Communication Studies

Degrees Offered

• Master of Arts
• Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of Program

The Department of Communication Studies offers the M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees in Communication Studies. Communication scholars seek to discover the mechanisms and rules that govern the wide range of communication activities using a battery of social scientific techniques. We try to develop theories that will account for why we act the way we do. The graduate faculty in the Department of Communication Studies is well-known at the regional, national, and international level for accomplishments in research, teaching, and service.

FACULTY

CHAIR
• Matthew M. Martin - Ph.D. (Kent State University)

PROFESSORS
• Melanie Booth-Butterfield - Ph.D. (University of Missouri) McConnell Chair in Speech Communication, Health and Interpersonal Communication
• Rebecca M. Chory - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Organizational Communication, Mass Communication, Research Methods
• Joan S. Gorham - Ph.D. (Northern Illinois University) Associate Dean, Instructional, Intercultural, and Mass Media
• Matthew M. Martin - Ph.D. (Kent State University) Chairperson, Interpersonal, Instructional, Communication Traits
• Scott A. Myers - Ph.D. (Kent State University) Group, Instructional, Interpersonal
• Keith Weber - Ed.D. (West Virginia University) Communication Campaigns, Quantitative Methods, Instructional Communication

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
• Maria Brann - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky) Health, Interpersonal and Qualitative Research Methods
• Megan Dillow - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University) Interpersonal Communication, Communication Theory, Relational Communication
• Alan Goodboy - Ph.D. (West Virginia University) Instructional Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Quantitative Methods
• Brian R. Patterson - Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma) Developmental Communications, Communication Theory
• Andrea Weber - Ed.D. (West Virginia University) Communication Assessment, Leadership, Communication Ethics

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• Nicholas Bowman - Ph.D. (Michigan State University) Communication Technology, Media Psychology, Mass Communication, Media Effects, Entertainment and Emotion
• Elizabeth Cohen - Ph.D. (Georgia State University) Media Psychology, Entertainment Education, New Media, Health and Risk Communication
• Christy Rittenour - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska) Family, Life-span, Interpersonal

PROFESSOR EMERITA
• Virginia P. Richmond - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska)
APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

To apply for admission to the Ph.D. program, applicants must submit the following materials:

1. The application for admission to graduate school at West Virginia University.
2. Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants should have a minimum combined score of 1,000 on the verbal and quantitative components of the GRE and a minimum score of 4.0 on the analytical component of the GRE. Scores should not be older than five years at the time of application.
3. Scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language Examination (TOEFL) (for international students only whose native language is not English). Scores will be accepted from any of three versions (i.e., internet-based test, computer-based test, paper-based test). Applicants should score in the ninetieth percentile of the test version taken.
4. All official undergraduate and graduate transcripts. Transcripts must be mailed directly from the registrar of the college and/or university attended. Applicants should have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 and a minimum graduate GPA of 3.30.
5. A vita. The vita should include all formal education, any teaching or professional work experience, and any research projects conducted to date.
6. A statement of interest. The statement of interest is a three to four-page, typed document in which applicants identify the following:
   • their reasons for pursuing a Ph.D. in communication studies
   • their reasons for wanting to attain their Ph.D. degree in communication studies at West Virginia University
   • their research interests and how these interests correspond with the research conducted by the department faculty
   • the faculty members whose research interests are most closely aligned with their own educational and career goals
   • why attaining the Ph.D. degree in communication studies specifically from West Virginia University is vital to the achievement of their career goals
7. Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s academic progress and potential. These letters of recommendation should address whether the applicant has the ability to succeed in the Ph.D. program in communication studies at West Virginia University as both a Ph.D. student and as a graduate teaching assistant.
8. A sole-authored sample of scholarly writing completed in the applicant’s M.A. program. This sample can be a course paper, a convention paper, a thesis or major project, or a journal article.
9. Any additional supporting evidence. This evidence can include, but is not limited to, awards received for outstanding research, teaching, or academic endeavors; a convention paper or journal article of which the applicant is a co-author; a newspaper or magazine article, or teaching evaluations.

The transcripts, vita, statement of interest, recommendation letters, scholarly writing example, and supporting evidence should be mailed directly to:

On-Campus Graduate Coordinator
Department of Communication Studies
P.O. Box 6293
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506-6293

Nature of the Program

The Department of Communication Studies offers work leading to the degree of master of arts with a concentration in communication theory and research. Persons who possess a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university may be admitted to the program. Qualified graduate students from a variety of disciplines are admitted to the program. The master of arts degree program is intended to qualify the student to do the following:

• Assume a variety of professional roles in educational, organizational, health, governmental, or media institutions
• Teach the subject matter in high school and/or college
• Undertake advanced training toward a doctorate in the behavioral/social sciences

Requirements

In addition to the general WVU requirements, the graduate student in communication studies must meet departmental requirements. These include successful completion of both the minimum number of required graduate hours as set forth in Program A, B, or C (listed below) with a grade of B or above in each class and the maintenance of a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Classes graded P, S, or marked CR may not be counted toward a degree.

Applicants for admission must specify the program they wish to pursue. Program A is open only to full-time students. Programs B and C are open to both part-time and full-time students.
Program A
All students planning to continue graduate study past the M.A. level are encouraged to enter program A. The following are required for Program A:

• At least thirty-six hours of graduate credit, thirty of which must be in the Department of Communication Studies (A maximum of six hours of thesis credit will be allowed.)
• Completion of COMM 700 and COMM 701
• A thesis
• An oral examination on the thesis

Program B
All students planning a professional career in a field other than education are encouraged to enter this program. This is normally a terminal degree program in communication studies. The following are required for Program B:

• A minimum of thirty-six hours of coursework, thirty of which must be in the Department of Communication Studies
• Successful completion of written and oral comprehensive examinations (The oral examination may be waived with the approval of the student’s examination committee and the Departmental Coordinator of Graduate Studies.)

Program C
All students planning a professional career in elementary or secondary education are encouraged to enter this program. This is normally a terminal degree program in communication studies. Students may complete this program through off-campus study, on-campus study, or a combination. The following are required for Program C:

• A minimum of thirty-six hours of coursework, thirty of which must be in the Department of Communication Studies
• Successful completion of written and oral comprehensive examinations (The oral examination may be waived with the approval of the student’s examination committee and the Departmental Coordinator of Graduate Studies.)

Doctor of Philosophy
The Ph.D. program in Communication Studies is a fifty-four hour program (including dissertation hours) which affords students the opportunity to focus on numerous domains of communication, including computer-mediated communication, health communication, instructional communication, interpersonal communication, organizational communication, and strategic communication. Students will be awarded the Ph.D. upon completing fifty-four graduate credit hours, passing comprehensive exams, writing a dissertation proposal, and writing and defending a dissertation. Students are required to complete the following:

Required Courses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 600</td>
<td>Communication in the Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 602</td>
<td>Interpersonal Comm:Theory/Rsrch</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 606</td>
<td>Theory/Rsrch-Organizational Comm</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 700</td>
<td>Survey of Human Comm Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core COMM courses at the 700 level, this may include:</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 702</td>
<td>Advanced Interpersonal Comm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 706</td>
<td>Advanced Organizational Comm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 719</td>
<td>Advanced Instructional Comm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research methods beyond COMM 701</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional COMM courses</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation research *</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(i.e. COMM 797 Research)

A GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation and any grade lower than B does not count toward the fifty-four hours. Students who receive more than six hours of Cs may not be permitted to remain in the program.

Upon admission to the program, students are advised by the Coordinator of On-Campus Graduate Studies. Working with the coordinator, students devise their schedule for their first semester. During the first semester, in conjunction with the coordinator, students select an advisor. This advisor serves as the chair of each student’s comprehensive examination and dissertation committees. Working with their advisor, students then select
four other committee members, at least one of which, but no more than two, must be graduate faculty members external to the Department of Communication Studies.

Upon completion of the thirty-six hours of coursework, students take a comprehensive examination. The comprehensive examination consists of three sections on which students will be tested on two of the domains of communication emphasis and research methods. The written examination will be followed by an oral examination approximately two weeks later.

Once the written and oral comprehensive examinations have been successfully defended (as determined by the committee), students write a dissertation proposal and submit the proposal to their committee. Once the proposal has been approved, students write and defend their dissertation. The dissertation defense is open to the public.

COURSES

COMM 509. Health Comm Dissemination. 1-3 Hours.
PR: COMM 409. Focus on effective dissemination of health messages. Students communicate outcomes of health communication campaigns conducted in previous classes to diverse external publics; could include presentations to conferences, community groups, schools, workshops.

COMM 591A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

COMM 593A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

COMM 600. Communication in the Classroom. 3 Hours.
PR: Teaching experience or consent. Role of interpersonal communication in classroom environment with particular emphasis on communication between students and teachers. Recommended for elementary, secondary, and college teachers in all fields.

COMM 601. Instructional Communication. 3 Hours.
Survey of the theory and research in instructional communication. Emphasis is placed on the study of instructional communication behaviors and the role instructor-student communication plays in the instructional setting.

COMM 602. Interpersonal Comm:Theory/Rsrch. 3 Hours.
Survey of the theory and research in interpersonal communication. Emphasis upon relational communication and intimate communication in interpersonal relationships.

COMM 603. Comm Training and Development. 3 Hours.
This applied graduate course provides the student, who has a background in human communication theory and research, an introduction to communication training and development issues, procedures, assessment, and presentational skills.

COMM 604. Theory/Research in Persuasion. 3 Hours.
Various theories and principles of persuasion with emphasis on contemporary research literature.

COMM 605. Theory/Rsrch-Mass Communicatn. 3 Hours.
Mass communication from a consumer’s viewpoint. Use of consumer-oriented mass media research also stressed.

COMM 606. Theory/Rsrch-Organizational Comm. 3 Hours.
Contemporary research linking communication variables and networks to organizational change, effectiveness, leadership, power, and management practices. Analysis of communication problems within a variety of organizations.

COMM 607. Theory Research Language. 3 Hours.
Study of verbal interactions and language from source and perceived perspectives.

COMM 608. Nonverbal Communication. 3 Hours.
Examines the impact of nonverbal communication on the communication process. Attention is given to research on non-language aspects of communication and their application to various contexts.

COMM 609. Comm Apprehension/Avoidance. 3 Hours.
Theory and research related to individuals’ predispositional and situational tendencies to approach or avoid communication. Emphasis on work in the areas of willingness to communicate, communication apprehension, reticence, and shyness.

COMM 612. Small Group Theory & Practice. 3 Hours.
Specific research areas in interpersonal communication with emphasis on small groups.

COMM 615. Media-Communication/Education. 3 Hours.
Use of the media in educational and other communication environments with emphasis on communication processes and principles relevant to television and film.

COMM 616. Communication-Ed Organization. 3 Hours.
Problems of communication within educational organizations with emphasis on elements that impact educational change, conflict management, and interpersonal influence. Recommended for elementary, secondary, and college teachers in all fields.
COMM 617. Communication Problems-Childrn. 3 Hours.
(Primarily for elementary and secondary school teachers and language arts supervisors.) Normal maturational development of listening and speaking skills, their relationships to language acquisition, and influence upon achievement.

COMM 619. Comm and Affect in Instruction. 3 Hours.
PR: Graduate status. This advanced graduate course examines the influence of teachers’ communicative behaviors on student learning, student communication, and the classroom climate.

COMM 622. Gender and Communication. 3 Hours.
This graduate course will review contemporary and historical communication issues about sex, gender, and communication. Nonverbal communication, friendship, romantic family, educational, organizational, and media impacts will be reviewed.

COMM 623. Leadership. 3 Hours.
Leadership styles, models and theories in classical and contemporary settings are covered. Emphasis is given to leadership in groups and organizations.

COMM 624. Communication Ethics. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on communication ethics with a particular emphasis on communication ethics in the organizational context. Communication issues and situations are explored from various ethical perspectives.

COMM 625. ComputerMediated Communication. 3 Hours.
Computer Mediated Communication. 3 Hr. This course explored the relationships between CMC and various aspects of human activity. This course investigates established and emerging CMC-based social, cultural, organizational, and instructional activities.

COMM 626. Interculture Comm:Theory/Rsrch. 3 Hours.
Advanced seminar in communication of various cultures. Special emphasis on research in diffusion of innovations.

COMM 627. Teachers in Film. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on how teachers and schools are portrayed in film. Students will use course readings and personal experiences to offer critical analysis of these films.

COMM 629. Health Communication. 3 Hours.
Overview of essential concepts and theories needed to understand and evaluate health-related messages in patient-provider relationships, between workers in health care organizations, and in medial related applications.

COMM 660. Comm. in the Organization. 3 Hours.
This course exposes students to the role of communication in organizational environment with particular emphasis on its social science roots.

COMM 691-A. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

COMM 693-A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

COMM 694-A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

COMM 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

COMM 697. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to a thesis, problem report, research paper, or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.)

COMM 700. Survey of Human Comm Theory. 3 Hours.
Broad overview of contemporary theories in human communication. Should be taken the first semester of graduate study.

COMM 701. Graduate Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Major emphasis on designing and conducting experimental and laboratory research in human communication. Computer applications to social science research also given consideration. Should be taken the first semester of graduate study.

COMM 702. Advanced Interpersonal Comm. 3 Hours.
PR: COMM 602. This course examines how interpersonal communication patterns are linked to relational processes, both as influences and outcomes. Emphasis is on in-depth analysis of social science interpersonal research.

COMM 706. Advanced Organizational Comm. 3 Hours.
PR: COMM 606. This course provides an overview of the history and development of organizational communication. Additionally, current organizational theories and perspectives are investigated.

COMM 711. Adv Seminar in Research Methds. 3 Hours.
PR:COMM 701. Research techniques necessary to conduct original communication research. Emphasis on advanced statistical techniques.
COMM 712. Communication Measurement. 3 Hours.
PR: COMM 701. This course investigates measures and instruments used in the field of communication studies. Focus is placed on the creation and validation of communication measures.

COMM 713. Qualitative Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Qualitative research methods in human communication and related professional areas with major emphasis on conducting and evaluation qualitative research procedures. Special focus on practical application.

COMM 719. Advanced Instructional Comm. 3 Hours.
Examination of issues surrounding instructional communication. Topics include study of history, paradigms, and programmatic areas of research of instructional communication.

COMM 790. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of communication studies. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It will also present a mechanism for students on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be P/F.).

COMM 791A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

COMM 792A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

COMM 793A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

COMM 794A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

COMM 795. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

COMM 796. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

COMM 797. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.).

COMM 798. Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision during the writing of student reports (698), or dissertations (798). Grading is normal.

COMM 799. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. For graduate students not seeking coursework credit but who wish to meet residency requirements, use of the University’s facilities, and participate in its academic and cultural programs. Note: Graduate students who are not actively involved in coursework or research are entitled, through enrollment in their department’s 699/799 Graduate Colloquium to consult with graduate faculty, participate in both formal and informal academic activities sponsored by their program, and retain all of the rights and privileges of duly enrolled students. Grading is P/F; colloquium credit may not be counted against credit requirements for masters programs. Registration for one credit of 699/799 graduate colloquium satisfies the University requirement of registration in the semester in which graduation occurs.

COMM 930. Professional Development. 1-6 Hours.
Professional development courses provide skill renewal or enhancement in a professional field or content area (e.g., education, community health, geology). These tuition-waived, continuing education courses are graded on a pass/fail grading scale and do not apply as graduate credit toward a degree program.