

Mission

The mission of the Communication Department is to provide students with a broad understanding of human communication in various contexts, across diverse cultures, and through multiple systems. The Communication Department engages students in lifelong learning that addresses socially and globally pressing communication challenges through scholarly, creative, critical, and practical curriculum and instruction.

Academic Year 2024-25
Communication PhD Learning Outcomes

Goal 1- Theoretical Perspectives MET

Students will be able to identify, articulate, and critically evaluate the theoretical perspectives that guide international/intercultural communication research

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
PhD Goal 1 Outcome 1 - Committee Committee members' ratings of the student's abilities in the area of theory Direct - Other Target Avg. 4.0 on a 1 – 5 scale	MET PhD Goal 1 Outcome 1 - Committee Met Not Met  0%100% Met: 88% Not Met: 12% Met Total: 88% Not Met Total: 13% Analysis One faculty member rated a student's abilities in the area of theory as 2 on a 5-point scale, and another faculty member rated two students' abilities in theory as 3. All other ratings in this area were 4 or 5. Out of a total of 24 ratings, the average score was 4.69.	Maintain Assessment Strategy The data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job in meeting this goal.
PhD Goal 1 Outcome 2 - Comp theory Students will successfully pass the Theory portion of their comprehensive exam Direct - Other Target 80%	MET PhD Goal 1 Outcome 2 - Comp theory Met Not Met  0%100% Met: 83% Not Met: 17% Met Total: 83% Not Met Total: 17% Analysis A total of 6 students took their comprehensive exam last year and 5 of them successfully passed the Theory portion of the exam (i.e., 83%).	Maintain Assessment Strategy These results indicate that the program is doing an excellent job in meeting this goal.

PhD Goal 1 Outcome 3 - Comm 501 Overall grade distribution in Comm 501 Theoretical Perspectives in Communication. Direct - Assignment <i>Theoretical Perspectives in Communication: COMM 501</i> Target 80% of students will earn a grade of B or better.	NOT APPLICABLE Analysis Comm 501 was not offered in AY 2024-25. Its next offering will be in fall 2025.	Gather Additional Data Not Started Comm 501 was not offered in AY 2024-25. Its next offering will be in fall 2025. Recommended Due Date: 05/15/2026
--	---	---

Conclusion

The department is pleased with a high rate of passing the Theory portion of the exam. The student who did not pass the Theory portion plans to re-take the test in fall 2025.

Goal 2- Evaluate Research **MET**

Students will be able to identify, articulate, and critically evaluate the major areas of international/intercultural research

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
PhD Goal 2 Outcome 1 - Committee Committee members' ratings of the student's abilities in the area of international/intercultural research Direct - Other Target Avg. 4.0 on a 1 - 5 scale	MET PhD Goal 2 Outcome 1 - Committee ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Met: 83% Not Met: 17% Met Total: 83% Not Met Total: 17% Analysis One faculty member rated a student's abilities in this area as 2 on a 5-point scale, and two faculty members rated three students' abilities in this area as 3. All other ratings were 4 or 5. Out of a total of 24 ratings, the average score was 4.77.	Maintain Assessment Strategy These results suggest that the program is doing an excellent job meeting this goal.
PhD Goal 2 Outcome 2 - Comp international/intercultural Percentage of eligible students who successfully pass the international/intercultural section of their comprehensive exam. Direct - Other	MET PhD Goal 2 Outcome 2 - Comp international/intercultural ■ Met  0% 100%	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job in meeting this goal.

Target 80%	Values are not shown when too close to each other. Click or use arrow keys to see details. Met: 100% Met Total: 100% Not Met Total: Analysis A total of 6 students took their comprehensive exam last year, and all of them successfully passed this portion of the exam (i.e., 100%).	
PhD Goal 2 Outcome 3 - Comm 535 Overall grade distribution in Comm 535 Intercultural Communication. Direct - Assignment <i>Intercultural Communication: COMM 535</i> Target 80% of students will earn a grade of B or better.	MET PhD Goal 2 Outcome 3 - Comm 535 ■ Met  0% 100% Values are not shown when too close to each other. Click or use arrow keys to see details. Met: 100% Met Total: 100% Not Met Total: Analysis All 16 enrolled students in COMM 535 Intercultural Communication in AY 2024-25 attained a final letter grade of B or better.	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing a great job in meeting this goal.
PhD Goal 2 Outcome 4 - Comm 550 Overall grade distribution in Comm 550 International and Global Communication. Direct - Assignment <i>International and Global Communication: COMM 550</i> Target 80% of students will earn a grade of B or better.	NOT APPLICABLE Analysis COMM 550 was not offered in AY 2024-25. Its next offering will be in fall 2025.	Gather Additional Data Not Started COMM 550 was not offered in AY 2024-25. Its next offering will be in fall 2025. Recommended Due Date: 05/15/2026

Conclusion

- We are pleased with committees' evaluative ratings and students' perfect passing rate of the international/intercultural portion of comprehensive exams. We are hopeful that we will continue to see this positive trend in the future.
- COMM 535 is one of the core courses students take in the Ph.D. program. It is encouraging to see that students show a strong performance on international/intercultural areas.

Goal 3- Conduct Research **NOT MET**

Students will be able to conduct scientifically sound research in the area of international/intercultural communication

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
PhD Goal 3 Outcome 1 - Committee Committee members' ratings of the student's abilities to conduct sound research in the area of international/intercultural communication Direct - Other Target Avg. 4.0 on a 1 - 5 scale	MET PhD Goal 3 Outcome 1 - Committee ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Met: 83% Not Met: 17% Met Total: 83% Not Met Total: 17% Analysis One faculty member rated a student's abilities in this area as 2 on a 5-point scale, and two faculty members rated three students' abilities in this area as 3. All other ratings were 4 or 5. Out of a total of 24 ratings, the average score was 4.77	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job in meeting this goal.
PhD Goal 3 Outcome 2 - Defense % Percentage of eligible students who successfully defend their Ph.D. by 90 credits in the program Direct - Other Target 80%	NOT MET PhD Goal 3 Outcome 2 - Defense % ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Met: 20% Not Met: 80% Met Total: 20% Not Met Total: 80% Analysis Five students earned their Ph.D. degrees in AY 2024-25, and four of them did not complete the program within 90 credits.	Gather Additional Data Not Started The program fell short of this goal. The four students who did not obtain their doctoral degrees within 90 credits in AY 2024-25 experienced family-related circumstances that delayed their graduation plans. Therefore, we believe this outcome reflects individual-specific situations rather than a systemic issue within the department. We are optimistic that future cohorts will be able to graduate on time. Recommended Due Date: 05/15/2026

Conclusion

Although faculty members' ratings of students' ability to conduct scientifically sound research in international/intercultural communication met the target, there is still room for improvement. While we cannot control students' family-related circumstances, we will continue to closely monitor this learning goal and its outcomes moving forward.

Goal 4- Publish Research **NOT MET**

Students will be able to publish scholarly research in international/ intercultural communication in well-respected outlets

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
PhD Goal 4 Outcome 1 – Conference Submission Submit a conference abstract or paper: Track the total number of conference abstract and paper submissions each year. Indirect - Other Target Approximately 50% of students enrolled in the program will submit a conference abstract or paper.	NOT MET PhD Goal 4 Outcome 1 – Conference Submission Met Not Met  0% 100% Met: 29% Not Met: 71% Met Total: 29% Not Met Total: 71% Analysis Out of 24 enrolled PhD students in AY 2024-25, 7 of them (29%) submitted conference abstracts or papers.	Gather Additional Data Not Started The program fell short of this goal. With several faculty members' recent success with external grants and many doctoral students assisting grant-funded projects, we are hopeful that we will see an increase in conference abstract/paper submissions in the next year. Recommended Due Date: 05/15/2026
PhD Goal 4 Outcome 2 – Conference Presentation Have a conference abstract or paper accepted to present: Track the total number of conference abstract and paper acceptance each year. Indirect - Other Target Approximately 30% of students enrolled in the program will have a conference abstract or paper accepted to present.	NOT MET PhD Goal 4 Outcome 2 – Conference Presentation Met Not Met  0% 100% Met: 17% Not Met: 83% Met Total: 17% Not Met Total: 83% Analysis Out of 24 enrolled PhD students in AY 2024-25, 4 of them (17%) had their conference abstracts or papers accepted.	Gather Additional Data Not Started The program fell short of this goal; however, the data indicate an improvement compared to last year, with an increase from 14% to 17%. Given several faculty members' recent success in securing external grants and the involvement of many doctoral students in grant-funded projects, we are hopeful that the number of conference abstract and paper acceptances will continue to rise in the coming year. Recommended Due Date: 05/15/2026

PhD Goal 4 Outcome 3 – Journal Submission Submit a journal article to a peer-reviewed journal: Track the total number journal submissions each year. Indirect - Other Target Approximately 20% of students enrolled in the program will submit a journal article.	MET PhD Goal 4 Outcome 3 – Journal Submission ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Met: 21% Not Met: 79% Met Total: 21% Not Met Total: 79% Analysis Out of 24 enrolled PhD students in AY 2023-24, 5 of them (21%) submitted journal articles to peer-reviewed journals.	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing a good job in meeting this goal. Particularly, the data indicate a significant improvement compared to last year, increasing from 9% to 21%. Similar to the outcome related to conference abstract and paper submissions and acceptances, we will continue to monitor this outcome in the coming year.
PhD Goal 4 Outcome 4 – Journal Publication Have a journal article published: Track the total number of student publications each year. Indirect - Other Target Approximately 10% of students enrolled in the program will have a journal article published.	MET PhD Goal 4 Outcome 4 – Journal Publication ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Met: 17% Not Met: 83% Met Total: 17% Not Met Total: 83% Analysis Out of 24 enrolled PhD students in AY 2024-25, 4 of them (17%) published a journal article in a peer-reviewed journal.	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing a good job in meeting this goal. Particularly, the data indicate a significant improvement compared to last year, with an increase from 5% to 17%. It is encouraging that students successfully published journal articles in high-quality peer-reviewed journals. As noted in other goals, we will continue to monitor this outcome in the coming year.

Conclusion

Graduate faculty in the Department of Communication revised the learning outcomes related to publishing research in Fall 2023. This report, which summarizes student learning outcomes for AY 2024–25, is the second to use the updated outcome measures. Although the program fell short of all four targets, the results have improved compared to last year, and we believe we are moving in the right direction.

Goal 5- Ethics **MET**

Students will be able appropriately apply ethical guidelines to international/intercultural communication research

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
PhD Goal 5 Outcome 1 - Committee	MET PhD Goal 5 Outcome 1 - Committee ■ Met ■ Not Met	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job meeting this goal.

Committee members' ratings of the student's abilities to apply ethical guidelines in the area of international/intercultural communication Direct - Other Target Avg. 4.0 on a 1 - 5 scale	0%100% Met: 88% Not Met: 12% Met Total: 88% Not Met Total: 13% Analysis One faculty member rated a student's abilities in this area as 2, and rated two other students' abilities as 3 on a 5-point scale. All remaining ratings were 5. Out of a total of 24 ratings, the average score was 4.88.	
PhD Goal 5 Outcome 2 - IRB Success rate of students obtaining Institutional Review Board authority to conduct their research (when appropriate) Indirect - Other Target 80%	MET PhD Goal 5 Outcome 2 - IRB Met 0%100% Values are not shown when too close to each other. Click or use arrow keys to see details. Met: 100% Met Total: 100% Not Met Total: Analysis A total of seven students submitted the IRB applications last year and all of them successfully received the approvals (i.e., 100%).	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job in meeting this goal.

Conclusion

Although we are satisfied with this outcome, there have been many on-going conversations about the impacts of generative AI on writing and conducting research. We will want to continue to monitor how our students perform on outcome, as we witness the changes brought by generative AI.

Goal 6- Grant Proposals **MET**

Students will be able to write competitive grant proposals in the areas of international/intercultural communication

MEASURES	RESULTS	ACTIONS
PhD Goal 6 Outcome 1 - Identification Identify funders and/or grant opportunities: Committee members ratings of the student's	MET PhD Goal 6 Outcome 1 - Identification Met Not Met	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job meeting this goal.

ability to identify relevant funders and/or grant opportunities. Direct - Other Target A mean score of 4.0 or higher on a 5-point scale.	 0% 100% Met: 88% Not Met: 12% Met Total: 88% Not Met Total: 13% Analysis Some students were rated below 3 on a 5-point scale for their ability to identify relevant funders and grant opportunities (one score of 1, one of 2, and one of 3), while all other ratings were 4 or 5. Out of 24 total ratings, the average score was 4.72.	
PhD Goal 6 Outcome 2 – Writing Proposals Write competitive grant proposals including conceptual framework, intellectual merit, and broader impacts sections: Committee members ratings of the student's ability to write a competitive grant proposal. Direct - Other Target A mean score of 4.0 or higher on a 5-point scale.	MET PhD Goal 6 Outcome 2 – Writing Proposals Met Not Met  0% 100% Met: 88% Not Met: 12% Met Total: 88% Not Met Total: 13% Analysis Three students received ratings below 3 on a 5-point scale for their ability to write competitive grant proposals, while all other ratings were 4 or 5. Out of a total of 24 ratings, the average score was 4.58.	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job meeting this goal.
PhD Goal 6 Outcome 3 – Developing Budget Develop a realistic and justifiable grant budget: Committee members' ratings of the student's ability to develop a realistic and justifiable grant budget. Direct - Other Target A mean score of 4.0 or higher on a 5-point scale.	MET PhD Goal 6 Outcome 3 – Developing Budget Met Not Met  0% 100% Met: 88% Not Met: 12% Met Total: 88% Not Met Total: 13% Analysis Three students received ratings below 3 on a 5-point scale for their ability to write competitive grant proposals, while all	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing an excellent job meeting this goal.

	other ratings were 4 or 5. Out of a total of 24 ratings, the average score was 4.65.	
PhD Goal 6 Outcome 4 – Completing Grant Proposals Submit a full grant proposal: Track the total number of grant proposal submissions each year. Indirect - Other Target Approximately 10% of students enrolled in the program will submit a full grant proposal.	MET PhD Goal 6 Outcome 4 – Completing Grant Proposals ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Met: 17% Not Met: 83% Met Total: 17% Not Met Total: 83% Analysis Out of 24 PhD students enrolled in AY 2024–25, 4 students (17%) submitted a total of 10 grant proposals.	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing a strong job in meeting this goal. Particularly, there has been an improvement from last year, with an increase from 14% to 17%. This positive outcome reflects the recent success of several faculty members in securing external grants and their strong mentorship of doctoral students.
PhD Goal 6 Outcome 5 – Awarded Be awarded a grant: Track the total number of funded grant proposal and total amount each year. Indirect - Other Target Approximately 5% of students enrolled in the program will have a funded grant proposal.	MET PhD Goal 6 Outcome 5 – Awarded ■ Met ■ Not Met  0% 100% Met: 13% Not Met: 87% Met Total: 13% Not Met Total: 88% Analysis Out of 24 PhD students enrolled in AY 2024–25, 3 students (13%) received a total of 9 grants.	Maintain Assessment Strategy These data suggest that the program is doing a good job of meeting this goal. We are pleased with the strong success rate and hopeful that this positive trend will continue in the future.

Conclusion

Overall, the program is pleased with students' strong performance in grant applications. The recent success of several faculty members in securing external grants appears to have had a positive impact on preparing students to pursue their own grant opportunities effectively.