

COMMUNICATION (MA)

Master of Arts in Communication (COMMMA)

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (GA)

Department: Communications

Program Webpage: louisville.edu/communication

Program Information

The Master of Arts in Communication is a 37-credit hour program. It includes 22 credit hours of foundation and core courses, nine hours of electives, and a six (6)-credit hour thesis or non-thesis option. The non-thesis option includes a three (3)-credit hour practicum and an additional three(3)-credit hour elective course.

At least 19 of the 37 credit hours must be in courses at the 600 level.

Upon admission to the program, the student will work with the Director of Graduate Studies to establish a plan of study. After the second semester, students choosing the thesis option will select a mentor who will provide guidance for the thesis and selecting two additional faculty to serve on the thesis committee, one of whom must be outside the Department of Communication. Students choosing the non-thesis option will select a mentor who will provide guidance concerning the practicum and course selection. Students choosing the non-thesis option will take a written comprehensive exam administered by the Communication Department faculty.

Admission Requirements

Applicants need an undergraduate degree in Communication or a related discipline, a 3.0 GPA on a four-point scale, and official GRE scores. Conditional admission is possible for students with lower GRE scores and/or undergraduate GPA.

Application materials include:

- An official copy of university transcripts
- A writing sample
- A personal statement
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- An application (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply>)
- Application fee

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Foundations		
COMM 506	Ethical Problems in Communication - CUE, WR	3
COMM 601	Professional Seminar in Communication	1
COMM 605	Communication Theory & Practice	3
COMM 616	Qualitative Communication Research	3
COMM 617	Quantitative Methods in Communication	3
Area 1: Interactional Communication		
Select ONE of the following:		3
COMM 580	Interpersonal Communication	
COMM 590	Health Communication	
COMM 603	Communication Pedagogy	
COMM 620	Organizational Communication	
COMM 625	Personality and Communication	

COMM 650	Corporate Communication	
COMM 675	Risk Communication	
COMM 690	Special Topics	
Area 2: Integrated Communication		
Select ONE of the following:		3
COMM 520	Computer-Mediated Communication - WR	
COMM 530	Science Communication	
COMM 653	Integrated Marketing Communication Campaigns	
COMM 654	Public Relations and Crisis Management	
COMM 660	Selected Topics in Mass Media	
COMM 690	Special Topics (Health Comm Campaign)	
Area 3: Social Advocacy		
Select ONE of the following:		3
COMM 510	Special Topics in Communication Studies	
COMM 540	Public Communication Campaigns	
COMM 555	Persuasive Movements	
COMM 610	Problems of Public Discourse	
COMM 630	Communication and Multiculturalism	
COMM 640	Communication in Social Service	
COMM 651	Conflict Management	
Electives		
Students may concentrate in an area by taking additional area courses as electives. ¹		9
Thesis or Non-Thesis Option		
Select thesis or non-thesis option		6
<i>Thesis</i>		
COMM 698	Thesis (includes oral defense)	
<i>Non-Thesis Option</i>		
COMM 600	Practicum	
5XX or 6XX elective		
Minimum Total Hours		37

¹ Electives include COMM 510; COMM 660; COMM 690. Three hours of Practicum or Directed Reading may be taken beyond the courses taken for a non-thesis option. Three hours may be taken outside of the Communication Department with the consent of the Faculty Mentor. Additional electives may be outside of Communication with consent of the Graduate Director.

Pending approval of the department program coordinator, and approval by the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies, a student may transfer up to six (6) credit hours of graduate credit from another institution.

Non-thesis option: Students electing a non-thesis option will complete the 37 credit hours specified above, with two differences. Students who select the non-thesis option will substitute one 600-level practicum and one elective for the six (6) thesis hours. The non-thesis option also will include a Comprehensive Examination administered by Department Faculty.

Experiential Component

The Master of Arts does not require an experiential component. However, students may choose to do a practicum in a private business, community organization, or government agency that deals with communication. Students may complete the practicum in two ways. A student may turn

current work or volunteer experience into a research project, or a student not previously affiliated with the practicum site may develop a project useful to the organization. In both cases, the student will work with a Communication Department faculty member to shape the project and will write a formal paper dealing with the project. Students who choose the practicum will be applying knowledge acquired in Communication coursework directly to area needs, thus serving the community and helping to build stronger university/community ties.