Communication Studies Graduate Program
Intake and Analytic Essay Form

As part of the application process, please complete both parts of this form, referencing the program website, and upload to Cal State Apply in Quadrant IV.

I. Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _____
<div align="center">(Last)   (First)   (Middle)</div>

Methods experience/methods courses completed:

Current research interests:

II. Analytic Essay

We would like to understand how you analyze communication problems and craft arguments. To demonstrate these abilities, please craft a short Analytic Essay (no more than two pages, single or double spaced, not including references) in response to one of the prompts below.

There is no one right answer. We want to see you develop an argument, make a case for your position, discuss possible counter-arguments, and demonstrate your writing and analytic abilities. Please use scholarly sources to support your claims and make sure to clearly identify which prompt you are addressing.

Please also note that your analytic essay and writing samples will be evaluated for originality as well as content using plagiarism/AI-detection software.

Attach your essay to this form.

1. On May 31st, 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) renamed all coronavirus variants using Greek letters avoiding geographical stigma. A newly infectious disease is often assigned a name or commonly recognized associated with a geographical region, foreign national/county, or a particular group of people (e.g., Ebola, French pox, gay-related immune deficiency, Jewish disease, Mexican swine flu, Spanish flu). Please address intercultural communication issues with regard to these naming practices. Do you think renaming all coronavirus variants using Greek letters helps reduce discrimination toward the members of the group or geographical region? Why? Why not? What intercultural/intergroup theories and concepts might help understand the issue?

2. Organizations regularly contend with abrupt changes, whether from crises such as wildfires or the COVID-19 global pandemic, the onset of new technologies, or mundane disruptions like turnover or retirements. In times of organizational change, workers are expected to adapt, work overtime, deal with boundary incursions between work and private life, prioritize work over rest, and navigate uncertainty, often with minimal organizational support. With this context in mind, it is no surprise that worker burnout and stress levels are at an all-time high. What role do organizations and organizational leaders play in managing worker burnout and stress? Is worker stress and burnout an organizational issue? Why or why not? What communication strategies could help organizations and organizational members navigate stress and burnout? What organizational communication theories and concepts support your claims?

3. In a 2013 article for *The New York Times*, Manohla Dargis and A.O. Scott said that, "invention remains one of the prerogatives of art and it is, after all, the job of writers, directors and actors to invent counterfeit realities. It is unfair to blame [media] makers if we sometimes confuse the real world with its representations. The truth is that we love [media artifacts] partly because of their lies, beautiful and not." Do you agree with Dargis and Scott? If yes, why? If no, why not? Do showrunners or executive producers or anyone else involved in the creation of media texts have a responsibility to tell the "truth"? If so, how do we define media truth? Is there another party who should be involved and/or held accountable? Does genre complicate or elucidate this situation? Again, please use examples to support your points, and cite names and dates where appropriate.

4. The proliferation of mediated communication (e.g., text messaging, social media, etc.) has significantly impacted relational interactions. What do you think have been the most critical interpersonal communication issues faced by individuals given our habits surrounding mediated communication? As we continue to navigate communication in a global network, what should individuals consider about mediated contexts/platforms? Please use communication theories and concepts to support your ideas.

5. After the events of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, political division and tensions across the country have become increasingly exacerbated. From elected officials espousing claims rooted in disinformation, to the ways that U.S. citizens have engaged in continued protests for social change, we continue to witness seismic shifts in our political climate. What are three of the most pressing and exigent issues situated in political rhetoric, and why? Moreover, what solutions do you think communication scholars and political activists should put forward in addressing these aforementioned issues? Please use communication theories and/or concepts in political rhetoric to support your ideas.