M.A. Application Guidelines

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have earned an undergraduate degree and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Although the minimum requirement for graduate admission to the University is a 2.5 GPA, the Department will typically have higher entrance requirements and select applicants competitively. Applicants must also take and submit their scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants with limited background in the communication disciplines are required to complete nine units of preparatory undergraduate coursework, determined in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator. Evaluation and selection of applicants are the responsibility of the Department's Graduate Studies Committee.

Application Process

Application to the MA program is a two-tiered process that involves a University application and a Department application. In addition to the application to the University (available at csumentor.edu), applicants are required to submit materials directly to the Department. These items include:

1. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Submit the Graduate Application Checklist, available on the COMS webpage at http://www.csun.edu/com

2. TRANSCRIPT(S)

You must submit two sets of transcripts with your application. First, submit official transcripts (certified and unopened transcripts that are sent directly from the records department of the schools you attended) from all junior colleges and/or four-year institutions with your University application. Official transcripts must be obtained and mailed directly to the CSUN Office of Admissions and Records.

Second, submit a copy of your transcripts (an unofficial copy is sufficient) to the Department with your application.
Please do not send official transcripts to the Department or send unofficial transcripts to Graduate Studies. Also note that failure to submit official transcripts to CSUN Admissions and Records may result in a delayed decision on your application.

3. **A COPY OF YOUR GRE SCORES**

Please have the testing center report your GRE scores directly to the university. The ETS code for CSUN is 4707. You should also include a *photocopy or printout* of your scores with your application to the Department.

4. **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

A detailed statement of purpose (approximately 3 to 4 double-spaced pages) identifying the academic, professional, intellectual, and/or career goals that would be served by your enrollment in the program should be submitted with your Department application. If you are also applying for a Teaching Associateship, be sure to mention address this explicitly as part of your statement of purpose.

5. **A COPY OF YOUR APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO CSUN**

Include a printout (or photocopy) of your University application with your Department application materials. Instructions for printing a copy of your University application can be found at www.csumentor.edu/admissionapp/grad_apply.asp. The original application form should be submitted electronically to the CSUN Office of Admissions and Records.

6. **TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Submit two letters of recommendation that address your academic skills and promise as a graduate student. Your recommenders should send the letters directly to the Department. There is no letter of recommendation form. If you are applying for a Teaching Associateship, please ask your recommenders to also address your potential for success as an instructor of our basic public speaking course.

*All Department application materials should be sent no later than February 15 for fall admission to:*

Dr. Stacy Holman Jones, Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Communication Studies  
California State University, Northridge  
Northridge, CA  91330-8257

(818) 677-5380 (voice)  
(818) 677-2663 (fax)  
sholmanjo@csun.edu