

# MA in Communication

## Admission Requirements

Applicants must have a baccalaureate in communication or a related discipline by the end of the semester in which they apply. The minimum cumulative GPA required for regular admission to the graduate program in communication is 3.25 on a 4-point scale. In addition, three letters of recommendation, at least two of which address the applicant's potential to succeed in graduate studies in communication, are also required. Finally, international students who are non-native speakers of English must obtain a TOEFL score of 600 on the paper-based test (or the equivalent score on other versions of the test) to be considered for admission. Applicants with GPAs that do not meet the admission criterion may elect to ~~take~~ submit other materials, such as scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), to offset these deficiencies. Contact the Graduate Program Coordinator for more information.

## Degree Requirements

The MA in Communication requires either 30 or 36 credit hours of coursework, depending on the exit project. Candidates approved for a thesis or internship will complete at least 30 semester hours of approved study, at least 21 of which must be taken in courses offered by the department. Candidates completing the non-thesis, non-internship option must complete 36 semester hours of approved study, 27 of which must be taken in courses offered by the department. **Students** However, students who choose this option may be eligible to waive up to 6 hours if justified by prior coursework or professional experience. Please contact the Graduate Program Coordinator for additional details.

All students complete a 15 credit-hour core. This includes three required courses focusing on the fundamental theories and basic research methods within the field. To complete the core, students will select at least two of three "applications" courses dealing with communication processes within a particular context.

| Required Courses: |   |  |   |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| COMM 6500         | Seminar In Communication Theory           |  | 3 |
| COMM 6510         | Advanced Communication Research Methods I |  | 3 |

|   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
| COMM 6515   | Advanced Communication Research Methods II          | 3            |
| Choose two of the following three applications courses: |   | 6            |
| COMM 6600   | Seminar In Strategic Communication in Organizations | <del>3</del> |
| COMM 6700   | Seminar In Mass Communication                       | <del>3</del> |
| COMM 6800   | Seminar In Health Communication                     |              |
| <b>Total Hours</b>                                      |   | <b>15</b>    |

Students who choose the internship or thesis option must identify a **perspective** committee, **including a** chairperson and **prospective two additional** committee members who will consult in development of an appropriate exit project. The expectation for each internship varies by project and committee, but submission of an essay in which the coursework and internship experiences are integrated is typically required. Internship exit projects and theses must be approved by the student's committee and assigned a grade by the advisor. ~~The candidate must pass an oral examination conducted by student's committee regardless of exit option selected.~~ Students who complete a thesis or internship must complete no less than a 3 hour internship or 6 credit hour thesis.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale Information about admissions is being reworded to reflect the fact that other materials, such as documentation of extensive work experience in the field, can be used to offset GPAs that do not meet the admission criterion. The specialization of "Health Communication" is growing within the field and is of increasing importance to many prospective employers in the region. Adapting the program so that students may take this course as part of the core allows them greater flexibility to tailor the program to their interests and career goals while still ensuring that everyone has a solid foundation in the field. The sentence regarding oral examinations is being removed because these are not the best means to assess students who complete the internship or all coursework exit options. They have not been regularly used in practice for these students.