

Application for Admission

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The College of Communication offers graduate programs of study leading to the Master of Science (MS) and the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degrees in the following major areas:

Department of Film & Television

MFA Film

Film Production Program

Screenwriting Program

Film Studies Program

MS Television Production

MS Media Ventures

MBA/MS Media Ventures

Department of Journalism

MS Broadcast Journalism

MS Business & Economics Journalism

MS Journalism

MS Photojournalism

MS Science Journalism

Department of Mass Communication, Advertising & Public Relations

MS Mass Communication

Communication Research

Communication Studies

MS Advertising

MS Public Relations

JD/MS Mass Communication Program

and the Law Degree Program with the School of Law

The graduate degree programs are open to qualified men and women who have earned a bachelor's degree from a fully accredited college or university in this country or abroad. Applicants are not required to have experience in communications industries or in the academic areas of the department concerned. Students from the fields of humanities, sciences, and social sciences are generally preferred.

The Admissions Committee, composed of representatives of the faculty, evaluates the completed application and makes decisions regarding admission to the program. Emphasis is placed on the applicant's demonstrated scholastic ability, writing samples, supporting credentials, intellectual capacity for graduate study in communications, and career potential in the communications field.

All programs are described fully in this bulletin.

Students may only apply to one program per year.

Admissions Timetable

All application materials **must be received** at the Graduate Admissions office of the College of Communication by **February 1**.

Admission may be deferred for one year from the date of acceptance; however, it is the candidate's responsibility to request such a deferral and to notify the College of Communication Graduate Admissions office in writing. Please note that the College does not have an automatic deferment policy. All students who defer are reconsidered with the following year's applicant pool. If the College does not hear from an applicant regarding deferment, the assumption will be made that he or she has withdrawn. Applications are kept on file for two years, after which credentials are discarded.

Application Requirements

A complete application, due **February 1**, will include the following:

1. A completed online Application for Admission.
2. A nonrefundable application fee of \$70 for the online application (www.bu.edu/com/grad). The application fee is an application processing fee, not an application consideration fee. It is nonrefundable.
3. Official transcript(s) of applicant's academic record from each of the colleges,

universities, and graduate schools (if any) attended. College seniors should have transcript(s) sent as soon as grades for the first term of the senior year are available. A final transcript will be required of seniors, after they have been admitted to the College, in order to certify completion of undergraduate degree requirements. Transcripts are required from each college attended, whether or not the student was enrolled in a degree program. All transcripts must be in English, or an official translation in English, accompanied by the original transcript.

4. Three letters of recommendation written by persons who know the applicant well, preferably professors and/or employers. **Letters must come from the recommender in a signed and sealed envelope or online via the online Application at www.embarc.com**
5. Official results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Dual Degree MS/MBA Media Ventures applicants must take the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) instead of the GRE. Students applying to the JD/MS Mass Communication program must take the LSAT. Tests must be taken within four years of application. Results must be sent directly from the testing center. Application will not be considered complete without **official** test results. Test scores must also **be received by February 1**. International students please see International Student Section for specific test requirements.
6. Admissions/writing requirements (see "Instructions for Applicants" section of the Application for the requirements specific to each degree or visit our website, www.bu.edu/com/grad).

International Students

The College of Communication is highly intensive in both written and oral communication. Therefore we require that students who wish to apply, whose native language is not English, submit both the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and GRE tests to the COM Graduate Services office.

However, if a student has completed three to four years of an undergraduate degree program in English, or has completed one or more years of a Master's degree program taught in English, the student does not have to take the TOEFL, just the GRE. A proficiency examination is an absolute requirement; no application from any student will be considered without the results of one of these tests.

There are minimum TOEFL scores that the applicant must meet in order to be considered. Please see the College of Communication Graduate Services office website for further details. Official translations of all transcripts and other credentials must be furnished if the original documents are in a language other than English.

To make arrangements to take the TOEFL, write to:

Test of English as a Foreign Language
Box 899
Princeton, New Jersey 08540 U.S.A.

An applicant who is not a citizen of the United States must submit (in addition to the material previously listed) an International Student Data Form. This form must be submitted by every foreign student who does not hold a permanent resident (immigrant) visa in the United States.

In addition, international graduate students must certify that they will have at least \$56,000 available to cover tuition and living expenses for each year of the graduate program without depending on the University for any type of aid. A married student must have a minimum of \$63,000 available. Financial documentation must be filed before Boston University will issue any visa documents.

If you are being supported by a parent, relative, organization, or company, we need an official letter from your sponsor stating a willingness to support you financially for academic studies and living expenses while attending Boston University. This should be in the form of a bank statement or a credit reference for the amount of the tuition and living expenses. All documents must be originals, not copies. This certification must be in

English and must state the exact amount of your support in U.S. dollars.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

In certain instances a maximum of eight semester credits may be accepted from other universities' graduate programs with the approval of the appropriate department chair. At the discretion of the department, credits may be granted or course requirements waived. This will be done sparingly, if at all.

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Most students want to meet the appropriate faculty, chair, and administrators and see the College of Communication firsthand. You may contact the appropriate person for an informational interview; this interview is not part of the evaluation process or admission requirements.

The faculty of individual programs may request that an applicant meet with them prior to the admission decision. Notification of such an interview does not indicate acceptance.

ADMISSION TESTS

All Programs

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) provides the Admissions Committee with a standardized measure of an applicant's ability to do graduate-level academic work. The GRE aptitude test contains sections designed to measure verbal, quantitative, and analytical ability. The test is administered at numerous locations in the United States and abroad. A candidate is urged to take the test well in advance of the closing date for applications. Allow six to eight weeks for the results to be available to the University. If you are an international applicant, please read the International Student section for specific information. For GRE information, contact Graduate Record Examinations, Educational Testing Services, P.O. Box 6000, Princeton, NJ 08541-5000; 609-771-7670. Our GRE code is 7090.

MS/MBA Only

The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) provides the Admissions Committee with a standardized measure of aptitude

for graduate study in management. The test contains questions designed to measure the ability to read, comprehend, and reason logically with both verbal and quantitative material. It does not measure knowledge in specific subject matters. Applicants are urged to take the GMAT well in advance of the closing date for applications. Allow six to eight weeks before the results are available to the College.

JD/MS Only

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

is designed to measure certain mental abilities important in the study of law and, thus, to aid law schools in assessing the academic promise of their applicants. The test covers a broad range of academic disciplines and is intended to give no advantage to candidates from a particular academic background. The questions yielding the LSAT score are designed to measure the ability to read, understand, and reason.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

is required of all applicants who did not study at an English-speaking school. Please see our website for TOEFL minimum score requirements. The test is administered and cosponsored by the Educational Testing Service and the College Entrance Examination Board. The TOEFL is given in a single morning session. It is divided into five parts: listening comprehension, English structure, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing ability. Each part measures an important language skill. Your score will be evaluated according to Boston University admission requirements and the level of study you plan to undertake.

This examination is scheduled periodically throughout the year. Applicants should therefore take care to register for the examination in time for the scores to reach this office before the various application deadlines. Please allow 6–8 weeks for results of paper and pencil tests and two weeks for computerized results.

To make arrangements to take the TOEFL, write to:

Test of English as a Foreign Language
Box 899
Princeton, NJ 08540 U.S.A.

Our TOEFL code is 3245.

All official test scores must be received by February 1. Please plan your test accordingly.