

# Communication Studies, Ph.D.

## Degree Requirements

- **Standing:**
  - **Regular Standing:** Includes students who have completed an undergraduate degree in Communication Studies or a closely related field.
  - **Advanced Standing:** Includes students who have completed a graduate degree in Communication Studies or a closely related field.
- **Credit Hours:**
  - **Regular Standing:** Students are required to complete a minimum number of 71 graduate credit hours, typically across four full-time academic years, in Communication Studies at the 500 level or above. Courses taken outside of the department must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.
  - **Advanced Standing:** Students are required to complete a minimum number of 59 graduate credit hours, typically across three academic years, in Communication Studies at the 500 level or above. Courses taken outside of the department must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.
- **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a cumulative overall GPA of 2.75, and GPA of 3.25 in coursework applied to their graduate degree program, with a minimum grade of B- in all courses applied toward the degree. Students who receive more than three grades of less than a B- will not be permitted to continue in the program.

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS (REGULAR STANDING)

Code	Title	Hours
<b>CORE COURSES:</b>		<b>8</b>
COMM 700	Survey of Human Communication Theory	
COMM 701	Graduate Research Methods	
COMM 796	Graduate Seminar	
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES: *</b>		<b>45</b>
Select 4 foundational COMM courses.		
COMM 601	Instructional Communication	
COMM 602	Interpersonal Communication: Theory and Research	
COMM 604	Theory and Research in Persuasion	
COMM 605	Theory and Research in Mass Communication	
COMM 606	Theory and Research in Organizational Communication	
Select an additional 11 elective COMM courses at the 600 or 700 level. *		
<b>RESEARCH:</b>		<b>18</b>
COMM 797	Research	
Total Hours		71

\*

Elective courses should be grouped into three distinct focus areas that are determined in consultation with a faculty advisor. These three focal areas should include coursework in a primary area of study (at least 12 credit hours), coursework in a second area of study (at least 12 credit hours), and coursework in research methods (at least 9 credit hours, not including COMM 701).

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS (ADVANCED STANDING)

Code	Title	Hours
<b>CORE COURSES:</b>		<b>8</b>
COMM 700	Survey of Human Communication Theory	
COMM 701	Graduate Research Methods	
COMM 796	Graduate Seminar	
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES: *</b>		<b>33</b>
Select 2 foundational COMM courses.		
COMM 601	Instructional Communication	
COMM 602	Interpersonal Communication: Theory and Research	
COMM 604	Theory and Research in Persuasion	
COMM 605	Theory and Research in Mass Communication	
COMM 606	Theory and Research in Organizational Communication	

Select an additional nine elective COMM courses at the 600 or 700 level. *			
<b>RESEARCH:</b>			<b>18</b>
COMM 797	Research		
Total Hours			59

\*  
Elective courses should be grouped into three distinct focus areas that are determined in consultation with a faculty advisor. These three focal areas should include coursework in a primary area of study (at least 12 credit hours), coursework in a second area of study (at least 12 credit hours), and coursework in research methods (at least 9 credit hours, not including COMM 701).

## Major Learning Outcomes

### COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Students earning a Ph.D. in Communication Studies will be able to:

1. explain, synthesize, and critique the primary Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts associated with the Communication Studies discipline
2. convey expert knowledge of the Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts that comprise their primary and secondary areas of study
3. independently design, conduct, and interpret original Communication-based research using quantitative research methods suitable for conference presentations and professional publication
4. create a programmatic line of research to guide future Communication-based research endeavors and projects
5. select and use effective instructional communicative behaviors across a variety of teaching and training situations
6. develop writing, analytical, and research skills needed for success as a professional in the field of Communication Studies
7. commit to the profession through activity in professional associations and service to the department, university, and community