recommendation must be accompanied by a recommendation form available on www.american.edu/soc. Please ensure that the top part of each form is completed with your name and other information. Each recommendation form and letter must be in a signed and sealed envelope that you send directly to SOC Graduate Admissions.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The statement of purpose is a very important part of the application. It should be a well-written and carefully crafted paper between 750 and 1,250 words describing in detail personal and career goals, relevant employment experience, reasons for seeking graduate study at American University's School of Communication, and ability to undertake graduate education. Your name must be included on each page of the statement.

RÉSUMÉ

You must submit a current copy of your résumé; professional format is recommended.

APPLICATION FEE

The cost to apply is US\$50. All applicants, except currently enrolled degree candidates, alumni, McNair Scholars, and Peace Corps and AmeriCorps alums, must pay the application fee. Applications will not be reviewed unless the required fee is paid. Payment may be made by check or credit card. Please do not send cash.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Once SOC receives and processes your application, you will receive an e-mail confirming receipt and a notice of any missing documents. After receiving all application materials, the admission committee reviews the application and makes recommendations to the associate dean. Admission decisions are based on the quality of your academic record as presented in the application and supporting documents, preparation in the proposed field of study, work experience (if relevant), and the match between your goals and interests with those of the program.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the School of Communication Graduate Office at gradcomm@american.edu or call 202-885-2040. Office hours are Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. eastern time. You may send questions by Instant Message (IM) to Graduate Admissions, SOCgradAdmission, during the same hours.





American University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action university and employer. Consistent with these principles and in compliance with the Student Right-to-Know Act, American University will publish annual reports that disclose information about the athletic program and campus security. The campus security report includes campus crime statistics and is published annually by September 1. A copy may be obtained by calling 202-885-2525. The athletic reports include athletic participation and graduation rates and are published annually by October 15. A copy of the athletic reports may be obtained by calling Athletic Communication at 202-885-3006. In compliance with Section 207 of the Higher Education Act, American University is providing information regarding state assessments, other requirements, standards for teacher certification and licensure, and performance of teacher preparation programs. A copy may be obtained by calling 202-885-3720.