Communication Studies, M.A.

Master of Arts

Degree Requirements

• **Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours in Communication Studies at the 400 level or above. A maximum of 6 credits may be taken at the 500 level or above from outside the department.

• **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.75, and of 3.00 in coursework applied to their graduate program, with a minimum grade of B- in each course.

• **Area of Emphasis:** Students must select one of three area of emphasis: Communication in Instruction, Corporate and Organizational Communication, Communication Theory and Research.

• **Graduation Requirement:** Student requirements vary based on the Area of Emphasis (AOE) chosen. Students in the Communication Theory & Research AOE take a comprehensive written and oral examination or write a Master's Thesis. Students in the Communication in Instruction AOE and Corporate & Organizational Communication AOE are not required to take comprehensive examinations.

• **Benchmarks:** For details, go to the Communication Studies Degree Progress tab (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/communicationstudies/#degreeprogresstext)

Curriculum Requirements

**COURSEWORK:**

Select any COMM courses 400 level or above.

**AREA OF EMPHASIS:**

Select one:

- Communication in Instruction
- Corporate and Organizational Communication
- Theory and Research

Total Hours

* A maximum of 6 credits may be taken at the 500 level or above from outside the department. Excluded courses include those applied to the Area of Emphasis and COMM 697 and COMM 797

Areas of Emphasis Offered:

• Communication Theory & Research (p. 1)
• Communication in Instruction (p. 2)
• Corporate & Organizational Communication (p. 2)

**COMMUNICATION THEORY & RESEARCH AREA OF EMPHASIS**

**CORE COURSES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 700</td>
<td>Survey of Human Communication Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 701</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPLETION REQUIREMENT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Option</td>
<td>COMM 697, Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Thesis Option</td>
<td>Any COMM course at the 400 level or above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

* Excluding COMM 697, COMM 797, or any course applied to other parts of the Master's program.
COMMUNICATION IN INSTRUCTION AREA OF EMPHASIS

Communication Studies coursework (400, 500, 600, 700-level) 36
Written Comprehensive Examination
Oral Comprehensive Examination *

* The oral examination may be waived with the approval of the student's examination committee and the Departmental Coordinator of Graduate Studies.

CORPORATE & ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION AREA OF EMPHASIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE COURSES:</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 650</td>
<td>Applied Communication Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 660</td>
<td>Communication in the Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTIVES:</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any COMM courses at the 400 level or above</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 12

* Excluding COMM 697, COMM 797, or any course applied to other parts of the Master's program.

Major Learning Outcomes

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Students earning a M.A. in Communication Studies will be able to:

1. acquire a general understanding of Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts
2. identify, analyze, and critique Communication-related problems using Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts, and prescribe Communication-based solutions to these problems
3. design, conduct, and interpret original Communication-based research
4. propose ways in which Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts can enhance personal, social, and professional relationships
5. develop the ability to encode and decode messages effectively across communication contexts