

The Graduate School

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Communication Studies

Master of Arts (MA)

Mission

We believe that human communication is the creative process that builds, sustains, and transforms relationships and communities. We engage students in this process through communication scholarship.

Overview

The graduate program in communication studies is concerned with research and inquiry into the strategic and ethical uses of communication to build relationships and communities. We are a community of scholars and students of communication who are engaged in seminars, research, and experiential learning. We value students who are able to blend theory, research, and application in a variety of communication environments. We also value self-motivated students who are research focused and who are already good writers and speakers. Students develop the 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. Every elective course synthesizes communication theory, research, and application because we regard theory, research, and application as interdependent and necessary aspects of scholarship.

Procedural Guidelines

Completed applications for fall admission are due May 1. Upon admission to the department, the Director of Graduate Study will advise graduate students on departmental and graduate school processes and procedures. After completing the core requirements, students will be informed by the Director of Graduate Study 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, be placed on academic probation, or asked to leave the program.

In the semester immediately prior to the final semester, students will form an advisory committee to assist with completion of the Final Research Project (Capstone Experience). 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 typically 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.



Program of Study

The requirements for the 30-hour Master of Arts in communication studies consist of satisfactory completion of the mandatory core courses, elective course work, and the final research project (capstone experience).

Mandatory Core Courses (9 hours):

CST 600 Engaging in Graduate Scholarship (3)
CST 601 Engaging Communication Theories (3)
CST 602 Engaging Communication Research Methodologies (3)

The core courses form the foundation for effective scholarship and inquiry. CST 600 should be taken in the first semester of graduate study. This course introduces students to a wide range of topics, themes, and literature in the field, and to the policies, procedures, and expectations of graduate level work. CST 601 and 602 should be taken in the first year of the program to introduce students to the theories and methodologies necessary to engage in communication scholarship.

Elective Course Work (21 hours):

Satisfactory completion of 21 hours is required. At least 9 hours of electives must be at the 600-level. Up to 6 hours may be taken outside the Department of Communication, but courses graded S/U may not count toward the minimum number of hours required for the degree. Up to 3 hours may be taken for the final research project.

Final Research Project (Capstone Experience):

In the final semester of graduate study, students complete a final research project in consultation with faculty advisors.

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 Study for guidance in course selection.

Application Deadline: May 1

Application requirements specific to this program (in addition to the online application and \$45 application fee)

- 2 copies of official transcripts for all prior universities attended.
- 3 letters of recommendation.
- Official GRE test scores
- Personal statement
- Writing Samples



UNCG
Graduate School

Faculty

Sharon L. Bracci, Ph.D., Ohio State University, Associate Professor
Communication ethics, media ethics, argumentation, health communication.

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

Joyce Ferguson, M.Ed., UNCG, Lecturer
Speech pedagogy, small group communication.

Spoma Jovanovic, Ph.D., University of Denver, Assistant Professor
Communication and communities, communication ethics, social justice, service learning.

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

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

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

Christopher N. Poulos, Ph.D., University of Denver, Assistant Professor
Relational communication, ethnography, philosophy of communication, film, dialogue. (Director of Graduate Study)

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

Contacts:
Dr. Chris Poulos
Department of Communication Studies
UNC Greensboro, P.O. Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170
(336) 334-3837
www.uncg.edu/cst
or
The Graduate School, UNCG
241 Mossman Building
Greensboro, NC 27412
336-334-5596
Apply online at: www.uncg.edu/grs