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.

• **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:** Students must take a comprehensive written and oral examination, unless they select the Theory and Research area of emphasis. In this case, they have the option to either take the comprehensive exams or to write a Master's Thesis.

Curriculum Requirements

**COURSEWORK:** 24

Select any COMM courses 400 level or above.

**AREA OF EMPHASIS:** 12

Select one:
- Communication in Instruction
- Corporate and Organizational Communication
- Theory and Research

Total Hours 36

* Excluding courses applied to the Area of Emphasis, COMM 697, COMM 797

**Areas of Emphasis Offered:**

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

**COMMUNICATION THEORY & RESEARCH AREA OF EMPHASIS**

**CORE COURSES:** 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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</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:** 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Option</td>
<td>COMM 697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Thesis Option</td>
<td></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.

**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

CORE COURSES: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 650</td>
<td>Applied Communication Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 660</td>
<td>Communication in the Organization</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ELECTIVES: 6

Any COMM courses at the 400 level or above *

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