Program Description

This online Master’s degree in Health Communication targets health care and public health professionals who seek an advanced degree to enhance their career, graduates from social science programs who wish to specialize in health communication, and individuals who want the master’s degree as a step toward applying to a doctoral program.

Students can study the relationship between communication and health in interpersonal (e.g., family communication and health, doctor-patient communication, social networks and social support), organizational (e.g., communication about health care reform, health delivery systems and communication patterns, health care teams and decision making), and mediated contexts (e.g., health persuasion and campaigns, the influence of media on health attitudes and behaviors, health informatics).

Admission Requirements

Official Transcripts
From every post-secondary institution you have attended. Applicants must have been awarded a comparable bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution in the United States or from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad. A grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (A=4.0), or comparable GPA for an international applicant, for the last two years of the undergraduate program is the minimum requirement for admission.

Three Letters of Recommendation
Preferably from recommenders in academic or professional positions

Statement of Purpose
A clear and compelling statement containing the following components:

- An explanation of your professional background in health care and the qualifications you bring to the HCOM program (if your experience with healthcare is not professional in nature, please explain why you are pursuing a degree in health communication)
- A description of your goals for your degree (why are you applying to HCOM? what will you do with an MS in health communication?)
- A brief summary of any relevant personal information or experiences that contribute to your desire to pursue an advanced degree in health communication (e.g., why are you passionate about studying health communication?)
- An identification (if applicable) of faculty members in the program whose research aligns with your professional interests

Current Resume

TOEFL Scores
Students whose native language is not English must present their official scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination with the required minimum scores: 611 on the paper-based test, 254 on the computer-based test, 103 on the Internet-based test (iBT).
Graduation requirements include a minimum of 32 credit hours, of which 28 must be in the Department of Communication.

Core classes include:

- Introduction to Health Communication
- Health Communication Research Methods 1 – required
- Health Communication Research Methods 2 – required
- Health and Family Communication
- Provider-Patient Communication
- Cultural Considerations in Healthcare
- Health Informatics
- Health Communication Organizations, Professions and Policy
- Successful Health Campaigns
- Capstone Individual Study - required