



The Department of Communication Studies

Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

I'm happy to hear of your interest in the MA in Communication Studies at UNCG. Our program offers a broad and flexible course of study, with particular emphases on communication practices in the public sphere, communities, organizations, healthcare, relationships, intercultural contexts, and communication pedagogy. Theoretical and methodological approaches emphasize analyses from the perspectives of critical studies and rhetoric; communication ethics; ethnography and narrative; relational communication; health communication; and cultural/intercultural studies of communication. This theoretically- and research-based MA is structured around two core courses (*CST601 Communication Theories*, and *CST602 Engaging Communication Research Methodologies*), a capstone final research project, and 7 elective courses, to be taken within the Department of Communication Studies. Elective coursework outside the department is also available to students, but is not calculated in the 30-hour minimum plan of study required for a degree.

Our students typically enter our program hoping to pursue careers in higher education, healthcare, non-profit community work, training and organizational development, communication consulting, sales/marketing, media relations, and related fields.

If you decide to apply, you will need to submit an online application and application fee directly to the Graduate School. All additional application materials need to be submitted electronically via Apply Yourself directly to the Graduate School. A complete application includes: online application and fee payment; academic transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended; GRE scores; 3 letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, academic transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended; a sample of academic writing; and an interview (phone or in person) with the Graduate Studies Director. Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Bracci
Associate Professor
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Communication Studies
sbracci@uncg.edu/(336) 334-3836

The Department of Communication Studies
102 Ferguson Building
UNCG
Greensboro, NC 27402
(336) 334-3836
www.uncg.edu/cst



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

102 Ferguson Bldg.

(336) 334-5297

<http://www.uncg.edu/cst>

GRADUATE FACULTY

Sharon L. Bracci, Ph.D. (Ohio State University),
Public deliberation and decision making, communication ethics, health communication,
biomedical ethics
(Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies)

David A. Carlone, Ph.D. (University of Colorado), Organizational communication, social
and cultural theory, cultural studies of work and organization
(Associate Professor)

Cerise Glenn, Ph.D. (Howard University)
Cultural identity and identity negotiation; African-American communication and culture;
occupational socialization and identification of diverse groups; organizational culture;
third wave feminism
(Assistant Professor)

Peter M. Kellett, Ph.D. (Southern Illinois University)
Conflict analysis and management; narrative methodology
(Associate Professor and Department Head)

Etsuko Kinefuchi, Ph.D. (Arizona State University)
Intercultural communication; language and culture; cultural identity and identity
negotiation
(Assistant Professor)

Spoma Jovanovic, Ph.D. (University of Denver)
Communication and communities; communication ethics; social justice; service learning
(Associate Professor)

Marianne LeGreco, Ph.D. (Arizona State University)
Health communication; healthcare institutions; public health policy
(Assistant Professor)

Jessica Delk McCall, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
Speech pedagogy; small group communication

Elizabeth J. Natalie, Ph.D. (Florida State University),
Gender and communication theory; interpersonal processes; feminist criticism
(Associate Professor)



Christopher N. Poulos, Ph.D. (University of Denver)
Relational communication; ethnography; philosophy of communication; film studies;
dialogue
(Associate Professor)

Roy Schwartzman, Ph.D. (University of Iowa)
Figurative language; rhetoric of science and technology; computer-mediated
communication; critical theory; Holocaust studies; public address
(Professor)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mission Statement:

--the power of voices--

We research, teach, and practice communication to cultivate the ethical voices of people that speak in critical, constructive, and transformative ways to identities, relationships, and communities.

--speaking to transform--

Philosophy of Scholarship

We believe that communication is formative and foundational to human identities, relationships, and communities--and that ethical and strategically effective communication can be the means of critiquing, constructing, and transforming identities, relationships, and communities.

We engage in communication scholarship in the form of research, teaching, and service that:

Integrates dialogue and other approaches to communication as the foundation for scholarly inquiry and application to the world

Cultivates diversity and respect for differences

Promotes change that leads to more democratic, just, and peaceful relationships and communities

Engages creative partnerships of faculty, students, and other stakeholders in addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities for improving communication

Scholarly Focus Areas

These beliefs and values are articulated in the following ongoing scholarly focus areas of the department:

Public Voice

How can communication scholarship help us to understand and improve the quality of public discourse in the world around us?

Voices of Change, Diversity and Difference, and Conflict

How can communication scholarship help people to engage with diversity, differences, and divisions in ways that promote understanding and collaborative/democratic change?

Voices of Identity and Relationships

How can communication scholarship help us understand how people create and sustain desired identities and healthy relationships?

Voices of Discovery

How can communication scholarship help us understand how people learn to co-construct, share, and critique knowledge?

We are a community of communication scholars and students who engage in seminars, research, and experiential learning. We value students who are able to blend theory, research, and practice in a variety of communication contexts. We also value research-focused and self-motivated students who are already good writers and speakers. Throughout the program students develop in-depth theoretical knowledge and research skills in the core courses and then apply this to the subject matter of the elective courses they take. Elective course synthesize communication theory, research, and application because we regard theory, research and application as interdependent and necessary aspects of scholarship.

Admission

Admission to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's graduate program in Communication Studies is based on the graduate faculty's evaluation of an application package. Contact Dr. Bracci (slbracci@uncg.edu) for complete information about the application process.

Admission Requirements:

Admission to the graduate program in communication is based on the faculty's evaluation of the application upon receipt of the applicant's completed file, which includes:

1. Completion of Online application submitted directly to the Graduate School.
2. Official transcripts of the applicant's undergraduate record as well as any graduate work previously undertaken.
3. GRE (Graduate Record Exam) scores.
4. Three letters of reference from persons able to comment on the applicant's prospects for success in graduate education.
5. A 2-3 page cover letter (statement of purpose) explaining the applicant's qualifications and interests in our program.
6. A writing sample, such as an academic paper or a paper written in consultation with the graduate director.
7. An interview (phone or in person) with the Director of Graduate Studies
8. Graduate school and departmental application forms and application fee payment.

All application materials need to be submitted electronically directly to the Graduate School. When an application file is complete, the Graduate School forwards it to the department. Generally, faculty can make a decision within two weeks of receipt of the file. Decisions are made as files are received. It is the student's responsibility to send all materials to the Graduate School.



Please contact the Director of Graduate Studies at slbracci@uncg.edu or (336) 334-3836 if you have questions concerning the requirements or enclosed information.

Procedural guidelines and deadlines:

1. Although the deadline for admissions to the program with or without a Teaching Assistantship (TA) or Graduate Assistantship (GA) for fall admission is **May 1**, we strongly encourage applicants to complete the application process by **March 15**. The deadline for spring admission is **September 15**. Please note that Teaching Assistantships are competitively awarded. To ensure serious consideration for an Assistantship, submit all application materials by **March 15** for fall enrollment. Please note that all Teaching Assistantships are awarded to students applying for fall enrollment.
2. Decisions to admit with a teaching assistantship and any tuition waivers will be made as completed application files are received and reviewed.
3. Applications received after May 1 will be accepted on a case-by-case basis for fall enrollment.
4. Upon admission to the department, the Director of Graduate Studies will advise all graduate students on departmental and Graduate School processes and students' academic plans of study.
5. After completing the core requirements, students will be informed by the graduate director if they are or are not meeting the academic standards and requirements of the program. At that time, students may be allowed to continue in the program, placed on academic probation, or asked to leave the program.
6. In the semester immediately prior to the final semester, students will form an advisory committee to assist with completion of the Final Research Project. The committee will consist of two faculty members with whom the student has taken courses during the degree (and with whom the student shares common research interests), one of whom will serve as the major guiding professor on the project. The committee will guide the student through the development and execution of a research project appropriate to the culmination of the M.A. degree. The final product will be a scholarly essay suitable for presentation at a local, regional, or national communication conference, or for publication in a scholarly journal. To allow for adequate planning, the committee should be formed before either fall or spring break in the semester prior to the final semester.

Requirements for the M.A. in Communication Studies

The minimum number of hours required for a M.A. in communication studies is 30. Of these 30, 12 are in required coursework and 18 are in electives.

2 Core Courses (6 hours)

CST 601 Engaging Communication Theories (fall semester, first year)

CST 602 Engaging Communication Research Methodology (spring semester, first year)

Capstone course (3 hours)

CST 698 Capstone Experience in Communication (final research project)

CST698 is taken in 3 1-hour segments over the final 3 semesters of a student's plan of study. The core courses form the foundation for effective scholarship and inquiry and introduce students to the theories and methodologies necessary to engage in communication scholarship and structure a final research project.

Total required: 9 semester hours

Elective Courses (21 hours)

Satisfactory completion of 18 semester hours of electives is required. Recent courses:

- The Semiotics of Everyday Life
- Organizational Change
- Communication Pedagogy
- Seminar in Communication Studies
- Communication and the New Economy
- Seminar in Relational Communication
- Gendered Communication
- Relational Communication and the Hollywood feature film
- Speaking out for Community Change
- Health Communication
- Communication and Social Change
- Intercultural Communication
- Seminar in Communication Ethics
- Seminar in Conflict Studies

SACS 18-Hour Requirement

Community college instructors interested in earning 18 semester hours in communication to satisfy SACS requirements should consult the Director of Graduate Studies for guidance in course selection.

Communication Studies (CST) Courses for Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate Students

CST 500-level classes are open to any graduate student and to selected senior undergraduate students with the permission of the instructor. Graduate students may take a maximum of 9 hours in 500-level coursework.

CST 502. The Semiotics of Everyday Life (3:3)

Language, meaning, and sign systems as communication process; emphasis is on projects to apply theoretical concepts from general semantics and semiotics to promote understanding of how humans symbolically construct reality.

CST 506. Speaking out for Community Change (3:3)

An exploration of theory and practice in community advocacy; focus on public deliberation, moral conflict, and community dialogue in value-laden topics and controversies.

CST 562. Organizational Change (3:3)

Instruction in communicating changes into existing organizations including methods to create a climate for change, diffusion of new ideas and technologies, and assessment of change consequences.

CST 555. Relational Communication and the Hollywood feature Film (3:3)

Course emphasizes analysis and application of the images, discourses, and practices concerning human communication and relationships as they are represented in the powerful cultural medium of film.

CST 589. Experimental Course (3:3)

This number reserved for experimental courses. Refer to the Course Schedule for current offerings in organizational, healthcare, community, and risk communication contexts.

CST 599. Communication Pedagogy (3:3)

Seminar designed for graduate teaching assistants, graduates and undergraduates interested in learning about the power of communication in the learning process. Pedagogical principles, collaborative problem-solving, micro-teaching with feedback and guidance in preparation of instructional materials.

CST 601. Engaging Communication Theories (3:3)

Pr. admission to appropriate degree program or permission of instructor

Contemporary theories of communication, including interpretive, critical, rhetorical, and social scientific; emphasis is on engaging social and cultural contexts in which to utilize theory.

CST 602. Engaging Communication Research Methodologies (3:3)

Pr. admission to appropriate degree program or permission of instructor

Provides a foundation in communication research methodology. Introduces positivist, interpretive, and critical research paradigms; links these to focus groups, in-depth interviewing, participant observation, and document analysis.

CST 605. Communication and Social Change (3:3)

Theoretical and practical views on how to work inside and outside institutions of power to transform values, assert credibility, and mobilize others. Emphasis on how communication creates social change. Topics and emphases vary by semester.

CST 612. Seminar in Communication Studies (3:3)

Pr. admission to appropriate degree program or permission of instructor

Subject matter varies. May be repeated for credit up to 9 hours.



CST 632. Seminar in Communication Ethics (3:3)

Pr. admission to appropriate degree program or permission of instructor

Theory and practice of communication ethics in a free society; issues and cases range from intrapersonal to mass media communication situations.

CST 650. Independent Study (1-3)

Pr. admission to appropriate degree program or permission of instructor and major advisor

Topic to be determined by faculty instructor and student

CST 659. Communication and Gendered Communities (3:3)

Ways in which communication process constructs gendered communities. Analysis of gendered language codes, speech communities, and messages that transform community.

CST 663. Seminar in Relational Communication (3:3)

Pr. admission to appropriate degree program or permission of instructor

Major interpersonal communication theories and constructs, and methods of investigating them

CST 698. Capstone Experience in Communication (Final Research Project) (3:3)

Synthesis of theories, research methods, and practices of communication that will shape the 21st Century, demonstrated through independent scholarly research (conducted in consultation with faculty committee and graded on an S/U basis), taken in 1-hour segments over the student's final 3 semesters.



Admission Documents

Admission to the graduate program in communication is based on the faculty's evaluation of the application file. A complete file includes:

1. Application to the Graduate School
2. Official transcripts of the applicant's undergraduate record as well as any graduate work previously undertaken. Note that all transcripts should be submitted to the Graduate School.
3. GRE (Graduate Record Exam) scores.
4. Three letters of reference from persons able to comment on the applicant's prospects for success in graduate education.
5. A 2-3 page cover letter explaining the applicant's qualifications and interests in our program.
6. A writing sample such as an academic paper, or a paper written in consultation with the graduate director.
7. An interview (phone or in person) with the graduate director or a member of the graduate faculty.



P.O. Box 26170
102 Ferguson Building, UNCG

Telephone: (336) 334-5297
Fax: (336) 334-3618

Department of Communication Studies

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANTSHIPS IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

(Please type or print below)

Name: _____

Last

First

Middle

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

Street or Box Number

City

State

Zip Code

The following titles are used for graduate assistantships at UNCG:

- A. Teaching Assistant:** Teaching responsibility shall be under the supervision of a faculty member. The Teaching Assistant's assignment requires regular and full participation in the teaching program. Appointments include either the teaching of a regular course or a similar responsibility in a laboratory, including the assignment of a semester grade.
- B. Graduate Assistant:** The responsibilities include academic duties such as grading papers, assisting in laboratory or studio work, assisting in faculty research, preparing materials for classroom teaching.

Currently, stipends for teaching assistantships are \$11,000.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

PERSONAL DATA

() Teaching Assistantship

() Graduate Assistantship

Present occupation/employer _____