

C&IS PhD Writing Sample Guidelines

A writing sample is required of applicants to the PhD program in Communication & Information Sciences. The writing sample provides an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to produce doctoral-level writing. The preferred paper to submit is one closely related to the field of study/concentration area you wish to pursue. A single-authored paper is preferred. However, first-authored writing sample are accepted. Should you submit an item written collaboratively, all writers' names should be included with your name highlighted, along with a memo explaining your contribution to the work.

We are interested in seeing a paper that is thesis-driven, presents your ideas clearly, and uses evidence effectively. Ideas should be credited appropriately through citations for quoted material as well as ideas taken from others. We are asking for a short sample of 5-10 pages. It is possible that you will need to either extract pages from an existing essay or condense a longer paper to fit the page limit. If you do not have an existing or reworkable sample, you may create a new document focused to the application purpose. If that is the case, please write a double-spaced, five to ten-page paper on any topic that uses evidence to support an argument, uses citations where appropriate, and is clearly written. Please remember to be specific. A paper that focuses a discrete topic using a clear and limited set of evidence will be more effective than one that attempts to make a large claim that may be difficult to substantiate.

The writing sample must have a cover sheet and proper identification. The cover sheet must have your full name and specify the program to which you are applying, the "PhD in Communication & Information Sciences."

The writing sample must be in English.