GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM

ELLIOTT SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

WHAT’S THE PROGRAM LIKE?

A Master of Arts in Communication (or MAC) requires the completion of 36 hours of coursework in communication and related fields. 15 of these hours will be in the graduate core, a set of five courses designed to provide a strong foundation in communication theory and research methodology. The balance of coursework is selected following consultation with your graduate adviser, who will be assigned to you upon your admission to the MAC program.

HOW DO YOU BECOME A GTA?

Each year, the Elliott School selects a group of MAC graduate students to serve as graduate teaching assistants (GTAs). Applicants must submit materials by March 1 of the subsequent academic year. Those selected for GTA positions teach two sections of the basic public speaking course, or perform other duties. In preparation to teach the basic public speaking course each newly appointed GTA takes a three-credit course offered each August. GTAs are appointed annually and, dependent on satisfactory performance, may be reappointed a second year.

PROGRAM CHECKLIST

CORE RESEARCH & THEORY CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

- COMM 801: Introduction to Communication Research (three credits)
- COMM 803: Empirical/Quantitative Research Methodology in Communication (three credits)
- COMM 812: Contemporary Theories of Communication (three credits)

AND

At least two courses from the following list:

- COMM 802: Qualitative Methods in Applied Research (three credits)
- COMM 832: Methods in Communication History (three credits)
- COMM 835: Rhetorical Analysis & Criticism (three credits)

ELECTIVES

A total of 21 credits must come from outside the core. Most courses will be selected from the Elliott School’s course offerings, although some classes from other WSU departments or programs can be taken if they are clearly justified and approved by a student’s advisor. Continuity among courses and a rationale for outside course work must be demonstrated.

THESIS, PROJECT, NON-THESIS

Thesis: A select number of students with strong academic records may pursue a thesis as part of their 36-hour plan. Six thesis hours may be included in these 36 hours.

Project: Students may complete a project related to some aspect of professional communication-related work they are interested in. Students selecting the project option must take either three or six credits to complete this requirement.

Non-thesis/project: Students can complete 21 credits of approved elective courses.