Application Instructions: Master of Science in Integrated Marketing Communications

Deadlines

**Full-time IMC Program**
The admissions application to start the Full-time IMC program in Fall 2020 will remain open until **June 1, 2020**. For applications submitted and completed prior to January 31, expect an admissions decision by March 16. Applications submitted after January 31 will be reviewed for an invitation to interview based upon post-graduate work experience or significant internship experience. Late applicants will receive a status update to their application 30 days after we receive a completed application. Completed applications must include all transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation and required essays. Incomplete applications are not reviewed for an admissions decision.

**Part-time IMC and Online IMC Programs**
The application deadline to start the Part-time IMC and Online IMC programs in Fall 2020 is **July 1, 2020**. Applicants who submit completed applications by the July 1 deadline will receive an admissions decision by August 1. We also offer a priority deadline of **May 1** for applicants who need an expedited decision; applicants who submit completed application by May 1 will receive an admissions decision by May 18. Completed applications must include all transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation and required essays. Incomplete applications are not reviewed for an admissions decision. Late applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis once all the application materials have been received in our office.

Application Requirements

1. **Bachelor’s Degree**
   You must have a bachelor's degree or expect to earn one before enrollment.

2. **Academic Transcripts**
   **When you apply**, you must submit academic transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attended, excluding institutions where you took non-credit coursework, such as a certificate program. **If you have transfer credit or study abroad credit, you must submit a transcript from the original grade-granting institution even if the transfer credit appears on your final degree transcript.** Applicants can submit either official or unofficial transcripts; you can upload unofficial transcripts into your online application in the Academic Experience section. Please make sure that uploaded unofficial transcripts are complete and legible; if they are not, the processing of your application could be delayed. If the size of your transcript file is too large to upload directly into the system, please email your transcript to MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu.
Applicants with international transcripts must provide an English translation if the transcripts were not originally issued in English. To expedite the application review process, we strongly suggest that applicants with international transcripts submit an independent course-by-course credential evaluation and degree verification from a NACES provider (see www.naces.org for a list) at the time they submit their applications. This will allow the admissions committee to have an accurate assessment of your academic history.

If you are admitted, you will be required to submit official copies of all of your transcripts 30 days prior to enrollment, including your final undergraduate transcript with proof of your degree and the date it was conferred. Medill reserves the right to withdraw an admission offer if we do not receive these official transcripts by this deadline. It is your responsibility to request an official, sealed transcript from the registrar of each institution and to ensure transcripts are sent to Medill. The registrar should send transcripts to the Medill Office of Graduate Admissions at 1845 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208-2101 or electronically to MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu.

Admitted students with an international transcript (except Fulbright candidates) must submit an independent course-by-course credential evaluation and degree verification from a NACES provider (see www.naces.org for a list) and an official English translation of the transcripts (if they were not originally issued in English). If you did not already provide these with your application, the credential evaluation and degree evaluation form is due 30 days prior to enrollment.

3. Admissions Interview

For applicants to the Full-time IMC program, admissions interviews will be conducted by invitation only after we have received your completed application. An invitation to interview means that your application has advanced in the process, but does not imply admission.

For applicants to the Part-time IMC and IMC Online programs, interviews are required. You can schedule an interview at any time during the application process. We encourage you to schedule your interview prior to submitting your application. Interviews are held in person at Medill or off campus in locations that our admissions officers visit. For applicants unable to meet in person, interviews may be held via Skype or similar service. If none of the listed interview times are convenient for you or if no interview slots are currently posted, contact Ryan Hays at ryan.hays@northwestern.edu to schedule one.

4. GRE or GMAT Test Scores

Medill requires GRE or GMAT scores. The test must have been taken within five years of your application submission date.

Medill allows you the option to self-report your test scores on your application. Once you submit your application, we will review these unofficial scores along with the rest of your file. If we decide to offer you admission based on these unofficial scores, it will be on the condition that you send us your official scores at least 30 days prior to enrollment.

The official copy of the test scores should be sent directly to Medill from ETS or GMAC. Our GRE code is 1699. Our GMAT code is 6WZ-XH-66. Allow four weeks for our office to receive your scores.

You may request a waiver of the GRE and GMAT requirement if:

- You are a current degree-seeking Northwestern University student or degree-holding Northwestern University alumnus/a;
- You have 5 or more years of full-time professional work experience in marketing or a closely related field.

If you are requesting a waiver based on any of the above criteria, you should check the GRE/GMAT waiver box in the Test Information section of the application. If you request a waiver based on work experience, you are required to submit a written waiver request with your current resume and transcript to MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu for approval.

Please note, if you request a waiver, we may still require that you take the GRE or GMAT if we think it will allow us to give better consideration to your application.

If you would like verification of your waiver prior to submitting your application, you may email MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu. Please attach relevant documents to your email request (e.g. resume, undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts).

If we approve your request, you can view the waiver approval by logging into your online application portal.

Please email MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu if you have questions about your eligibility for a waiver.

5. TOEFL or IELTS Test Scores (For International Applicants)
If you are an international student who earned an undergraduate degree at a college or university where the primary language of instruction was not English, submit TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) scores. The TOEFL or IELTS must have been taken within two years of your application submission date. Send TOEFL scores to Medill using code 1699-18. The IELTS test must be the Academic version. Students who are submitting IELTS scores can provide their TRF number on the application instead of sending an official report.

If you earned your entire bachelor's degree from a non-U.S. institution where the language of instruction was English, you do not need to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. Instead, please provide official documentation from your college or university that the language of instruction was English.

If you completed your bachelor's degree at an institution (U.S. or non-U.S.) where the language of instruction was English, but you did not study at this institution for all four years of your degree, you will need to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores to complete your application.

Medill allows you the option to self-report your test scores in your application. Once you submit your application, we will review these unofficial scores along with the rest of your file. If we decide to offer you admission based on these unofficial scores, it will be on the condition that you send us your official scores at least 30 days prior to enrollment.

6. Resume
Submit your current resume, which should highlight your professional and academic experiences.

7. Essays
Please upload a Professional Essay as described in the IMC Essays section of the application:
**Professional Essay:** Please describe your interest in Medill's Integrated Marketing Communications program in 1,250 words or less. Be sure to address the following questions:

1. If you had to explain to someone what Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) means, how would you describe it?
2. What experiences in your life have led you to pursue an IMC degree? What is it about Medill’s IMC program that particularly attracts you to this graduate program?
3. What professional experiences and values will help you co-create an enriching learning experience with your classmates and faculty in the IMC program?
4. Pursuing a Northwestern University Medill IMC degree is a catalyst for professional growth. How will this program help you to achieve your future professional goals?
5. Describe one setback you faced in your professional life (for example, in a class, job or internship). How did you respond and what did you learn from the experience?

**Diversity Statement (optional):** If you wish, you can provide a statement of 300 words or less describing how your background and identity would contribute to the diversity of our class.

**Additional Information (optional):** If there is anything in your application that you would like to address (e.g., GRE or GMAT scores, GPA, lack of marketing or other work experience) or any additional information you would like to include, please do so here in 300 words or less.

**8. Recommendations**

Medill requires two letters of recommendation for applicants to our graduate programs. You may submit a third recommendation if you wish. Recommendations should be from someone who can assess your academic and professional abilities (e.g., employers, supervisors, current or former professors). Recommendations from family members or from friends who do not have direct experience with your professional or academic work will not be accepted. Enter your recommenders' contact information in the online application. The system will then email your recommenders instructions on how to submit their letters online. You are responsible for reminding recommenders to submit their letters through the online system by the deadline.

**9. Application Fee**

There is a $100 non-refundable application fee. You may pay this online by credit card or indicate that you will be paying by check. If paying by check, please include the payment voucher that you can print from your online application and mail your payment to the Medill Office of Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid, Northwestern University, 1845 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208-2101.

Medill will automatically waive the application fee for current Northwestern University undergraduates.

Current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, AmeriCorps, Teach for America or the Peace Corps may request a fee waiver by sending an email to MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu prior to submitting your application.

Medill also offers a limited number of application fee waivers based on financial need. Application fee waivers based on financial need must be requested in writing prior to submitting your application. Requests should be sent to MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu.
10. Dual Degree Applicants
If you are an applicant to Medill’s dual degree program with Nanyang Technological University, please contact the Medill Office of Graduate Admissions for questions about the application instructions for your program.

11. Statistics Prerequisite for Full-time IMC Program
Students in the Full-time IMC program are required to have taken one college-level probability and statistics course in the past five years prior to starting the Full-time IMC program. You do not need to have taken this course when you apply for the Full-time IMC program.

If you have not taken a college-level probability and statistics course, Medill provides three options for you to complete this pre-requisite prior to starting the Full-time IMC program in the fall:

- Take a statistics course at any accredited school, including a local community college, as long as you can provide a certificate of completion; or
- Take the Medill IMC Online statistics course; or
- Take an intensive, on-site class that Medill will offer before the Full-time IMC program starts in the fall. This on-site class is basic, introductory statistics. It is not for students who have a solid statistics background already. The class will also be very intensive and might not be a good fit for those who want or need more time to learn the concepts.

If you have any questions about completing this requirement, please email MedillGraduateAdmissions@northwestern.edu.

Financial Aid and Scholarships
All admitted students, including international students, are considered for merit-based scholarships. There is no separate application for applicants to be considered for scholarships; merit-based scholarships are awarded based on the content of your admissions application. If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and would like to apply for federal financial aid, you may do so after you are admitted. Instructions for how to apply for federal financial aid will be included in your admit packet.

Mailing Application Materials
Send materials that cannot be uploaded or entered into your online application account to:
Office of Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid
Medill, Northwestern University
1845 Sheridan Road, Suite 104
Evanston, IL 60208-2101

Please note that application materials become property of Northwestern University and will not be returned. Remember to retain a personal copy of your application.

Medill reserves the right to revoke admission if new information is obtained that would warrant such action.
In exceptional circumstances, Medill reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive any documentation normally required for admission. Medill also reserves the right to admit or deny admission whenever it believes that it has sufficient evidence to do so.

Northwestern University reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this application or instructions concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, fees, curricula and courses.

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship or veteran status in matters of admission, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.

Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. This includes harassing conduct affecting tangible job benefits, interfering unreasonably with an individual’s academic or work performance, or creating what a reasonable person would sense is an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

While Northwestern University is committed to the principles of free inquiry and free expression, discrimination and harassment identified in this policy are neither legally protected expression nor the proper exercise of academic freedom.

For advice or assistance regarding this policy, see [www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/civility-and-campus-safety/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/civility-and-campus-safety/index.html).

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