

COMMUNICATION (MA)

Master of Arts in Communication

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/intro/>) (GA)

Department: Communication (<http://commcourses.com/www/>)

Program Website (<http://commcourses.com/www/index.php/master-arts/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): COMMMA

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 (9) credit 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.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	Core Coursework	13
	Electives	18
	Thesis/Non-thesis Option	6
Minimum Total Hours		37

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.

Application for Admission

Students seeking admission to the program (accelerated or otherwise) will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Graduate School Application**
 - Applicants to graduate school at the University of Louisville must submit a **Graduate Application for Admission**. It can be accessed at this link. (<https://apply.louisville.edu/register/applygrad/>)
- **Previous Degrees**
 - Applicants need an undergraduate degree in Communication or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated competency in quantitative and qualitative-based courses
 - Applicants who have completed, or are in the process of completing, a BA or BS in Communication at the University of Louisville must have taken Communication Research Methods or Communication Statistics and earned a grade of B or better.
 - Applicants from outside of the department or the university must have earned a B or better in a course related to quantitative and/or qualitative research methods.
- **Transcripts** indicating a Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or Higher

- Applicants must submit an official transcript from each college attended. All University of Louisville transcripts will automatically be submitted with the completion of an application. Transcripts must be sent directly from the school to Graduate Admissions, in order to be considered official.
- Undergraduate students applying to the accelerated master's degree program must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 after earning 45 credit hours.
- **Writing Sample**
 - A writing sample that demonstrates academic writing skill. There is no page limit, but usually a sample with 3 to 10 pages will be acceptable. Writing samples should show English language proficiency, meaningful research questions (process), theoretical and methodological awareness, thoroughness in research (evidence, data collection), and craft.
- **Recommendations**
 - Three letters of recommendation from faculty familiar with the applicant's academic work. Of special interest are the applicant's research potential and qualitative and quantitative reasoning skills.
- **Personal Statement**
 - A personal introduction that includes the reasons for applying to this program, personal goals during and after completing the program, interest in obtaining an assistantship, and any other pertinent particulars.
- **Graduate Record Exam (GRE)**
 - The GRE is **not required** unless a student applies for an **Assistantship**. GRE scores are used as a metric for determining eligibility for departmental funding and are not a requirement for admission into the program.

Summary

Application Materials include:

- Official university transcripts
- Writing samples
- Three letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Graduate admissions application

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Foundations		
COMM 506	Ethical Problems in Communication - CUE (http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	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
Electives (6 Courses)		18
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 520	Computer-Mediated Communication - WR (http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
COMM 653	Integrated Marketing Communication Campaigns
COMM 654	Strategic Communication and Crisis Management
COMM 660	Selected Topics in Mass Media
COMM 540	Public Communication Campaigns
COMM 555	Persuasive Movements
COMM 610	Problems of Public Discourse
COMM 630	Intercultural Communication
COMM 640	Communication in Social Service
COMM 651	Conflict Management
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

Pending approval of the department program coordinator, and approval by the Graduate School, 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) credit hours of thesis. 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.