



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
**SCHOOL OF
COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

(current as of August 2026)

All prospective applicants must complete the graduate school application process before we will consider the application. We do not receive incomplete applications for review. Visit the [graduate school application site](#) to begin the application process. Your application is not complete, and will not be considered, until you pay the one-time, non-refundable \$65 application fee. Unfortunately, we cannot give fee waivers for any reason.

The application portal opens on September 2, and remains open until the end of the day on January 1 of the next year. (For example, the application portal for Fall 2027 admission will open on September 2, 2026, and close at the end of the day on January 1, 2027.) The deadline to apply to the School of Communication Studies is January 1. We only admit for the fall semester, and we do not accept late applications. All required materials must be uploaded, and the application fee waived, by January 1 in order for your application to be considered. Our graduate committee does not receive applications that are incomplete.

Dept. code for test scores (GRE, TOEFL) - 4506

We highly recommend that you do not use an institutional email address for your application materials. This is in case you no longer have access to that institutional email address (e.g., upon graduating from that institution). We encourage you to use an email address from an open provider, such as gmail, mac.com, microsoft, etc.

The School of Communication Studies requires the following for anyone applying to the MA or PhD program:

1. Three letters of recommendation: In the application process, you will submit names and contact information for your letter writers. They will receive a separate request to upload their letters; you do not upload them. Please ensure that your letter writers can comply with the request for a letter of recommendation. Ideally, the letters of recommendation will be from individuals who can speak to your academic abilities.
2. Statement of purpose: This is a short document (1-3 pages) that outlines why you want to pursue a graduate degree and what you hope to accomplish during your time at SIU, should you be admitted. [This article](#) gives excellent advice for your statement of purpose.
3. Full set of transcripts from each college and university attended. You can upload these directly in the online application system. Your application can include unofficial transcripts; once an offer for admission is made, official transcripts will be required ASAP if you plan to attend, especially if you will be receiving a GTA position. *Most delays in admissions are caused by the applicant's failure to have registrars from each college and university send original transcripts.*
4. Writing sample, no longer than 30 pages. Please do not send a full thesis or research report, unless it is shorter than 30 pages. You can also submit a class paper or conference paper. This

should demonstrate your writing abilities, that you have some understanding of the field of Communication Studies, and that you are able to handle graduate school-level academic prose. You can upload the writing sample into the application system. If the file is too big, you are welcome to send directly to Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, sandypc@siu.edu

5. Indication of area(s) of interest.

Optional GRE

The School of Communication Studies no longer requires GRE scores for admittance. However, if you wish to be considered for a Morris Doctoral Fellowship, you must submit GRE scores. In addition, GRE scores are recommended if you wish to be considered for other Fellowships. Visit the [graduate school fellowship](#) page for more information.

International applicants must prove English proficiency by submitting test scores that are no older than 2 years. For consideration by the School of Communication Studies, you must score a minimum of one of the following:

- 600 on the paper-based TOEFL
- 100 on the internet-based TOEFL
- 7.0 on the IELTS
- 115 on the Duolingo English Exam
- 3.8 on the iTep Academic Plus Exam
- 64 on the Pearson Test of English (PTE)

International applicants from a country listed on [the exempt list](#) do not need to send test scores. Those who are offered an assistantship will be required to pass an [English proficiency virtual oral interview](#) before being allowed to teach.

International applicants must also affirm that they are responsible for paying all tuition, fees, and living expenses for the entire period of the intended study program. The graduate school [international admissions page](#) provides more information.

Application checklist

- Graduate School application
- Application fee
- Statement of Purpose
- Names and contact information for three (3) individuals to write letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- Writing sample
- Financial obligation acknowledgement (international applicants only)
- TOEFL/IELTS score (international applicants only)
- GRE (required only if you wish to be considered for a fellowship)

Questions should be directed to:

Dr. Sandy Pensoneau-Conway
Coordinator of Graduate Studies

sandypc@siu.edu
School of Communication Studies
Mail Code 6605
Southern Illinois University
1100 Lincoln Drive, Room 2249
Carbondale, IL 62901

Note: Doctoral applicants interested in a Theater focus, contact Dr. Jacob Juntunen for questions and information (jjuntunen@siu.edu).