



WAYNE STATE  
College of Fine, Performing  
and Communication Arts

## Department of Communication

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# Wayne State University Department of Communication Funding Opportunities and Guidelines for Assignment

## DOCTORAL FUNDING:

The Department of Communication has several funding opportunities for doctoral students:

- [Graduate Teaching Assistantships](#): Competitively selected by the Graduate Committee. GTAs are awarded based on the quality of application materials. Reserved almost entirely for PhD students; we do accept some MA application for students with skills in coaching competitive debate and speech.
- [Graduate Research Assistantships](#):
  - [Deans Diversity Fellowships](#): Awarded only to incoming MA and PhD students. Nominated by the department and college and competitively selected by the Graduate School. See the linked page for qualifications.
  - [Rumble Fellowships](#): Given to incoming students for recruitment or students in final year of work completing their dissertations. Competitively selected for nomination by the Graduate Committee based on the quality of the applications, student's good academic standing, and progress towards degree; awarded by the Graduate School.
  - [Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship](#): For last year of funding to complete dissertation writing. Competitively selected by WSU Humanities Center.
  - [Spring/Summer Doctoral Student Research Assistant Support Award](#): When available, call for applications will be emailed in Winter; competitively selected by Department based on the quality of the research proposal.
  - [Grant-funded positions](#): Selected at the discretion of the faculty member with the grant.

For competitively selected GRA positions, either student or faculty members can initiate the applications.

- [Graduate Student Assistantships](#): For specific service-heavy positions such as the Assistant Basic Course Director and production assistants with the Metro Arts Midtown studio and University TV; competitively selected by Graduate Committee in consultation with the directors of those programs and related area heads.

- University employees, as part of their benefits package, are eligible for tuition assistance. Details, requirements, and application information is [found here](#).
- PhD students who do not receive assistantships or employee tuition assistance also can apply for a [Graduate Professional Scholarship](#). Competitively selected for nomination to the Graduate School by the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts. Nominations are based on the quality of the application in meeting the qualifications for the award.

We encourage students to self-advocate for funding opportunities. It is difficult at the department level to ensure that every student gets an opportunity to apply for and receive awards.

Funding beyond a 4<sup>th</sup> year: Except in the case of faculty grant funded GRA positions, it is unusual for students to be awarded a fifth year of PhD funding from the department. Additional funding through a GTA or GSA position can occur in two situations. First, if students faced an extraordinary situation that disrupted their degree competition while on an assistantship, they may ask their faculty advisors to contact the director of graduate studies to make a petition for an additional year of funding. The petition will be taken to graduate committee for a vote, if an assistantship can be made available to the student. Second, an assistantship line might become available and we have no incoming doctoral students or other unfunded students to fill the position. In that situation, we will place a call for applications and the assistantship will be competitively selected by the graduate committee based on good academic standing and progress towards degree completion.

### **MASTERS FUNDING:**

The Department of Communication has several funding opportunities for master's students:

- [Graduate Teaching Assistantships](#): Competitively selected by the Graduate Committee. GTAs are awarded based on the quality of application materials. Reserved almost entirely for PhD students. We do accept MA application for students with skills in coaching competitive debate and speech.
- [Graduate Research Assistantships](#)
  - [Deans Diversity Fellowships](#): Only for incoming MA students. Competitively selected by the Graduate School based on nominations from the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts. Please see qualifications for the award in the provided link.
- [Graduate Student Assistants](#): MA students are considered for specific service-heavy positions such as production assistants with the Metro Arts Midtown studio and University TV, depending on their experience. They are competitively selected by Graduate Committee in consultation with the directors of those programs and related area heads.

Additional funding opportunities include:

- [Employee Tuition Assistance](#): University employees, as part of their benefits package, are eligible for tuition assistance. Details, requirements, and application information are [found here](#).
- [Graduate Professional Scholarship](#): Master's students who do not receive assistantships or employee tuition assistance also can apply for a Graduate Professional Scholarship. Competitively selected for nomination to the Graduate School by the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts. Nominations are based on the quality of the application in meeting the qualifications for the award.
- [Graduate School Master's Scholarship for Recruitment and Retention](#): Partial-tuition scholarships from the Graduate School are granted to WSU schools and colleges to help recruit and retain outstanding master's students. The Graduate School Masters Scholarship will pay for up to 4 credit hours of tuition at the in-state Graduate School rate for two consecutive semesters: Fall and Winter. Nominations are made by the departments and programs to their schools and colleges, which then submit nominations for review and approval by the Graduate School.
- [AGRADE Master's Scholarship](#): The AGRADE MA Scholarship is designed to recruit and reward AGRADE students who have graduated with their Bachelor's degree and are ready to enroll in their first Master's-only semester at Wayne State. AGRADE awards are made in May and December of each year. The AGRADE scholarship will pay for up to 4 credit hours of tuition at the in-state Graduate School rate for two consecutive semesters. For each application period, up to 10 master's students in each of the participating schools and colleges will receive this award.
- [Dean's Merit Scholarship](#): The Graduate School awards scholarships to international students entering two-year master's degree programs after completing a three-year bachelor's or diploma program in another country at an institution with which Wayne State University has a 3+2 agreement. Students may receive up to \$3,000 per semester towards their studies.

We encourage students to self-advocate for funding opportunities. It is difficult at the department level to ensure that every student gets an opportunity to apply for and receive awards.

### **Endowed Scholarships**

Master's students are eligible for two endowed scholarships awarded by the department. The awards are competitively selected by the Graduate Committee based on the quality of the application in meeting the qualifications for the awards.

- [Loepp Family Endowed Scholarship](#): The Loepp Family Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Communication fund is established to recognize scholastic achievement,

to encourage continued progress, and to aid students in financing their education in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. To be eligible, applicants must graduate students in the Department of Communication with demonstrated financial need (based on a completed FAFSA). Working professionals will be given priority. Information available in Academic Works ([wayne.academicworks.com](http://wayne.academicworks.com)) when the scholarship application period is open.

- Winifred Clephane Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Communication: This scholarship recognizes scholastic achievement, encourages continued progress, and provides financial assistance to students financing their education in the Department of Communication. Information available in Academic Works ([wayne.academicworks.com](http://wayne.academicworks.com)) when the scholarship application period is open.