



Wichita State University Wichita, Kansas

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 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); 250 (cbt); or 100 (ibt) on the TOEFL, and, if applying for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, must score at least 55 on the TSE.

Degree Requirements

Students planning on advanced degree work at the doctoral level should consider the thesis option. It requires 36 credit hours that include up to six credit hours for thesis work involving a substantial project of individual research and investigation.

If the master's degree is to be the student's terminal degree, the non-thesis option should be considered. It requires 36 credit hours of course work and allows the student to supplement the core course requirements with additional course work that suits their personal and professional goals.

Program Core

Courses	Hrs
Comm.801, Introduction to Communication Research.....	3
Comm.802, Historical and Qualitative Methodologies in Communication Research	3
Comm.803, Empirical/Quantitative Methodologies in Communication Research	3
Comm.812, Contemporary Theories in Communication	3
Comm.865, Organizational Communication	3

In addition to the required courses, students, with the advice and consent of their faculty advisor, select courses to complete their graduate study plan. 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.

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

Les Anderson, MA, University of Missouri, Journalism.

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

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

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.

Susan Huxman, PhD, University of Kansas. Director of the Elliott School of Communication, Rhetorical criticism and American public address.

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

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

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

Gregory Stene, PhD, University of Colorado-Boulder. Mass communication, marketing communication, creativity in the communication process.

Keith Williamson, PhD, Temple University. Interpersonal communication, communication theory.

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

For more information

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