

The major prepares students as working professionals and for further graduate study in the communications and training fields. Beyond taking the common required courses, students adapt the major to their individual needs and backgrounds by pursuing one of the three sequences and choosing appropriate elective courses. Students plan their specific programs in consultation with their advisors. Graduates of the program are in career areas such as advertising, cable TV, college teaching, consulting, customer service, film-making, human resource development, instructional design and development, journalism, media management, media writing, public affairs, public relations, TV production/direction, and training.

FACT

Employment of public relations specialists is expected to grow by 9 percent from 2012 to 2022. *Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014 – 15, U.S. Department of Labor*

Today

In our high-speed world, information is currency and the ability to communicate effectively is a requirement if you want to make an impact in business, government, media, the arts, and other vital fields.

A Choice of Sequences

You can adapt your studies to meet your individual goals by pursuing one of the three sequences: Communication Studies, Media Communication, and Human Performance and Training, and choosing appropriate elective courses. You will also be prepared for further graduate study in the communication and training fields.

A Choice of Careers

Graduates of the program enjoy careers in film-making, advertising, television production/direction, journalism, customer service, human resource development, higher education, instructional design and development, media management, media writing, public relations, and job training.

For more information:

Yvette Brown
Academic Program Coordinator,
Associate Professor of Communication
Faculty Advisor
708.235.3952
ybrown@govst.edu



Special Admissions Requirements

In addition to meeting the university admissions requirements, applicants must:

1. have completed the following prerequisites (or equivalent) with a grade of "C" or better:
 - a. Students pursuing the Communication Studies sequence - COMS 4100.
 - b. Students pursuing the Media Communication sequence - MCOM-2520, MCOM-4740, or MCOM-4702; and MCOM-4230 or MCOM-4731.
2. have earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. Applicants who do not meet the GPA requirements or who have graduated from non-grade baccalaureate programs may be conditionally admitted. A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained for the first nine credit hours of work completed. If a 3.0 GPA is not maintained, the student must petition the Communication and Training program for continued enrollment;
3. submit a Personal Statement. In this two-page essay, students should consider which of the two tracks (COMS or MCOM) they will be focusing on in their studies in the graduate Communication and Training program, and discuss their reasons for enrolling in the program and how they see completing the degree as beneficial to their life.

Applications for the program should be completed by July 15 for the fall term, November 15 for the spring term, and March 15 for the summer term.

Recommended Preparation

An undergraduate major in one of the following fields is recommended: business, education, media, multimedia, communications, English, psychology, sociology, linguistics, or liberal arts. In addition, students are expected to have demonstrable competence in written, verbal, and visual forms of communication.

Admission to Candidacy

After admission as a degree-seeking student, a student also must apply for candidacy. To qualify for degree candidacy, a student must:

1. complete the prerequisite course work listed above (see Special Admissions Requirement #1) with a grade of "C" or better in each course;
2. complete 15 hours of course work in the major with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

More detailed candidacy information is available through the division office or the student's advisor.

Capstone Requirement: Internship, Thesis, or Project Options

As part of this degree program, students select between an internship, thesis or project capstone option, depending on the sequence chosen. Before enrolling in any capstone option, students must be admitted to candidacy (see above).

In the Communication Studies and Media Communication internship option, students select an internship and develop an internship agreement (similar to a thesis or project proposal). The internship agreement must be approved by the student's committee (composed of the student's internship director, site supervisor, and a faculty member). Upon committee approval of the internship agreement, the student may register for COMS-8970. After successful completion of the internship hours, students must complete the internship report and portfolio.

In the thesis option, students develop a thesis proposal, carry out a formal research study under the supervision of the faculty member and a degree committee, and prepare a final manuscript. The thesis option is strongly encouraged for students who have focused research interests or who intend to pursue doctoral studies. Student may register for COMS-8990 once the proposal has been approved by the student's thesis committee.

In the project option, students develop a master's project proposal, design and complete the project under the direction of a faculty member and a degree committee, and prepare a final report. Students may register for COMS-8980 once the proposal has been approved by the student's project committee.

Master of Arts in Communication and Training

College of Arts and Sciences

Degree Requirements

Students must meet all university requirements for a master's degree and complete required and sequence courses with a grade of "B" or higher in each course and maintain an average GPA of 3.0. Students are only allowed to repeat a course once.

The M.A. in Communication and Training requires a common core of courses. The core concentrates on the essential connections between the sequences; awareness of the common aspects in research; and, finally, the application to various media and technology.

Some required and selective courses are offered only once per academic year. Students are strongly advised to register well in advance of the commencement of courses, and to consult closely with their assigned advisors upon entering the program to ensure individual study plans are aligned with the university schedule.

Introduction courses should be taken in the student's first term (COMS-6100 for COMS and MCOM students). No more than three credit hours of COMS-5050 may be applied to the degree.

Required Courses (10 – 12 Hours)

COMS - 6100 Intro. to Graduate Communication (3)

COMS - 7110 Research Methods I (3)
COMS or MCOM Capstone (4-6)

Sequence Courses (15 – 18 Hours)

Select one of the following sequences:

Communication Studies Sequence

In consultation with an advisor, student select at least 15 hours from the areas below. Of those 15 hours:

1. at least nine hours must be COMS Courses;
2. six hours must be at the 8000 level; and
3. no more than six hours may be taken at the 5000 level.

The following courses are suggestive of those that will fulfill this requirement.

A. Humanistic Communication

COMS - 6090 Topics in Communication (3)
COMS - 6125 Listening (3)
COMS - 6135 Nonverbal Communication (3)
COMS - 6140 Family Communication (3)
COMS - 6330 Intrapersonal Communication (3)
COMS - 6350 Gender Communication (3)
COMS - 6425 Group Communication and Leadership (3)
COMS - 6435 Conflict Management (3)
COMS - 6452 Communicating w Clts and Customers (3)
COMS - 8130 Interpersonal Communication (3)
COMS - 8320 Communication and Consciousness (3)
COMS - 8330 Adv. Communication & Consciousness (3)
COMS - 8400 Organizational Communication (3)
COMS - 8440 Interdisciplinary Team Process (3)
COMS - 8460 Communication Training (3)

B. Political Communication

COMS - 6090 Topics in Communication (3)
COMS - 6500 Graduate Political Communication (3)
COMS - 8060 Seminar in Political Communication (3)
COMS - 8110 Research Methods II (3)

C. Critical/Cultural Communication

COMS - 6090 Topics in Communication (3)
COMS - 6705 Intercultural Communication (3)
COMS - 6710 Culture and Communication (3)
COMS - 6720 Communication and Identity (3)
COMS - 6750 Critical Gender and Sexuality (3)
COMS - 6780 Rhetoric and Popular Culture (3)
COMS - 8070 Seminar in Critical Cultural Com. (3)
COMS - 8110 Research Methods II (3)
COMS - 8190 Philosophy of Communication (3)
COMS - 8790 Teaching Com. and Critical Pedagogy (3)
IFDI - 8400 Film Seminar (3)
MCOM - 6040 Film Seminar (3)
MCOM - 6560 Women in the Media (3)
MCOM - 6735 Documentary Filmmaking (3)

Media Communication Sequence

In consultation with an advisor, students select at least 18 hours from the following:

COMS - 8480 International Communications (3)
MCOM - 6040 Film Seminar (3)
MCOM - 6070 Media Workshop (3)
MCOM - 6355 Sem. in Adv. and Public Relations (3)
MCOM - 6361 Advertising and Society (3)
MCOM - 6730 Directing Drama for TV and Film (3)
MCOM - 6743 History of Film (3)
MCOM - 6746 Advanced Video Editing (3)
MCOM - 6760 Corp & Nontrad. Broadcasting (3)
MCOM - 7455 Media Management (3)
MCOM - 7540 Trends in Communications Tech. (3)
MCOM - 7725 Adv Producing for Film and TV (3)
MCOM - 8003 Contemporary Issues (3)
MCOM - 8030 Grad. Sem. in Media Com (3)
MCOM - 8800 Internship (1-4)

Electives (9 – 12 Hours)

In consultation with the advisor, select 9 to 12 hours of graduate credit appropriate to the student's career interest(s).

At least six hours must be taken within the Communications and Training program. Students must complete at least one 8000-level course as an elective.

* Indicated courses may be taken by graduate student in the Communication Studies or Media Communication sequences as an elective.

Total - 36 Hours

2016 – 17 Catalog Year

