

Department of Communication Yearly Graduate Student Awards 2024

Award winners are chosen by the Graduate Admissions Committee. For awards requiring an application, applications are submitted via email to the Graduate Coordinator. Application deadline is Friday, August 2 by 12 pm. Please submit a separate email for each award you want to be considered. No late applications are accepted. Students are eligible to apply for and receive multiple awards. Award amounts vary year-to-year.

RESEARCH AWARD (\$500)

Awarded for excellence in research during the preceding academic year; based on performance in terms of journal publications, book chapters, conference presentations, grants, grant reports, and other relevant peer reviewed and/or academic publications. Alongside rate of publication during the review period, the publication outlet (e.g., quality of journal), order of authorship, and extent of contribution will be considered. To apply, please submit an updated CV (in pdf form) attached to an email requesting to be considered for the Research Award.

TEACHING AWARD (\$500)

Awarded for outstanding accomplishment in teaching during the preceding academic year. Award is given based on performance in terms of faculty evaluations of teaching and quality of teaching portfolio. To be eligible for this award, students should submit a teaching portfolio (pdf format, or a link if the portfolio is web-based) attached to an email requesting that the student be considered for the teaching award.

CHRIS SEGRIN DISSERTATION AWARD *for students who are completing their dissertation* (typically \$500-\$800)

The Department of Communication Graduate Dissertation Award recognizes excellence in graduate student performance based on superior performance in scholarship, research activity, and promise of successful completion of dissertation work that will yield a meaningful contribution to the discipline. To be eligible, students must have successfully completed comprehensive exams, successfully defended dissertation proposal by October 1 of the semester that they accept the award, and be working in residence on their dissertation for the entire academic year. Student must be registered for at least 6 dissertation credits during the semester in which they accept the award, and students must maintain good standing in the program. This is an endowed award, funded by the UofA Foundation. The application process is described on a subsequent page of this document.

KORY FLOYD GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS (typically \$500-\$800)

Award for a current Communication graduate student in good standing and with a respectable GPA for *research productivity* in the area of *interpersonal communication*. The winner is selected based on published and presented professional work – journal articles, convention papers, book chapters, etc. Students are eligible to receive the award multiple times during the course of their graduate program. Rate of publication during the review period, the publication outlet (e.g., quality of journal), order of authorship, and extent of contribution will be considered. To apply, submit a maximum one-page letter of application outlining accomplishments in research productivity in interpersonal communication, along with an updated CV (in pdf form). Reward recipients are asked to send a thank you letter to the donors.

ED DONNERSTEIN MEDIA RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (typically \$500-\$800)

Funding awarded for research-related expenses for a research project on mass communication (broadly defined – many elements of new technology research, media-based health campaigns, etc., will be considered). This is an endowed award, funded by the UofA Foundation. Applicants must be full-time graduate students majoring in communication and pursuing research in media, with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. The committee will evaluate each applicant based on academic merit, financial need, and/or other relevant measurable qualities. Award may also support travel for research. Award recipient(s) are not eligible for renewal consideration during the same academic year. However, they can reapply in subsequent years. Additional information regarding eligible research expenses and application procedures is described on a subsequent page of this document.

MARGARET HICKEY FELLOWSHIP (typically \$500-\$800) for women graduate students in the field of communication

Awarded for outstanding academic performance in the classroom during the preceding academic year; based primarily on scholarship in terms of GPA. This is an endowed award, funded by the UofA Foundation. The criteria stipulate that the award recipient must be a female graduate student in the field of Communication. Applications are NOT required for this award.

JOSÉ SPRIGG FELLOWSHIP (typically \$500-1000)

This award is in honor to the memory of an alumnus of the Department of Communication MA program. José Sprigg touched many lives and was dedicated to service in many forms during his life. In his memory, this award will be given to one graduate student who demonstrates outstanding academic performance *and* who is also dedicated to service, broadly defined. Applicants must be an enrolled graduate student in the Department of Communication at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and have a minimum of 3.25 GPA. To apply, the graduate student must self-nominate by writing a letter (1-2 pages) detailing their academic accomplishments *and* their commitment to service at any level: community, university/college, department, and/or discipline. Successful applicants will convincingly argue how their service informs their academic interests and/or vice versa. Finalists will be selected by the graduate committee, and the finalists' advisors will be asked to provide a letter to support the nomination. Please go to <https://financialaid.arizona.edu/ScholarshipUniverse> and create/submit your student profile. You will be matched to the José Sprigg Fellowship by being a COMM grad student with a minimum GPA of 3.25.

Important Notes for All Awards:

When asked to submit a CV, please make sure it is current, that all cites are in APA style, and that the "publications" sections include *only* work that is published or "in press." Work that is under review or in progress should be in a separate "work in progress" section (or similar). Conference presentations should get their own section.

Any files you submit should have your NAME as part of the FILE name (e.g., SmithCV.pdf, not CV.pdf). If you don't provide us with the information to make an informed decision on your candidacy for an award, you probably won't win. Everything should have a date on it.

Although only one award has a request that the recipient write a letter of thanks to the donor, the Department considers this practice a good one, especially when the donor is known.

Finally, not every award is given every year. If you don't receive an award in one year, try again the next!

ED DONNERSTEIN MEDIA RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP:

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Work for a thesis or dissertation is eligible, as is independent work, or collaborative work with a faculty member, so long as you (the student) are the lead on the project.

The application will require:

- A summary of your project. This should be a maximum 4 double-spaced pages (not including references) and should include a brief rationale for the project as well as some preliminary description of method, analysis, and expected deliverables (e.g., will you get a conference paper? a publication? out of the project).
- An itemized budget. The budget does not need to be in any specific format, but it should detail specific expenses related to doing the project, the actual costs, and the total amount being requested.
- A budget justification. This should be a 1-2 paragraph explanation which connects the project description and the budget (e.g., if you are studying a specific population and need to travel to reach that population, the budget justification would fill in the dots for why and how you will be traveling and how you estimated costs for travel).

This award does *not* fund salary or personal living expenses, and it can't pay your cell phone bill even if you are using your phone to call respondents. It doesn't cover travel to *conferences* (but it could cover travel to a *research site*). It can cover most other things that are legitimate expenses related to actually performing research. You can purchase equipment with the money; however, you would not OWN the equipment – it would become the property of the department at whatever point you completed the research study (note – software is not equipment). You can pay subjects (e.g., with gift cards) using this money. The maximum amount you may request is \$1000, but the actual reward amount may vary. Joint applications are allowed, i.e., two students collaborating on a project should submit a single joint application.

This application should be submitted as a single PDF email attachment with four sections (Project Summary, References, Budget, Budget Justification).

CHRIS SEGRIN DISSERTATION AWARD (PHD)

The Dissertation Award in the Department of Communication at the University of Arizona recognizes excellence in graduate student performance. This award facilitates completion of the dissertation by aiding in research expenses. Note: Individuals may receive the dissertation award in addition to other awards (e.g., a media research dissertation might be eligible for both the dissertation award and the Donnerstein award).

There are three key criteria for selecting the successful applicant:

- (1) demonstrated excellence in scholarship and research activity
- (2) promise of successfully completing dissertation work that will yield a broad and meaningful contribution to the social scientific study of communication phenomena
- (3) specific expenses that will be incurred in performing the dissertation research (this should be clear in the proposal)

Eligibility

To apply, students must: (a) have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy by August 1 of the academic year in which the award is given (i.e., successful completion of comprehensive exams), (b) be working in residence on their dissertation for the entire academic year in which the award is given, and (c) be enrolled in 9 units of dissertation credits (total of 18 units). Students who meet these criteria are strongly urged to apply. Questions about eligibility should be addressed to the Graduate Coordinator. These eligibility requirements cannot be waived.

Application Process

A *completed* application must be received by the Graduate Coordinator via email attachment no later than the application deadline. The application should consist of the following; the first three should be submitted as a single PDF file arranged in the specified order; the letter can be delivered separately direct from the faculty recommender.

1. **A letter of application.** The letter of application should be no longer than **one** page (single spaced) and should address the applicant's progress to date in the graduate program (e.g., coursework completion, comprehensive exam status), and how the award will benefit the applicant.
2. **A dissertation proposal overview.** The proposal overview should be a narrative description of the dissertation and should not exceed 4 double-spaced pages (excluding references). The proposal should be organized into the following sections: (a) background and theoretical foundation of the proposed research, (b) significance of the research (implications for & contribution to the discipline), (c) design and procedures, and (d) time frame for the completion of the project. The proposal should be written in language that is accessible to a broad audience of communication scholars. A reference list should follow the proposal overview and does not count as part of the page limit.
3. **Budget itemization and justification.** The budget does not need to be in any specific format, but it should detail specific expenses related to doing the project, the actual costs, and the total amount being requested.
4. **Curriculum vitae.**
5. **One letter of recommendation.** One letter of endorsement from a faculty member in the Communication Department is required (this should be the dissertation advisor except under unusual circumstances). The recommender should comment on the student's academic progress to date, the merits of the dissertation, the likelihood of its completion during the subsequent year and the student's likelihood of gaining suitable employment following completion of the project. Applicants should provide a copy of the proposal to the recommender with enough time for the recommender to write a letter. Letters should be submitted directly to the graduate coordinator by the **application deadline**. Email submission is encouraged.