



August 2018

### Greeting to Prospective Graduate Students

On behalf of the faculty and students of Texas Christian University, welcome to the Department of Communication Studies! Pursuing a graduate degree is a big decision, and we look forward to answering any questions or inquiries you might have. Choosing the right graduate program typically involves thinking about the program's emphases, faculty mentors, research and teaching opportunities, departmental climate, location, and cost. With these considerations in mind, let me introduce our department to you in this letter.

TCU's mission is to educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in a global community. In our graduate program, we hope to further the university's mission statement by offering a close working and mentoring community. We focus intensely on a small number of in-residence graduate students, and our students develop fundamental understandings of communication theory and research. We offer a Master of Science degree in Communication Studies, with emphases in interpersonal and family communication, organizational communication, persuasion and health communication, and instructional communication. For a list of graduate courses, see <http://tcu.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/Graduate-Catalog/Courses/COMM-Communication-Studies> We are committed to the integration of these areas of study, and our students develop both the content knowledge and the research tools necessary for conducting independent research projects (e.g., a publishable academic study, a well-designed corporate attitude survey, or a communication audit).

All full-time faculty in Communication Studies are active in research, teaching, and service activities. For example, as of August 2018, ComAnalytics ([www.cios.org](http://www.cios.org)) cited TCU's Communication Studies faculty as having the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest mean number of publications per faculty among all master's level programs. Our program received the 2016 Outstanding Master's Degree Program Award from the National Communication Association. In recent years, faculty members have received numerous research and teaching awards, some of which include the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Masters Education Division of NCA, the Bernard J. Brommel Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Family Communication from NCA (2012), two TCU Dean's Awards for Research (2011, 2013), two Central States Communication Association's Outstanding New Teacher Awards (2006, 2011), and more than 40 Top Paper Awards from NCA and other regional associations. Most important, the faculty have established a tradition of teaching excellence and a departmental climate conducive to mentoring graduate students.

Our graduates are qualified to pursue further study toward advanced academic and professional degrees, or to take advantage of a wide variety of professional opportunities in business and communication industries, including human resources, training and development, digital analytics, public relations, corporate consulting, and managerial positions. Some of our graduates

also continue their education in well-established Ph.D. programs. Within the last five years, for example, we have placed students in doctoral programs at Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University, Arizona State University, and the Universities of Nebraska, Kentucky, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Most of our graduate students pay no tuition. We offer Graduate Teaching Assistantships that will pay tuition costs and, depending upon the award, a monthly stipend to help students with other expenses. Our GTAs are provided with office space, a computer lab, wireless internet access, travel support for conferences, and the opportunity to work in our basic communication course.

Fort Worth, Texas is a wonderfully vibrant place to live. It is the 17<sup>th</sup>-largest city in the United States, one of “America’s Most Livable Communities,” and rated as one of the Top 10 Cities for Young Professionals (rated 6<sup>th</sup> by Forbes). From the Historic Stockyards, to remarkable museums, to the famous Sundance Square which includes an array of shops and restaurants and is located less than 15 minutes from campus, Fort Worth is large enough to provide the amenities of a thriving metropolitan area, yet not so large that it loses its Texas charm and neighborly feel. Other entertainment and employment opportunities abound in the remaining cities located within the Fort Worth/Dallas metroplex, including a variety of theatres, museums, professional sports, shopping, and media outlets. For more information, check out: <http://www.fortworth.com/>

For more information, see <http://schieffercollege.tcu.edu/resources/graduate>  
To complete the application process, apply to TCU Graduate Studies at:  
<https://www.applyweb.com/tcug/index.ftl>

The deadline for fall admission is February 15<sup>th</sup> though assistantships are awarded as they are approved, so early applications are encouraged. Applications for admission should include an application form, a non-refundable application fee of \$60.00, official transcripts, official GRE test scores, an academic/professional objectives statement, and three letters of recommendation. *We look forward to hearing from you! Please feel free to contact me or other TCU faculty members for more information.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Paul Schrod".

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