



Communication MA

The MA in Communication is a flexible program that students tailor to meet their goals. Classes and an exit option – coursework, an internship, or a thesis – are chosen based on whether they want to advance at their workplace, launch a new career, or enroll in a Ph.D. program. Everything we do is grounded in the latest communication research, some produced by the active scholars on our graduate faculty. Our information-rich society needs people who can analyze and apply data to develop insights. We train our students to value, interpret, and evaluate research, so they are comfortable making sense of industry reports and scholarly findings. We are committed to producing thoughtful, ethical communicators who can adapt and excel in our diverse, complex, rapidly-changing world. Software, media, and technology all change. We focus on what stays the same: critical thinking, high-quality research, sound strategies that achieve objectives, and always evaluating the implications of our messages to ensure they are respectful, appropriate, and effective.

Career Outlook

There are few careers where it isn't helpful to be a good communicator. Whether you teach, counsel, are a healthcare professional, run corporate trainings, or provide tech support, you will be better at it if you know how to effectively and strategically communicate. Furthermore, careers within communication fields are expected to show strong growth over the next decade, with over 45,000 media and communication jobs expected through 2026. These include everything from marketing and management positions to social media managers and communication consultants.

Future Career Options

- Account Executive
- Communication Consultant
- Corporate Communication Specialist
- Market Researcher
- Media Analyst
- Public Relations Practitioner
- Social Media Manager
- Strategic Planner

Skills Developed By Degree Completion

- Adapt communication strategies to different situations and audiences
- Evaluate and interpret media, information, and data effectively
- Produce high-quality communications
- Apply interpersonal skills to a variety of situations, audiences, and professional environments
- Use communication theories to take diverse perspectives and excel in a variety of professional environments
- Evolve with changing technologies

Successful alumni have gone on to fulfill many of the opportunities above. Additional possibilities are taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Contact an advisor to discuss additional future career options.

IT STARTS RIGHT NOW

This is a sample academic map for the courses to take each academic semester/session. This map is not a substitute for academic advisement. Contact your advisor when making final selections.



APPLY FOR GRADUATION

Don't forget that students should apply for graduation one year prior to the intended graduation date, so apply prior to the deadline.

umsl.edu

888-GO-2-UMSL
314-516-5451
umsl.edu/gradschool

2024-2025 ACADEMIC MAP

Master of Arts in Communication

Internship Track:

FALL SEMESTER (6 credit hours)

COMM 6500: Seminar in Communication Theory (3)
COMM 6700: Seminar in Mass Communication (3) or
COMM 6600: Seminar in Strategic Communication in Organizations (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (9 credit hours)

COMM 6510: Advanced Communication Research Methods (3)
COMM 6800: Seminar in Health Communication (3) or
COMM 6630: Seminar in Interpersonal Communication (3)
Elective (3)

Year

1

Year

2

Year

1

Year

2

Thesis Track:

FALL SEMESTER (6 credit hours)

COMM 6500: Seminar in Communication Theory (3)
COMM 6700: Seminar in Mass Communication (3) or
COMM 6600: Seminar in Strategic Communication in Organizations (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (9 credit hours)

COMM 6510: Advanced Communication Research Methods (3)
COMM 6800: Seminar in Health Communication (3) or
COMM 6630: Seminar in Interpersonal Communication (3)
Elective (3)

FALL SEMESTER (6 credit hours)

COMM 6700: Seminar in Mass Communication (3) or
COMM 6600: Seminar in Strategic Communication in Organizations (3)
Supervised Research–Thesis Proposal (3)
Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (6 credit hours)

Graduate Thesis (6)

Check once completed

☐
☐☐
☐☐
☐☐
☐☐
☐☐
☐☐
☐☐
☐

Last updated May 2024