Master of Arts in Communication Studies

The Master of Arts in Communication Studies is designed for students who wish to advance from this degree to further graduate work and for those wishing to apply advanced communication perspectives, methodologies, and competencies in their careers.

Admission to the Program

Applicants must fulfill all the general requirements for admission to graduate studies at this University. The department welcomes applications from international students and advises them that the Department of Communication Studies has its own requirements regarding the TOEFL (see 4. below). To be admitted to the graduate program in Communication Studies:

The applicant must send to the Graduate Admissions Office (in addition to all other required materials):

A. 1. Three letters of recommendation attesting to academic aptitude and accomplishments;
   2. A sample of academic or professional writing;
   3. A one-page essay describing the role the applicant sees the M.A. in Communication Studies playing in accomplishing his or her life/career goals.
   
   **Note:** If the applicant wishes to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Associateship, the applicant must also submit
   1. a curriculum vitae or resume and
   2. a one-page statement of intent outlining related experience along with the other application material.

B. The applicant must have completed the equivalent of 6-semester units of undergraduate classes in communication theory and research methods, or their equivalents

C. The applicant must have earned an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 overall and/or 3.0 for the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of undergraduate work. In exceptional cases, students with a GPA below 3.0 will be considered. Please contact the graduate coordinator.

D. International students must have received a TOEFL score of 575 (computer-based score of 233 or internet-based score of 89) or higher.

Successful applicants are admitted to the program as conditionally classified graduate students. Advancement to classified status is conditional upon the completion of all prerequisites, as well as completion (after admission) of the following course with a grade of "B-" or higher:

COMM 6000 Introduction to Graduate Study

Advancement to Candidacy

1. During the first semester of enrollment, the student shall, with the consent of the faculty member chosen and the approval of the graduate coordinator, select an advisor.

2. Prior to completion of 12 units, the student and advisor shall form the student’s graduate advisory committee. The committee shall consist of the advisor and two faculty members, one of whom may be from a related discipline. The committee shall function to:
   
   a. approve the student’s program of study;
   b. compose and evaluate the student’s comprehensive examination (if applicable); and
   c. evaluate and approve the student’s thesis or project (if applicable).

3. Upon establishing the committee, and prior to completion of 15 units, the student shall forward for the committee’s approval a program of study listing coursework to be taken and the capstone experience chosen to complete the degree.

4. Upon approval of the plan by the advisory committee, the program of study shall be sent to the graduate coordinator for departmental approval resulting in advancement to candidacy.

Requirements for Graduation

1. Students must complete an approved program of 30 units with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 at this university.
2. Students must receive a "B-" or higher in all required courses.
3. No more than 6 units at the 4000- or 5000-level may count towards the degree. Courses at the 1000, 2000, and 3000 level may not count toward the degree.
4. No course may be counted for which a grade of "C-" or less was received.
5. The student is responsible for fulfilling all other requirements for graduation established by the Graduate Studies Office.
6. The graduate writing requirement is successful completion of COMM 6000

Degree Requirements (30-33 units)

(Program Code: COMS)

**Note:** Students must receive a grade of "B-" or higher in all required courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 6000</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 6001</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives in Communication Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 6002</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods in Communication Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 6003</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 6084</td>
<td>Comprehensive Examination Preparation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or COMM 6085 Thesis or Project Proposal</td>
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</tbody>
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**Electives (15)**

Fifteen units of electives chosen with the advice and approval of the advisory committee and the graduate coordinator. Students will develop a program of study to fulfill the remaining unit requirements for the degree. The program should reflect some unifying theme.

Graduate level courses among which the student may choose include:

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students cannot apply any course previously applied to another degree or track. Students may, with the approval of the advisory committee and the graduate coordinator, substitute up to six units of course work from a related discipline or disciplines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5267 Advanced Topics in Relational and Organizational Communication (topics of: Dying and Afterlife Communication; Personal Growth; Policy Communication; Feminist Contributions to Communication Theories; Health Communication)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMM 5280  Culture and Ethnicity in Language
COMM 5301  Media, Sex, and Violence
COMM 5302  Communication Law and Policy
COMM 5303  Muslim Women in Media and Society
COMM 5311  Fundamentals of Social Media Management
COMM 5312  Political Economy of Social Media Communication
COMM 5313  Audience Analysis in Social Media
COMM 5401  Crisis Communication
COMM 6009  Digital Cultures
COMM 6010  Digital Methods in Communication Research
COMM 6011  Political Economy of Communication
COMM 6012  Special Topics in Film/Cinema Studies
COMM 6013  Special Topics in Gender and Communication
COMM 6014  Special Topics in Applied Communication
COMM 6030  Instructional Communication
COMM 6070  Special Topics in Conflict and Conflict Resolution
COMM 6071  Global Communication
COMM 6075  Strategic Communication
COMM 6088  Practicum for Beginning Teaching Associates in Communication Studies
COMM 6089  Practicum for Advanced Teaching Associates in Communication Studies
COMM 6090  Special Topics in Organizational Communication
COMM 6091  Special Topics in Public Relations
COMM 6092  Special Topics in Interpersonal Communication
COMM 6093  Special Topics in Media Studies
COMM 6094  Special Topics in Intercultural Communication
COMM 6751  Internship in Communication
COMM 6752  Internship in Communication
COMM 6753  Internship in Communication
COMM 6754  Internship in Communication
COMM 6951  Graduate Independent Study
COMM 6952  Graduate Independent Study
COMM 6953  Graduate Independent Study
COMM 6954  Graduate Independent Study
COMM 6980  Comprehensive Examination 0
Total Units 0

Thesis Option (3 units)
Students may, with the approval of their advisory committee and the graduate coordinator, fulfill the capstone requirement by developing and executing an original research project designed to extend or apply our understanding of communication in important and unique ways. The prospectus must be approved by the advisory committee, and filed with the Graduate Coordinator. The student will make a public defense of the thesis during the last semester of residence. The completed thesis must be approved by the advisory committee and the Dean of the Graduate School. Students choosing this option must take 12 units of electives and register for:
COMM 6973  Thesis 3

Project Option (3 units)
Students may, with the approval of their advisory committee and the graduate coordinator, fulfill the capstone requirement by developing and executing a project with a significant written component. The project shall be developed between the student and the advisor. The prospectus must be approved by the advisory committee, and filed with the Graduate Coordinator. The written component of the project must follow specified guidelines, be approved by the advisory committee, and will be presented publicly during the student's last semester in residence. The completed project must be approved by the advisory committee and the Dean of Graduate Studies. Students choosing this option must must take 12 units of electives and register for:
COMM 6963  Graduate Project 3

Graduate Associateships
A limited number of graduate associateships are available, on a competitive basis, for students who wish to pursue the degree full-time. Interested applicants should contact the graduate coordinator in the Department of Communication Studies for further information.

Culminating Experience (0-3 units)
Students will choose one of the following culminating experiences to complete their program.

Comprehensive Examination Option (0 units)
Students may, with the approval of their advisory committee and graduate coordinator, fulfill the capstone requirement through a comprehensive examination. The examination tests the student's mastery of perspectives and competencies in the core curriculum as well as those associated with the individual student's program of study. The examination will be developed and evaluated by the student's advisory committee, administered during the student's final semester in residence, and carry no academic credit. Students choosing this option must take 15 units of electives and register for:
COMM 6980  Comprehensive Examination 0
Total Units 0