# **Communication and Advocacy, M.A.**

# **James Madison University**

# **Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies Application**

# **Instructions:**

This application must be submitted concurrently with an application for admission to the Master of Arts program in Communication and Advocacy at James Madison University. To apply to the M.A. program go to: <https://www.applyweb.com/apply/jmug/index.html>.

All applicants for graduate assistantships should demonstrate an interest in teaching communication studies, the maturity to assist faculty responsibly, an ability to work with students effectively, and the organizational skills essential to balancing academic and graduate assistantship duties.

There are four different types of graduate assistantships in Communication Studies:

1. Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies – Instructional Support for SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations
2. Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the JMU Communication Center
3. Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the JMU Debate Team (must have a valid driver’s license)
4. Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the JMU Speech Team (must have a valid driver’s license)

*We are seeking your original words that describe your learning and professional experiences. Therefore, failing to disclose the use of generative Artificial Intelligence in your application may disqualify you for an assistantship. Include attributions to generative A.I. in your essay as you would any other references.*

Save your completed application as a PDF and upload it with your application materials.

# **Applicant Information:**

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Permanent Address:

U.S. Citizen:  Yes  No State of Permanent Residency:

Undergraduate Degree Earned (e.g. B.A., B.S.):

Undergraduate Degree Granting Institution:

Undergraduate Major(s):

Undergraduate Minor(s):

Which of the following assistantships would you like to be considered? Please read each of the assistantship descriptions that follow prior to checking all that apply:

Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies – Instructional Support for SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations

Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the JMU Communication Center

Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the JMU Debate Team (must have a valid driver’s license)

Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the JMU Speech Team (must have a valid driver’s license)

# **Application Essay for Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies**

# Graduate assistantships can be valuable opportunities for professional development. Students who apply and are awarded with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies will serve in a support role to SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations and will be responsible for facilitating two recitation (lab) sections of SCOM 123 each week during the fall and spring semesters during the first year of the program. Graduate assistants in good academic standing and who have performed satisfactorily in their role during the first year will be promoted to Teaching Assistants during the section year of the program and will be responsible for independently teaching two sections of SCOM 123 during the fall and spring semesters. Students with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies are required to attend a weekly class meeting of SCOM 502 Teaching Fundamental Human Communication every semester.

## **SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication - Course Description:**

Study of human communication as a process. Overview of the principles and practices of communication in small group and public communication contexts. Emphasis on examining the role of self-concept, perception, culture, verbal and nonverbal dimensions in the communication process, using power and managing conflict, applying critical listening, practicing audience analysis, and constructing informative and persuasive presentations. Public speaking required.

Applicants for graduate assistantships should demonstrate an interest in teaching communication studies, the maturity to assist faculty responsibly, an ability to work with students effectively, and the organizational skills essential to balancing academic and graduate assistant duties. In the following space, describe relevant experiences that demonstrate these qualities (*Limit: 200 words*):

# **Application Essay:**

# **Application Essay for Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication and the James Madison University Communication Center**

# Graduate assistantships can be valuable opportunities for professional development. Students who apply and are awarded with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies and the [JMU Communication Center](https://www.jmu.edu/learning/commcenter/index.shtml?jmu_redir=r_commcenter) will serve in a support role to SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations and will be responsible for facilitating 1 recitation (lab) section of SCOM 123 each week during the fall and spring semesters during the first year of the program and work 10 hours per week in the [Communication Center](https://www.jmu.edu/learning/commcenter/index.shtml?jmu_redir=r_commcenter) as a tutor. Graduate assistants in good academic standing and who have performed satisfactorily in their role during the first year will be promoted to Teaching Assistants during the section year of the program and will be responsible for independently teaching one section of SCOM 123 during the fall and spring semesters and working 10 hours per week in the Communication Center as a tutor. Students with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies are required to attend a weekly class meeting of SCOM 502 Teaching Fundamental Human Communication every semester.

## **SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication - Course Description:**

Study of human communication as a process. Overview of the principles and practices of communication in small group and public communication contexts. Emphasis on examining the role of self-concept, perception, culture, verbal and nonverbal dimensions in the communication process, using power and managing conflict, applying critical listening, practicing audience analysis, and constructing informative and persuasive presentations. Public speaking required.

Applicants for graduate assistantships in the [Communication Center](https://www.jmu.edu/learning/commcenter/index.shtml?jmu_redir=r_commcenter) should demonstrate an interest in teaching communication studies, the maturity to assist faculty responsibly, an ability to work with students effectively, and the organizational skills essential to balancing academic and graduate assistant duties. Applicants should also demonstrate relevant experience and background with academic tutoring, one-on-one or small group instruction, digital communication, or your interest in learning and utilizing tutoring pedagogy that would enable you to contribute to the [Communication Center](https://www.jmu.edu/learning/commcenter/index.shtml?jmu_redir=r_commcenter)**.** In the following space, describe relevant experiences that demonstrate these qualities (*Limit: 200 words*):

# **Application Essay:**

# **Application for a Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the James Madison University Debate Team**

# Graduate assistantships can be valuable opportunities for professional development. Students who apply and are awarded with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies and the [JMU Debate Team](https://www.jmu.edu/debate/index.shtml) will serve in a support role to SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations and will be responsible for facilitating 1 recitation (lab) section of SCOM 123 each week during the fall and work 10 hours per week coaching the debate team. In the spring semester, G.A. will be responsible for coaching for 20 hours per week coaching the debate team. Graduate assistants in good academic standing and who have performed satisfactorily in their role during the first year will be promoted to Teaching Assistants during the section year of the program and will be responsible for independently teaching one section of SCOM 123 during the fall semester and coaching for 10 hours per week with the debate team. In the spring semester of their second year, debate assistants will work 20 hours per week with the debate team. Students with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies are required to attend a weekly class meeting of SCOM 502 Teaching Fundamental Human Communication every semester.

## **SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication - Course Description:**

Study of human communication as a process. Overview of the principles and practices of communication in small group and public communication contexts. Emphasis on examining the role of self-concept, perception, culture, verbal and nonverbal dimensions in the communication process, using power and managing conflict, applying critical listening, practicing audience analysis, and constructing informative and persuasive presentations. Public speaking required.

Working with the [JMU Debate team](https://www.jmu.edu/debate/index.shtml) includes the following responsibilities:

Provide coaching support to the Director and Assistant Director of the [JMU Debate Team](https://www.jmu.edu/debate/index.shtml), which may include, but is not limited to, offering weekly one-on-one student coaching, assisting with student arguments, providing support with tournament hosting, and completing other relevant team-related tasks.

* Attend weekly coach and team meetings (that do not conflict with students' required courses).
* Travel with the Debate Team to two weekend tournaments in the fall semester and two weekend tournaments in the spring semester, or equivalent number of tournaments. Judge and coach at these tournaments as a representative of the JMU Debate Team coaching staff.

Applicants for graduate assistantships forthe [debate team](https://www.jmu.edu/debate/index.shtml) should demonstrate experience competing in the NDT/CEDA format of debate. Graduate assistants for the debate team will be expected to fulfill judging commitments for JMU at policy debate tournaments, provide both pre-tournament and pre-round coaching, and contribute to team research projects.Further, applicants should demonstrate an interest in teaching communication studies, the maturity to assist faculty responsibly, an ability to work with students effectively, and the organizational skills essential to balancing academic and graduate assistant duties. In the following space, describe relevant experiences that demonstrate these qualities (*Limit: 200 words*):

Applicants must have a valid driver’s license to be eligible for the joint G.A. position with the debate team and will be expected to travel to debate tournaments twice per semester, which includes driving team members in a university van.

Do you have a valid U.S. driver’s license?  Yes  No

# **Application Essay:**

# **Application for a Joint Graduate Assistantship in Communication Studies and the James Madison University Speech Team**

# Graduate assistantships can be valuable opportunities for professional development. Students who apply and are awarded with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies and the JMU Speech Team will serve in a support role to SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations and will be responsible for facilitating 1 recitation (lab) section of SCOM 123 each week during the fall and work 10 hours per week coaching the speech team. In the spring semester, G.A. will be responsible for working for 20 hours per week coaching the speech team. Graduate assistants in good academic standing and who have performed satisfactorily in their role during the first year will be promoted to Teaching Assistants during the second year of the program and will be responsible for independently teaching one section of SCOM 123 during the fall semester and coaching for 10 hours per week with the speech team. In the spring semester of their second year, speech assistants will work 20 hours per week with the speech team. Students with a graduate assistantship in Communication Studies are required to attend a weekly class meeting of SCOM 502 Teaching Fundamental Human Communication every semester.

## **SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication - Course Description:**

Study of human communication as a process. Overview of the principles and practices of communication in small group and public communication contexts. Emphasis on examining the role of self-concept, perception, culture, verbal and nonverbal dimensions in the communication process, using power and managing conflict, applying critical listening, practicing audience analysis, and constructing informative and persuasive presentations. Public speaking required.

Working with the JMU Speech Team includes the following responsibilities:

Provide coaching support to the Director and Assistant Director of the JMU Speech Team, which may include, but is not limited to, offering weekly one-on-one student coaching, assisting with student event construction, providing support with tournament hosting, and completing other relevant team-related tasks.

* Attend weekly coach and team meetings (that do not conflict with students' courses).
* Travel with the Speech Team to two weekend “swings” in the fall semester and two weekend “swings” in the spring semester, or equivalent number of tournaments. Judge and coach at these tournaments as a representative of the JMU Speech Team coaching staff.
* Travel with the Speech Team in April to the American Forensic Association’s National Speech Tournament. Judge and coach at the national tournament as a representative of the JMU Speech Team coaching staff.

Applicants for graduate assistantships with the speech team should demonstrate an ability to give constructive and supportive feedback in coaching sessions, experience working in a team environment, and, ideally, an understanding of various speech events. Further, applicants should demonstrate an interest in teaching communication studies, the maturity to assist faculty responsibly, an ability to work with students effectively, and the organizational skills essential to balancing academic and graduate assistant duties. In the following space, describe relevant experiences that demonstrate these qualities (*Limit: 200 words*):

Applicants must have a valid driver’s license to be eligible for the joint G.A. position with the speech team and will be expected to travel to speech tournaments twice per semester, which includes driving team members in a university van.

Do you have a valid U.S. driver’s license?  Yes  No

# **Application Essay:**