Founded in 1910, today Kent State University's eight-campus system is among the largest regional systems in the country and serves both the development of a true living/learning approach at the Kent Campus and the regional needs on seven other campuses throughout Northeast Ohio.

Kent State has become an engine for economic, cultural and workforce development locally and internationally as one of the premiere Ohio universities. Kent State is ranked among the nation's 77 public research universities demonstrating high-research activity by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Times Higher Education, a London-based higher education magazine, ranked Kent State as one of the top 200 universities in the world in 2010. Kent State was the only public research university in Northeast Ohio to be awarded the honor and one of only four in the state of Ohio to make the list.

Review of assistantship applications begins January 15 for Fall semester and November 15 for Spring semester.

Admission Requirements

For applicants seeking a graduate assistantship:
- An undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0/4.0 is required (a 3.3/4.0 GPA is recommended).
- Applicants must submit GRE. A combined verbal score (500) and quantitative score (500) of at least 1000 is recommended.
- An undergraduate major or minor in communication is preferred. Students with related majors are also considered.
- Applicants should have academic and professional goals compatible with the program.
- Writing sample (academic writing preferred)
- International students should achieve a minimum score of 580 (paper-based)-237 (Computer-based)-92 (Internet-based) on the TOEFL exam.
- Three letters of recommendation from those in a position to evaluate academic performance and graduate potential are required. Two letters must be from current or former professors.
- Current CV or resume

For applicants not seeking an assistantship:
- An undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0/4.0 is required (a 3.3/4.0 GPA is recommended).
- Taking the GRE is preferred but not required.
- An undergraduate major or minor in communication is preferred. Students with related majors are also considered.
- Applicants should have academic goals and professional goals compatible with the program.
- Writing sample
- International Students should achieve a minimum score of 580 (paper-based)-237 (Computer-based)-92 (Internet-based) on the TOEFL exam.
- Three letters of recommendation from those in a position to evaluate academic performance and graduate potential are required. At least one must be from a current or former professor.
- Current CV or resume

Concentration offered by the School of Communication Studies

The School of Communication Studies also participates in an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program housed within the College of Communication and Information which consists of four schools: Communication Studies, Journalism and Mass Communication, Visual Communication Design, and Library and Information Science.

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Master of Arts
Health Communication Concentration

Design a program of study to fit your Health Communication career goals

Why Health Communication?

Communication plays critical roles in health and risk behavior, health care, health promotion, and influences both health outcomes and the cost of health care. In the past decade, the U.S. Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services have recognized communication as vital to achieving the nation’s health promotion and disease prevention agenda.

The study of health communication addresses such areas as: how health care providers communicate with their patients and how patients can be empowered in these interactions; how media messages can affect understandings of risk, health, illness and disease; how everyday conversations influence health and risk behavior; how traditional and new media are used in health promotion and education; and how to design effective messages to reduce risk, prevent disease, and promote health.

One of the areas of greatest job growth is in health-related professions. These include health care-related professions, health marketing, public health, patient advocacy and support, and health promotion through agencies and non-profit organizations.

66501 HEALTH COMMUNICATION
Investigation of the role of communication theory, research, and practice in health beliefs and behavior, health care, and health promotion.

66503 HEALTH COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA EFFECTS
Overview of theory and research on the processing and effects of health messages in the media. Topics include effects of news and entertainment media, and commercial messages on health.

66506 HEALTH COMMUNICATION AND NEW MEDIA
Investigation of the implementation and effects of new media technologies and their implications for health communication. Topics include: online health information seeking and health care, serious games and health, telemedicine, and mobile health communication applications.

66507 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION AND HEALTH
Investigation of the interpersonal communication processes that influence and/or are influenced by health. Topics include: everyday health/risk communication, social support, and health care communication.

66508 HEALTH COMMUNICATION LITERACY
Investigation of the concept and consequences of communication as it relates to health literacy, including social, cultural, educational and political forces that affect health literacy levels, and strategies for creating accessible health communication.

66509 PUBLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS
Overview of the major issues surrounding the development, dissemination, and effects of public communication campaigns. Addresses behavior theories and models, message development, testing and evaluation, and entertainment-education.

Learn more about the Communication Studies faculty, student organizations, and other major and minor degree programs available through the School of Communication Studies at:

www.kent.edu/comm

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Taylor Hall Room 135
Kent State University Kent, Ohio 44242-0001

The Master of Arts in the School of Communication Studies is a 32-credit degree with four options for graduation: thesis, coursework only, project, or an internship.

Health Communication Faculty
Research Interests & Experience

Jae Eun Chung, Ph.D., University of Southern California (jchung3@kent.edu). Use of online social media for health, online health information seeking, and digital games for health.

Rebecca J. Cline, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University (rcline14@kent.edu). Social support and stigma; communication in environmental disasters, Rx drug advertising, parent-child communication during pediatric cancer treatment. Received the Distinguished Career Award from the American Public Health Association’s PHEHP section. Dr. Cline has conducted research funded by NIH, CDC, and EPA.

Nichole Egbert, Ph.D., University of Georgia (negbert@kent.edu). Caregiving and social support, health literacy, religion and spirituality in health, relational communication. A recent interdisciplinary study, an online intervention for caregivers of stroke patients, was funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).

Catherine Goodall, Ph.D., The Ohio State University (goodall@kent.edu). Persuasion, communication and aging, elder abuse, quality of intergenerational relationships.

Mei-Chen Lin, Ph.D, University of Kansas (mlin@kent.edu). Communication and aging, elder abuse, quality of intergenerational relationships.