



## **Big Twelve Reasons to Choose The Department of Communication at Mizzou**

- 1. A long tradition of excellence:** The Department of Communication has a long and prestigious history in the field of communication. The first National Communication Association (then called the National Association of Teachers of Speech) was housed right here in Switzler hall. You can feel confident that your education will be grounded in the rich traditions unique to our field.
- 2. Cutting edge research and activities:** The faculty in the Department of Communication are some of the top scholars in their respective areas. You will find Mizzou represented in numerous publications in top journals, several important books authored by members of the faculty, and numerous top paper awards at conferences. Rest assured that when you graduate from the Department of Communication at the University of Missouri, you will be at the cutting edge of our field.
- 3. National recognition for excellence:** Our program has been recognized as a top program nationally by numerous surveys over the last decade. The 2005 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, ranked our department as 9<sup>th</sup> best in the nation. In the 2000 National Doctoral Program survey of graduate programs, our program was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in communication studies for graduate students' satisfaction with their educational experience. Other recent studies ranked our department 4<sup>th</sup> nationally for faculty research productivity. These Surveys document many of the intangible differences that make Missouri an exceptional choice.
- 4. A collegial working environment:** Unlike some programs, the students in the Department of Communication at University of Missouri-Columbia have developed a culture of collegiality. As a result, students generally feel supported by their colleagues in the department—An important consideration when deciding where to spend the next critical years of your life.
- 5. An opportunity for collaboration with faculty:** Most students in the Department of Communication collaborate with their professors on multiple research projects. As a result, student professional development is higher at Mizzou than in many other programs. In the last 3 years our graduate students published 34 articles and presented 128 conference papers, many of which were top papers in their various divisions. When you finish at Mizzou, not only will you have a degree but you will also be a scholar.
- 6. A variety of program emphases to select from:** Because the Department of Communication realizes that every student is unique with a unique set of goals and expectations for their graduate experience, we offer a number of flexible program emphasis. You may select a specific program of study or you may choose to design your own program of study. Your advisor will work with you to ensure that the classes you take will meet your personal goals and expectations.

**7. A high completion rate for Ph.D's:** The average completion rate for students in Ph.D. programs in communication who finish their course work is 28%. In the Department of Communication at University of Missouri, we have implemented a series of procedures designed to encourage students to complete their degree. As a result, our completion rate is 91%, 63% higher than most other Ph.D. programs. As a result, when you begin your program at Mizzou, you can have greater confidence that you will ultimately prevail in your quest for a degree.

**8. Technology in the classroom:** The Department of Communication is at the cutting edge of educational technology. With web assisted courses, and technology enhanced dedicated classrooms for the basic course, we offer students the best that technology has to offer—without forgetting the humanity and individuality of our students. As a result, you will be able to teach your classes with a variety of technological aids not available to most graduate assistants in other departments.

**9. Lively discussions:** As you walk into Switzler Hall, the building that houses the Department of Communication, you might observe graduate students and professors sitting on the front steps of the building discussing various communication issues. We enjoy an environment of lively exchange in which learning occurs both in and out of the classroom. The weekly department colloquiums provide another important outlet for this type of exchange. By choosing to participate in the departmental conversations, your education at Mizzou will be a richer and more rewarding personal experience.

**10. Emphasis on multiple research methods:** As a graduate student in the Department of Communication, you will learn how to use multiple research methods through which communication processes can be explored. This diverse knowledge is important in our field because of the incredible complexity of human communication. As a result of your training, you will be equipped to study a broad array of communication phenomena in interesting ways.

**11. Low cost of living:** Not only is Columbia an excellent place to live, but it also provides a much lower cost of living than many other cities hosting graduate programs in Communication. On average, Columbia's cost of living runs 5 to 6% below the national average. This means that your graduate funding will stretch further and provide a more comfortable life style than other graduate programs.

**12. Columbia is a safe and fun community:** For the past several years, Columbia has been consistently ranked by Money Magazine as one of the best cities in the United States. This designation is based on the low crime rate, low cost of living, vital downtown area, and other amenities. We are particularly proud of the Katy and MKT trails in which abandoned railroad tracks have been converted to walking and biking trails.

**We Look Forward to Hearing from You!**

