

# 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 6-semester units of undergraduate classes in communication theory and communication 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 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.

## 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 plan of study listing coursework to be taken and the culminating experience chosen to complete the degree. The plan of study should reflect some unifying theme.
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 units)

(Program Code: COMS)

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

Required/Core Courses (12)		12
COMM 6000	Introduction to Graduate Study	
COMM 6001	Theoretical Perspectives in Communication Studies	
COMM 6002	Quantitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMM 6003	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	

### Electives (12-15) 12-15

Students choose from the following elective courses. Those completing a Master's thesis or graduate project as their culminating experience choose 12 elective units. Those completing a comprehensive examination choose 15 elective units.

Students choose their elective courses with the advice and approval of their advisory committee and the graduate coordinator. In doing so, all parties are strongly encouraged to include 6000-level Communication Studies courses in the student's plan of study, if feasible and appropriate. These courses have been specifically developed for graduate students pursuing the Master of Arts in Communication Studies.

Students may, with the approval of the advisory committee and the graduate coordinator, substitute up to six total units of course work from disciplines other than Communication Studies. Students cannot apply to this degree any course previously applied to another degree or track.

COMM 5222	Mediation Theory and Practice
COMM 5267	Advanced Topics in Relational and Organizational Communication
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 5314	Social Media for Social Good
COMM 5319	Advanced Topics in Media Studies
COMM 5339	Advanced Topics in Film Studies
COMM 5359	Advanced Topics in Digital Production
COMM 5379	Advanced Topics in Multimedia Journalism
COMM 5401	Crisis Communication
COMM 5419	Advanced Topics in Strategic Communication
COMM 5892	Communication Teaching Shadowship
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 6752	Graduate Internship in Communication
COMM 6753	Graduate Internship in Communication
COMM 6754	Graduate Internship in Communication
COMM 6951	Graduate Independent Study
COMM 6952	Graduate Independent Study

COMM 6953 Graduate Independent Study

COMM 6954 Graduate Independent Study

**Culminating Experience Preparation/Proposal (3)** **3**

COMM 6084 Comprehensive Examination Preparation  
or COMM 6C Thesis or Project Proposal

**Culminating Experience (0-3)** **0-3**

**Total Units (30)** **30**

## 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 culminating experience 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

### Thesis Option (3 units)

Students may, with the approval of their advisory committee and the graduate coordinator, fulfill the culminating experience requirement by developing and executing an original research project designed to extend or apply our understanding of communication in important and unique ways. The proposal 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 culminating experience requirement by developing and executing a project with a significant written component. The project shall be developed between the student and the advisor. The proposal 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 take 12 units of electives and register for:

COMM 6963 Graduate Project 3