

Summertime for Advancement in Research (S.T.A.R.)

Summer 2025

Department of Communication & Journalism
Texas A & M University

Overview

The Department of Communication & Journalism STAR program aims to advance the quality of graduate student research and the timely graduation of doctoral students. To achieve this goal, STAR employment offers recipients with either three months of summer employment (a total of \$6,666) or 1.5 months (a total of \$3,333) and structured mentoring for concentrated research writing and related activities. Students receiving this honor must make a full-time commitment to research in coordination with their advisor. They will be required to develop a program on dissertation writing for August 2025 professionalization week, write a research narrative for COMM marketing materials, and present a research colloquium in the 2025-2026 academic year. Students must also complete the STAR Final Report form at the end of spring semester detailing their progress on their dissertation and expected graduation date.

The Department of Communication of Journalism will select at least one STAR recipient for Summer 2025. STAR employment offers are awarded on a competitive basis.

All application materials should be submitted as one pdf file (including letter of support) via email to Silvia Martinez (smartinez1@tamu.edu) by **Monday, March 3 at 5:00 p.m.**

Late submissions will not be considered.

Eligibility

- **Applicants must have passed their preliminary examination at the time of nomination.**
- **Recipients must have a successfully defended dissertation proposal by May 15th. .**

Application Requirements

Applicants should submit the following items:

- 1 page single-spaced dissertation research statement. Statement should describe focus, projected scholarly/practical contribution of dissertation, potential impact of STAR employment, and estimated timeline of completion.
- Current CV (no longer than 3 pages)
- Letter of support from advisor/committee chair

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Significance of the dissertation project.
- Progress toward/status of dissertation proposal (and oral defense)
- Impact of STAR funding for the student's development of the project
- Qualifications of the student to successfully defend the dissertation within 1 year of the award.
- Professional presentation, completeness, and clarity of submitted application.