

Master of Arts in Communication

The Master of Arts in Communication degree program is designed to provide students with a multidisciplinary foundation in human communication that will serve a broad spectrum of interests and needs in many fields of endeavor. The program is based upon integration and synthesis of academic resources in communication. Also available is a graduate (post-baccalaureate) certificate awarded for completing a group of related, upper-level skills courses in applied communications.

Those who select the communication emphasis will find that WSU's graduate program in communication is responsive to the needs of a dynamic urban media and communication community. The core course requirements in qualitative research and quantitative research, communication theory and organizational communication are supplemented by other professional and conceptual courses that students choose to complete their own unique program of study.

Graduates of this program in recent years have gone on to become successful professionals in diverse fields of communication such as advertising, public relations, multi-media production, journalism, and corporate communication, while others who continued their education have been accepted into some of the leading doctoral programs in communications, including Stanford University and Universities of Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Nebraska.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general Graduate School admission requirements, applicants for full standing status must have a 3.000 grade point average (GPA) over their last 60 hours of course work, must submit official results of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and must write a statement of purpose for pursuing the degree.

International students must score at least 600 (pbt) or 100 (ibt) on the TOEFL OR an overall band score of 7.5 on the IELTS, and, if applying for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, must score at least 55 on the TSE.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in communication requires 36 hours of coursework – 14 hours of core courses and 22 hours of electives. Students selecting the thesis option must take 6 hours of thesis credit; students selecting the project option will devote either 3 or 6 hours of directed study credit toward the required 36-hour total.

Program Core

Courses	Hrs
COMM 833, Intro to Grad Studies in Comm....	1
COMM 801, Introduction to Communication Research.....	3
COMM 803, Empirical/Quantitative Methodologies in Communication Research	3
COMM 812, Contemporary Theories in Communication	3
Qualitative Methods: select two of the two-credit 800-level qualitative methods courses offered by the department	4

Other Courses: In addition to the required courses, students, with the advice and consent of their faculty adviser, must select courses to complete the plan of study. The plan of study will be individually designed to accommodate a student's background, interests, and needs and must include a minimum of 60 percent of their graduate hours at the 700-899 level.

Examinations: Written comprehensive examinations are administered to all degree candidates during the final semester of their degree program. Students writing a thesis also present an oral defense of the thesis.

Certificate in Applied Communication

The graduate certificate in applied communication is for students who want concentrated study in communication skills. It is awarded for the successful completion of 14 credit hours of graduate course work selected from a prescribed subset of the MA required courses. The curriculum is integrated by a 2-hour foundation course and a more advanced course in organizational communication. The remaining 9 credit hours of course work are chosen from a group of elective courses in speaking, writing, and visual communication.

The certificate is currently undergoing curriculum review. If interested in the certificate, please contact the department for the most current information.

Facilities

The Elliott School of Communication is located in Elliott Hall. The building includes state-of-the-art facilities in computer writing labs, digital photography, digital cameras and editing, internet access and web-design and interactive CD-ROM production.

The Interdisciplinary Communication Research Institute (ICRI) occupies 5,000 square feet of dedicated space in Elliott Hall. The space includes fourteen combined phone and computer stations networked through a powerful computer unit that not only collects and collates data, but also performs sorting, randomizing and statistical functions. A fully mobile version of the institute's fixed automated response lab is equipped with fifty wireless responders, expandable to 500.

Financial Assistance

The program offers graduate teaching assistantships. Several of these positions are open each year for new applicants. Graduate Teaching Assistants mainly teach in the Basic Oral Communication Program, which provides public speaking instruction for students across campus. In addition, some assignments include debate and forensics and instructional support of teaching faculty. Graduate Teaching Assistantships provide a stipend, and for non-Kansas residents, a waiver on non-resident tuition rates. Students awarded a graduate teaching assistantship also may qualify for up to 100 percent waiver of their tuition.

Faculty

Rick Armstrong, PhD, Bowling Green State University. Rhetoric, organizational and mass communication.

Deborah Ballard-Reisch, PhD, Bowling Green State University. Interpersonal and public communication.

Dan Close, MA, Wichita State University. Experimental journalism, training and coaching of reporters and writers.

Amy DeVault, MA, Kansas State University. Mass Communication.

Patricia Dooley, PhD, University of Minnesota. Mass Communication, media ethics and law.

Philip Gaunt, PhD, Indiana University. Linguistics, mass communication.

Kevin Hager, MS, Fort Hays State University. Broadcast writing, field video production.

Lou Heldman, PhD, Ohio State University. Journalism.

Sharon Iorio, PhD, Oklahoma State University. Communication and social history.

Jeffrey Jarman, PhD, University of Kansas. Rhetorical criticism and argumentation, debate and forensics.

Kevin Keplar, MA, Wichita State University. Audio production, communication technology.

Lisa Parcell, PhD, University of Alabama. Communication.

Sandy Sipes, MA, Wichita State University.

Eric Wilson, MA, Wichita State University.

Mike Wood, MFA, University of Southern California. Distance education, Film Production, educational technologies.

For more information

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