The Rhetoric and Communication Ethics area of emphasis is dedicated to the investigation of public communication and is particularly concerned with questions of how ethics and justice are constituted throughout the spectrum of public communication activity. The study of rhetoric and communication ethics at DU is best defined through three intellectual commitments. First, we are committed to developing philosophical accounts of the nature of communicative activity. Second, we are committed to understanding how communicative action works to form and transform our public and civic identities. And third, we are committed to producing reflective criticism of communicative activity in all of its textual and performative modalities.

It is our mission to foster intellectual relationships between faculty and students that will result in research programs capable of describing the normative presuppositions of communication activity, using that knowledge to expose and critique illegitimate and unjust communication behavior and constructing normative models of ethical communicative practice. It is our mission to cultivate teachers dedicated to addressing important public issues in a reasoned, passionate and ethical manner. It is our mission to model a deep commitment to using knowledge of rhetoric and communication ethics to further the public good.

Office: Sturm Hall, Room 200
Mail Code: 2000 E. Asbury Ave., Denver, CO 80208
Phone: 303-871-2385
Email: gradcomn@du.edu
Web Site: http://www.du.edu/comn

The Department of Communication Studies has been a pioneer in speech and communication studies since 1912, offering MA and PhD programs.

Our program takes full advantage of being situated in the state’s capital and business center, offering students excellent opportunities to study culture and communication, interpersonal and family communication, and rhetoric and communication ethics.

The graduate program in Communication Studies seeks to identify the ways in which we can better understand who we are as members of cultures, groups and families; examine and critique ideologies and structures that constrain our contact with each other; identify ways to deliberate and reach just decisions in public, organizational and personal contexts; and create the means for dialogue and collaboration in instances of conflict and struggle. Our faculty members work within and across three main areas of expertise, and we encourage our students to combine these areas in novel ways.

**Culture and Communication**
The area of Culture and Communication investigates the communicative constitution and intersection of difference in its various codifications as culture, race, class, religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender and sexual orientation. Its vision is to promote an ethic of inclusivity, racial and social justice, reciprocity and mutual transformation in the encounter of difference. Courses reflect this emphasis, focusing on the social and performative construction of identity, the politics of representation, performances of affect, identity and community and vernacular and embodied rhetorics, all informed by critical, feminist and queer perspectives on cultural communication.

This area investigates the communicative constitution and negotiation of difference in its various codifications as culture, race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender and sexual orientation. Its vision of the goal of intercultural communication is to promote an ethic of inclusivity, racial and social justice, reciprocity and mutual transformation in the encounter of difference. As such, it endeavors to equip students with perspectives, knowledge and skills needed to function in an ethical manner within a global cultural context. Besides introducing students to the history of theorizing and practice in the field, the program seeks to update disciplinary competence to include more fluid and dynamic conceptions of cultural negotiation of difference within the context of trans-border crossings, intensified global interactions and the displacement and movements of populations.

**Interpersonal and Family Communication**
The area of interpersonal communication explores how human communication works in our everyday lives, specifically, how people interact, and the impact their actions have on relationships between members of dyads, families, groups, social networks and communities. A basic premise of work in this area is that human interaction is fundamental to the construction, development and maintenance of personal and social relationships, and to the organization of social life as we know it today. The curriculum in this area draws from and is grounded in several significant traditions in social science and communication research, namely social-psychological, dialectical and interpretive approaches. Courses focus on current trends and significant contributions to research in interpersonal communication, family communication and research on close relationships.

The objective of study in this area is to facilitate an increased understanding of the communication processes and practices that occur within various contexts of interpersonal and social relationships, such as close, intimate relationships, including friendships, marriages and family relationships. Our primary value commitment is to high-quality relationships. That is, our research and teaching is directed toward discovering and disseminating information about the ways that relationships can be mutually satisfying and constructive—or dissatisfying and destructive.

We emphasize the construction of relationships through communication and recognize that quality relationships can take many forms.

**Rhetoric and Communication Ethics**
The Rhetoric and Communication Ethics area of emphasis is dedicated to the investigation of public communication and is particularly concerned with questions of how ethics and justice are constituted throughout the spectrum of public communication activity. The study of rhetoric and communication ethics at DU is best defined through three intellectual commitments. First, we are committed to developing philosophical accounts of the nature of communicative activity. Second, we are committed to understanding how communicative action works to form and transform our public and civic identities. And third, we are committed to producing reflective criticism of communicative activity in all of its textual and performative modalities.

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Application Deadlines

- Fall 2017 Priority Deadline: December 15, 2016
- Fall 2017 Final Submission Deadline: September 15, 2017
- Fall 2017 Deadline for Applicants Educated Outside the U.S.: July 31, 2017
- Winter 2018 Priority Deadline: March 15, 2017
- Winter 2018 Final Submission Deadline: January 9, 2018
- Winter 2018 Deadline for Applicants Educated Outside the U.S.: November 20, 2017
- Spring 2018 Priority Deadline: June 15, 2017
- Spring 2018 Final Submission Deadline: March 30, 2018
- Spring 2018 Deadline for Applicants Educated Outside the U.S.: February 12, 2018

Admission Requirements

- Online admission application
- $65.00 Application Fee
- University Minimum Degree and GPA Requirements
  - Program Minimum GPA Requirements: The minimum undergraduate GPA for admission consideration for the Communication Studies program is a cumulative 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
  - Transcripts: One official transcript from each post-secondary institution.
  - GRE: The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the deadline. The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The minimum scores are:
    - Minimum Total Verbal and Quantitative Score - 286
- Letters of Recommendation: Three (3) letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be submitted by recommenders through the online application.
- Personal Statement: Applicants must submit a 2-4 page personal statement, articulating their scholarly interests in pursuing a PhD in Communication Studies. The statement should include professional goals relative to advanced study while in our program and after graduation. Applicants should identify faculty members with whom they would like to collaborate and explain how their research interests connect with those faculty members.
- Résumé: The résumé (or C.V.) should include work experience, research, and/or volunteer work.
- Prerequisites: Bachelor’s or master’s degree in communication or a related field is required.

Additional Standards for Non-Native English Speakers

Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) are required of all graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship status, whose native language is not English or who have been educated in countries where English is not the native language. The minimum TOEFL/IELTS/CAE test score requirements for the degree program are:

- Minimum TOEFL Score (paper-based test): 570
- Minimum TOEFL Score (internet-based test): 88
- Minimum IELTS Score: 7.0
- Minimum CAE Score: 185
- English Conditional Admission Offered: No, this program does not offer English Conditional Admission.

Read the English Language Proficiency (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/admission-and-enrollment-policies/additional-standards-for-non-native-english-speakers/english-language-proficiency-toefl) policy for more details.


Read the Required Tests for GTA Eligibility (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/admission-and-enrollment-policies/additional-standards-for-non-native-english-speakers/required-tests-for-gta-eligibility) policy for more details.

Additional Standards for International Applicants

Per Student & Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) regulation, international applicants must meet all standards for admission before an I-20 or DS-2019 is issued, [per U.S. Federal Register: 8 CFR § 214.3(k)] or is academically eligible for admission and is admitted [per 22 C.F.R. §62]. Read the Additional
Standards For International Applicants (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/admission-and-enrollment-policies/additional-standards-for-international-applicants) policy for more details.

Financial Aid
There are many different options available to finance your education. Most University of Denver graduate students are granted some type of financial support. Our Office of Financial Aid is committed to helping you explore your options.

Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Application Deadlines
• Fall 2017 Priority Deadline: December 15, 2016
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• $65.00 Application Fee
• University Minimum Degree and GPA Requirements
  • Program Minimum GPA Requirements: The minimum undergraduate GPA for admission consideration for the Communication Studies program is a cumulative 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
  • GRE (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/admission-and-enrollment-policies/admission-process-and-standards-for-all-applicants/university-admission-criteria): The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the deadline. The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. The minimum scores are:
    • Minimum Total Verbal and Quantitative Score - 286
• Letters of Recommendation: Three (3) letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be submitted by recommenders through the online application.
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Communication Studies

Read the English Conditional Admission (ECA) policy for more details.

Read the Required Tests for GTA Eligibility policy for more details.

Additional Standards for International Applicants

Per Student & Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) regulation, international applicants must meet all standards for admission before an I-20 or DS-2019 is issued, or is academically eligible for admission and is admitted. Read the Additional Standards For International Applicants policy for more details.

Financial Aid

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Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies

Degree Requirements

Coursework Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core course requirements (135 graduate-level credits required)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Methods/Tools</td>
<td>Minimum of 8 credit hours of research methods from courses listed below or other courses with permission of advisor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMN 4160</td>
<td>Performance Ethnography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMN 4900</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMN 4901</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMN 4930</td>
<td>Speech and Communication Research - Qualitative Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMN 4931</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMN 4932</td>
<td>Critical Methods for Studying Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Seminars</td>
<td>Minimum of 40 credit hours of any 4000-level COMN graduate coursework (or courses outside the department, with advisor approval)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>12-18 hours of close engagement in scholarly work with a faculty mentor</td>
<td>12-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMN 4990</td>
<td>Graduate Tutorial in Communication Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>8-24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Hours</td>
<td>Independent Research (Maximum of 22 quarter hours of dissertation hours)</td>
<td>0-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Transfer Credit</td>
<td>Assumes a 45 hr. credit transfer for the MA degree. If the student does not have an MA, the total hours required for the degree is 135 hours, or if the student has less than 45 hrs. of transfer credit the student will need to take courses to equal 135 hours.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>135</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Registration for COMN 5995 is optional

Minimum number of credits required for the degree: 135

Non-coursework Requirements

- Tool Requirement: The tool is a methodological rather than a content requirement. This requirement should be met through course work in a methodology that results in advanced knowledge about a method that is related to the dissertation. In addition to recognizing tool requirement options in the traditional sense, (i.e., statistics) the student, in consultation with the dissertation advisor, may petition the faculty for an option deemed appropriate to the research/ investigative requirements of the dissertation. The tool consists of 8–10 credits of course work taken during the PhD program at the University of Denver; transfer hours from the student’s prior MA program cannot be counted toward the tool.

- Periodic Review: After the completion of 10 quarter credits, the PhD student may be advanced to preliminary candidacy. Basis for advancement is the periodic faculty review of the progress of each student.

- Comprehensive Examination: At the end of required graduate course work and preliminary to advancement to final candidacy, the PhD student is required to pass a comprehensive examination. The examination is designed to test the student’s competencies as a scholar. The examination assesses both depth and breadth of knowledge within the discipline by focusing upon both the student’s curriculum emphasis and supporting
work in other fields of study. The comprehensive examination offers the doctoral student an opportunity to demonstrate that the student has become an independent, original and mature thinker in the discipline, as a consequence of the research and study engaged in during formal graduate course work.

- Examination Procedures: Exam preparation and administration will be under the supervision of an examination committee chosen by the student in conjunction with the student’s advisor. The committee will consist of a minimum of three tenure-track faculty members in the department of communication studies. The examining committee chair will, in consultation with the student, convene the committee to prepare the examination and will offer the student guidance in preparation for meeting. (See the department for a more detailed description of comprehensive examination policies and procedures.)

- Dissertation: The PhD student is expected to submit a formal dissertation proposal, write a dissertation and defend the dissertation in an oral defense. No oral defense can be taken in the summer quarters.

Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Degree Requirements

Thesis Track

Coursework Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Minimum of 8 credit hours of research methods from courses listed below or other courses with permission of advisor</td>
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<td>Critical Methods for Studying Culture</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Content Seminars</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum of 28 credit hours of any 4000-level COMN graduate coursework (or courses outside the department, with advisor approval)</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Hours</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum of 20 credit hours of any 4000-level COMN graduate coursework (or courses outside the department, with advisor approval)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Hours</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum of 20 credit hours of any 4000-level COMN graduate coursework (or courses outside the department, with advisor approval)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Registration for elective credits is optional
2. Registration for COMN 4995 is optional

Minimum number of credits required for the degree: 45

Non-coursework Requirements

- Thesis
- Thesis oral defense

Comprehensive Examination Track

Coursework Requirements

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>0-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minimum number of credits required for the degree: 52

Non-coursework Requirements

• Comprehensive exam: Comprehensive examinations may be taken throughout the year, with the exception of summer quarter. Exams taken during breaks will be reviewed the next quarter following completion of the examination. Areas of testing are determined by an advisor within guidelines established by the communication studies faculty.