

our focus



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

Doctoral studies in Communication



communication.ucdavis.edu



“My experience studying communication in this program was truly exceptional. I was fortunate to meet incredibly supportive mentors and peers. I’m grateful of being part of a community that fosters research excellence, which has been instrumental in advancing my academic career.” Erika Oh (PhD, UC Davis, 2023), Assistant Professor at Michigan State



“Under faculty guidance, I was able to publish papers, present research at conferences, teach undergraduate courses, receive training at the University of Oxford’s Internet Institute, and intern at Facebook.”
Grace Benefield (PhD, UC Davis, 2018) Data analyst at Meta



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

- JAEHO 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 PEÑA** 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, USC) *Online social networks*
- LARAMIE D. TAYLOR** Professor (PhD, Michigan) *Media processes and effects*
- NARINE S. YEGIYAN** Associate professor (PhD, Indiana) *Biological foundation of message processing*
- MAGDALENA WOJCIESZAK** Professor (PhD, Penn) *Political communication; public opinion*
- JINGWEN ZHANG** Associate professor (PhD, Penn) *Persuasive technologies for health*