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

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.

Scan for more information about the Masters program.

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Concentration offered by the School of Communication Studies

Communicating and Growing as a School at Kent State University since 1932

School of Communication Studies — February 2011
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Master of Arts
Interpersonal Communication Concentration

Design a program of study to fit your career goals in Interpersonal Communication

Why Interpersonal Communication?

Interpersonal Communication is one of the longest-standing concentrations in the School of Communication Studies, with students choosing to study interpersonal dynamics for over 30 years at Kent State University.

Regardless of the career, a valuable skill is the ability to listen and communicate effectively with others. Interpersonal communication majors will develop refined abilities to make use of new communication technologies available for interaction.

The most recent job outlook statistics from the National Association for Colleges and Employers rank effective communication skills as the most important job characteristic employers consider when making hiring decisions, ranking above even technical skills.

65670 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION Survey of recent theoretical developments and research in interpersonal communication, including relationship development, interaction, interpersonal traits, compliance, conversational analysis, and research methods.

65673 FAMILY COMMUNICATION Examines theory and research about the interactions among individuals in families, between families and external entities, and work-life balance issues from a family communication perspective.

65675 COMMUNICATION, UNCERTAINTY, & PRIVACY MANAGEMENT Examines theory and research about disclosure and uncertainty issues in communication in health contexts, organizational contexts, and contexts involving human interaction occurring through technology.

65677 RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION Examines theory and research about the interactions among individuals in personal relationships. Subtopics of the course include communication and the development, maintenance, and dissolution of personal relationships, relationships across the life span, individual differences in relationships, and relational processes, qualities, and outcomes.

65679 COMM. ACROSS THE LIFESPAN Examines research about communication across the lifespan, including issues related to communication and cognition, communicative uses of language, communication in close relationships, and differences in media uses and effects.

65683 INTERGROUP COMMUNICATION Examines theory and research of communication between groups of individuals, including issues of discrimination, language, identity, social status, religion, and demographics.

65685 COMMUNICATION & COGNITION Explores theory and research findings related to message production, interpersonal communication, individual differences in adaptive ability, persuasion, political communication, media processing, and media effects.

66501 INTERPERSONAL COMM & HEALTH Studies the interpersonal communication processes that influence and/or are influenced by health and health contexts.

65665 PERSONAL & MEDIATED COMM. Explores the interface of interpersonal and mediated communication in everyday life. Includes topics such as parasocial interaction, TV viewing, cell phones and texting, and computer-mediated relationships.

Interpersonal Faculty Research Interests & Experience

Jeffrey T. Child, Ph.D., North Dakota State University (jchild@kent.edu). Privacy management; Family/Relational Communication; New communication technologies; Computer-Mediated communication; Quantitative research methods; Communication Education

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.

Nichole Eggert, Ph.D., University of Georgia (negbert@kent.edu). Caregiving and social support; Health literacy; Religion and spirituality in health; Relational communication.

Mei-Chen Lin, Ph.D., University of Kansas (mlin@kent.edu). Communication and aging; Intercultural communication; Intergenerational communication across cultures; Communication across life-span; Group dynamics.

Janet Meyer, Ph.D., University of Michigan (jrmeyer@kent.edu). Communication and cognition; Message production; Persuasion; Regretted messages; Communication theory.

Want to Know More? Contact or Visit Us
E-mail: comm@kent.edu Phone: (330) 672-2659 Taylor Hall Room 135
Kent State University Kent, Ohio 44242-0001

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

www.kent.edu/comm