Communication

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.
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.