

Graduate students in the department are involved in various capacities taking on the roles of student, teacher, and researcher. Many students concurrently work as graduate teaching assistants or research assistants in addition to their own studies. The department's graduate students have won high accolades from departmental teaching awards to university wide teaching awards. Within the department, the faculty recognize graduate students for their teaching accomplishments in the basic course and elsewhere. In addition to the department, several graduate students have earned the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, KU's most prestigious award for graduate teaching assistants. The department's graduate teaching assistants have also taken on various leadership roles related to pedagogy. The department hires two graduate students on a rotating schedule to serve as assistant basic course directors. In conjunction with the basic course, graduate teaching assistants help organize the Linkugel Speech Competition for undergraduates enrolled in the basic course every spring.

The department's graduate students are also committed to developing coherent research programs. Toward this end, graduate students attend conferences and publish in journals across the discipline. Graduate students regularly attend the National Communication Association's annual conference presenting competitively accepted papers, serving on panels and sharing their work at scholar-to-scholar sessions. Several graduate students have served on top-paper panels at NCA and have been accepted to NCA's Doctoral Honors Conference. Graduate students also attend conferences hosted by the International Communication Association, the AFA/NCA Summer Conference on Argumentation, the International Society for the Study of Argumentation, Central States Communication Association, Rhetoric Society of America, and the Organizational Communication Mini Conference. They have also participated in interdisciplinary focused gatherings that address political science, Internet communication, women and gender studies, and popular culture. On average, graduate students attend two scholarly conferences a year.

Graduate students have published their research in many top journals. Publications range from work in rhetorical studies to social scientific approaches to communication. Journals that students have published in include *Communication Studies*, *Women's Studies in Communication*, *Critical/Cultural Studies in Communication*, *Argumentation & Advocacy*, *Rhetorica*, *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication*, *Journal of Sex Research*, *Science in Society Journal*, and *The Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota Journal*.