Our distinguished faculty prepares qualified students for careers in quantitative communication research and teaching within and beyond higher education. The curriculum examines interpersonal, intercultural, mass, political, health, and developmental communication. We offer courses on digital technologies, including social media, video-games research, computer-mediated communication, and persuasive technologies. Training in computational social science (“big data,” agent-based modeling) and network analysis is available.

"My program helped me explore and develop my true potential. I especially cherish the chance to discuss and brainstorm my ideas with some of the most prolific researchers in the field today.”

Saif Ahmed
(PhD, UC Davis, 2018), Assistant Professor at Nanyang Technological University

Graduate Classes
201. Theor Perspectives on Comm
202. Comm Theory Construction
204. Biological Foundations of Comm
210. Experimental Methods
211. Survey Research Methods
212. Web Science Research Methods
213. Simulation Methods in Comm Res
214. Analysis of Comm Networks
220. Persuasion Theories
221. Communication and Cognition
222. Risk Communication
230. Social Interaction Theory and Res
231. Tactics in Interpersonal Influence
232. Health Communication
233. Persuasive Technologies for Health
234. Intercultural Communication
235. Health Communication Campaigns
243. Media and Health
244. Organizational Communication
250. Mediated Comm Theory and Res
251. Digital Tech & Social Change
252. Computer-Mediated Comm
253. Children, Adolescents, & Media
254. Communication Campaigns
255. Social Media
256. Comm Persp on Video Games
259. Cognitive Approaches to Media
260. Political Communication
270. Diffusion of Innovations
271. Communication Networks
275Y. Computational Social Science
why our program?

Instruction is provided in small seminars. We emphasize the technologies that are transforming human communication. Students become productive, publishing scholars through collaborative partnerships with faculty. They become proficient teachers through training and individualized coaching. Our community of faculty and students is supportive and multicultural.

why UC Davis?

UC Davis, one of the nation’s top-ranked public universities, is renowned worldwide for its innovative programs, exceptional faculty, and ground-breaking research. The city of Davis is the quintessential college town, yet provides quick access to the urban amenities offered by Sacramento and San Francisco, as well as the natural wonders of northern California.

funding

The program has been able to provide all graduate students with funding through teaching assistantships or fellowships. Funds for research and conference travel are available.

contact us!

Stephanie Fallas, Graduate Coordinator (sfallas@ucdavis.edu)
Dr. Drew Cingel, Graduate Advisor (dcingel@ucdavis.edu)

apply online: https://grad.ucdavis.edu/apply

Undergraduates can apply directly to the doctoral program even though they have not yet earned a Master’s degree.

CJ Calabrese (PhD, class of 2021): “The program has been very supportive to our development as researchers in the field. Its collaborative environment has provided opportunities to work with multiple professors, gain valuable research insight and experience, and publish in peer-reviewed journals.”

Michael Carter (PhD, class of 2021): “From instructing on hard and soft professional skills to providing outstanding mentorship, this program has taken me from the basics of quantitative research to pursuing my own research program.”

Program Faculty

JAEOH Cho Professor (PhD, Wisconsin)
Political communication

Drew Cingel Associate professor (PhD, Northwestern)
Children, adolescents, and media

BO Feng Professor & Chair (PhD, Purdue)
Interpersonal and cross-cultural communication

Seth Frey Associate professor (PhD, Indiana)
Communication & human decision; computational social science

Heather J. Hether Associate professor (PhD, USC)
Health communication; digital pedagogy

Martin Hilbert Professor (PhD, USC; PhD, FAU)
Mathematical modeling of complex systems

Richard Huskey Associate professor (PhD, UCSB)
Media psychology; cognitive neuroscience

Soojong Kim Assistant professor (PhD, Penn)
AI and society, social media

Jorge pena Full professor (PhD, Cornell)
Computer-mediated communication; virtual reality

Jeanette B. Ruiz Associate professor (PhD, UCD) Internet governance; pedagogy

Cuihua (Cindy) Shen Full professor (PhD, UCD) Online social networks

Laramie D. Taylor Professor (PhD, USC) Online social networks

Narine S. Yegiyan Associate professor (PhD, Michigan) Media processes and effects

Magdalena Wojcieszak Professor (PhD, Penn) Political communication; public opinion

Jingwen Zhang Associate professor (PhD, Penn)
Persuasive technologies for health