

Communication



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We live in an information society, a global age of communication, and hundreds of careers are open to those who earn a master's degree in Communication. Graduates work as media consultants, public relations practitioners, non-profit marketing directors, advertising campaign managers, community college instructors, organizational consultants, student life directors, lobbyists, political interest group directors, special events directors, public information officers, alumni relations directors, organizational development trainers, legislative analysts and forensics directors.

MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

The Department of Communication offers graduate-level instruction leading toward the Master of Arts degree. The program combines training in communication theory, methodology and practice for students who desire knowledge and skills for solving work-related communication problems and for students who intend to enter doctoral programs.

The program offers three concentrations of study—Communication Education, Political Communication, and Media and Public Relations. Each integrates coursework from related disciplines, providing graduate students with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of communication. An internship experience is also included in the program, ensuring that students graduate practice-ready for their careers. Students in the program have interned with public relations companies, human resources companies, community colleges, advertising agencies, environmental advocacy groups, radio and television stations, non-profit organizations, sports franchises, the University's alumni relations office and many other organizations and companies.



CONTACT INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

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OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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Graduate Course Offerings

COMM 214	Argumentation and Advocacy
COMM 216	Rhetorical Theory and Criticism
COMM 237	Public Relations Case Studies and Problems
COMM 239	Theory of Mass Communication
COMM 245	Human Communication Theory
COMM 247	Nonverbal Communication
COMM 252	Public Relations Administration
COMM 255	Persuasion
COMM 287	Graduate Internship
COMM 289	Graduate Practicum
COMM 291	Independent Study
COMM 270	Introduction to Graduate Study
COMM 271	Graduate Seminar in Rhetorical Thought
COMM 272	Graduate Seminar in Interpersonal Communication
COMM 273	Graduate Seminar in Mass Communication Theory
COMM 274	Graduate Seminar in Statistical Applications
COMM 275	Graduate Seminar in Public Relations
COMM 276	Graduate Seminar in Communication in Learning Settings
COMM 277	Graduate Seminar in Media Relations
COMM 278	Graduate Seminar in Political Communication
COMM 287	Graduate Practicum
COMM 289	Graduate Internship
COMM 291	Graduate Independent Study
COMM 297	Graduate Research
COMM 299	Thesis

Graduate Assistantships

A number of graduate assistantships are available each year on a competitive basis. Graduate assistants work as instructors in such courses such as Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, Public Relations and Media and Society, as well as serving as coaches for the department's nationally ranked forensics program. They also serve as research assistants for professors in the department.

Special Features of the Program

The Department of Communication boasts a nationally ranked forensics program that focuses on parliamentary debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate and AFA individual events. Many students in the program have successfully completed research projects, many of which have been featured at annual conferences of the International Communication Association, the National Communication Association and the Western States Communication Association. Communication graduate students have co-authored journal articles with professors from the Department. Students concentrating in Media and Public Relations often join the Department's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America and attend the organization's annual national conference.

Admission Requirements

- Minimum GPA of 3.00 (in some rare instances lower GPAs can be provisionally accepted). The last 60 units of the undergraduate degree can be used for this calculation.
- GRE scores (general subject test) less than five years old.
- 3 letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to academic background, professional experience and/or personal qualities.
- One-page personal statement that includes: reason for pursuing graduate study in Communication, commitment to the profession, objectives and plans for graduate study.
- Bachelor's degree – Candidates for admission to the program do not have to hold a bachelor's degree in Communication.

Degree Requirements

The program requires the completion of 32 units of study, and provides for a thesis (Plan A) or non-thesis (Plan B) option. Students must select a concentration of study in one of the following areas: Communication Education, Political Communication, or Media and Public Relations. Each concentration requires a minimum of one course from a related discipline outside of the Department of Communication. The course must be taken at the 200 level unless the related discipline does not have graduate program, in which case the course must be taken at the 100 level. Only 4 units taken at the 100 level can be applied to a student's program. Each concentration requires a minimum of five graduate seminars offered by the Department of Communication.