

COMMUNICATIONS

Careers possible with a Ph.D. in Communications:

- Ladder Faculty (tenured or tenure-track)
- Non-Ladder Faculty (non-tenure track faculty, visiting professors)
- Other Academic Positions, such as Administrator
- Business
 - advertising
 - marketing
 - public relations
 - journalism
 - broadcasting
 - dramatic arts
 - electronic media
 - consulting
- Government
- Non-Profit Organizations

* Compared to other social science PhD students, communication students earned their PhDs more quickly and found tenure-track jobs more easily.

* Most communication PhDs opt for jobs in academia and the majority held tenured or tenure-track positions when surveyed 6 to 10 years after graduation.

What Does CWU Have to Offer?

- The **McNair Scholars Program** that pairs students in one-on-one faculty research mentorships and provides guidance through the graduate process, including GRE preparation!
- Local chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), operating Central Communications, a public relations firm.
- Lambda Pi Eta: Communications honors society
- Society of Professional Journalists chapter
- Opportunities with *The Pulse*, a student-produced online magazine.
- Opportunities at *The Observer*, a newspaper by and for CWU students .
- *NewsWatch Television*: A student produced weekly news program appearing on local cable television.
- *Ellensburg Extreme*: Comedy and satire produced by students.

Helpful Links:

CIRGE (Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education)

<http://depts.washington.edu/cirgeweb/cl>

“Communicating the Ph.D. Experience”

<http://tinyurl.com/cirgecomm>

National Communication Association:

<http://www.natcom.org>

Featured CWU McNair Scholars Alumnus:

Dr. Gordon Coonfield:

Ph.D., Rhetoric and Technical Communication, MIT

B.A., English Literature, CWU

A.A.S., Yakima Valley College

Dr. Coonfield is currently an Assistant Professor of Communications at Villanova University. He also serves as the Director of the Media Studies program.

“The CWU McNair Scholars Program taught me three very important things. First, it demystified the whole process of getting into graduate school. Daunting as it seems, getting into and succeeding in a good program is possible. Second, it taught me the importance of seeing things through. Whether that be GRE prep, grad school applications or research projects, I learned the value of finishing what I've started. Finally, it taught me the value of good mentors throughout one's academic and professional life. Finding and being a good person to learn from - and figuring out what you can learn from everyone - have proven to be important life lessons.”