Communication Studies

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, as well as a dual degree with the Graduate School of Social Work.

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 public discourse 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. This mission is realized through three distinct but overlapping areas of emphasis in which students can specialize: culture and communication, interpersonal and family communication and rhetoric and communication ethics.

Areas of Emphasis

Students must select a primary Area of Emphasis in which to study. In certain cases, a student may combine two areas with the assistance of a faculty advisor. The student’s chosen area must be communicated to a faculty member in that area.

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.
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.

Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Following are the simple steps to apply for graduate study in Communication Studies at the University of Denver. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies.

Apply Online / Application Deadlines

- Applications for graduate study at the University of Denver must be submitted online.
- All online materials must be received, and all supplemental materials including transcripts must be on file in the Office of Graduate Studies, by the program’s stated deadline: December 15, for admission and financial aid consideration for fall quarter; March 15, for the following winter quarter; June 15, for the following spring quarter. After the priority deadlines, applications may be considered on a rolling basis.
- A $65 non-refundable application fee is required for an application to be processed. Application fee waivers are available for McNair Scholars.

Course and Degree Prerequisites and Requirements

- For the MA program, applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in communication or a related field. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in the highest earned degree at the time of matriculation is required. Applicants must earn and submit proof of earning the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to beginning graduate coursework at DU.

Transcripts

- Applicants are required to submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution they have attended, or are presently attending, where two quarter hours (or one semester hour) or more were completed including study abroad and college coursework completed in high school.
- The applicant is responsible for obtaining all transcripts. Applicants who have earned a degree outside the U.S. must submit transcripts accompanied by certified English translations, if not normally issued in English. DU students and alumni do not need to provide DU transcripts.
- Official study abroad transcripts are required unless the course titles, grades and credit earned abroad appear on another transcript. Transcripts from outside of the U.S. are evaluated by the Office of International Student Admission. This process can take three to four weeks and must be complete by the program’s stated deadline. Therefore, applicants with a degree from outside of the U.S. are encouraged to apply early. Applicants educated outside the U.S. are encouraged to contact the Office of Graduate Studies for assistance regarding transcript-related materials.
- The University of Denver will consider electronic transcripts official from a domestic institution provided by the following approved agencies: Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS); Docufide/Parchment; National Student Clearinghouse; Naviance; Royall and Company; and, Scrip-Safe.
- Paper transcripts should be sent to the following address:

  University of Denver
  Office of Graduate Studies
  Mary Reed Building, Room 5
  2199 S. University Blvd.
  Denver, CO 80208-4802

- Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradinfo@du.edu.

Language Proficiency

- Official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) 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. Applications will not be processed until the required TOEFL or IELTS score is received. The TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date. The minimum TOEFL score accepted by the Communications Studies programs is 88 (iBT) or 570 (paper-based). The institution code for the University of Denver is 4842. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) must demonstrate fluency in spoken English by scoring a 26 on the TOEFL speaking section or 8.0 on the IELTS speaking section. Please see the Graduate Policy Manual for complete English language proficiency requirements.
- Applicants may be exempted from English proficiency test requirements if by the time of matriculation they have earned a post-secondary degree from a formally-recognized/accredited university where the language of instruction and examination is English. Such applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement but not from other standardized graduate entrance examinations. There are no exemptions for graduate teaching assistants.
- Students whose native language is not English and who are required to submit TOEFL/IELTS scores will be assessed by the University of Denver English Language Center (ELC) prior to matriculation.
Test Scores

- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. The minimum combined score required by the Communication Studies program is 286/800 on the verbal and quantitative sections. Scores must be received directly from the appropriate testing agency by the program's stated deadline. DU's ETS Institution Code is 4842.

Essay

- Applicants must submit a two- to four-page essay indicating area of emphasis(s), motivation for applying, professional and personal goals, and any additional information that will inform the faculty of your capability to pursue graduate-level work. The essay should be submitted via upload through the online application process.

Resume/C.V.

- A resume or C.V. is required. This should include work experience, research, and/or volunteer work. The resume or C.V. should be submitted via upload through the online application process.

Recommendation Letters

- Three letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be solicited and uploaded by recommenders through the online application system. Requests for letters should be sent to recommenders well in advance so the letters are on file by the application deadline.

Financial Support

- To be considered for financial support, domestic applicants should apply early and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline: February 15. Information about financial aid can be found on the Office of Financial Aid website Office of Financial Aid website. International students are not eligible for federal financial aid. Some programs provide competitive awards in the form of fellowships and/or assistantships. All applicants are automatically considered for these awards / applicants that indicate an interest will be considered for these awards. Contact your academic program for more information.

Application Status

- We encourage you to be actively engaged in the admission process. You can check your application status online at PioneerWeb. Applicants will receive login information post application submission.

Contact Information

- Mail official transcripts and any supplemental admission materials not submitted with the online application to:
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  - For more information call (303) 871-2706

International Applicants

- For complete international applicant information, please visit the Office of Graduate Studies International Student Application Information. International applicants are strongly encouraged to have their applications complete, with all materials on file in the admission office, at least eight weeks prior to the program's application deadline.

*The Graduate Policies and Procedures provides complete details regarding admission requirements.*

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The Graduate Policies and Procedures provides complete details regarding admission requirements.

Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Degree Requirements

Thesis Track

Coursework Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emphasis Area</th>
<th>Minimum of 15 credit hours from one of the following lists:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culture and Communication</strong></td>
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<td>COMN 4222 Theories of Identity and Subjectivity</td>
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<td>COMN 4231 Discourse and Race</td>
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<td>COMN 4700 Topics in Communication</td>
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<td>COMN 4701 Topics in Communication (Voices of Women</td>
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<td>COMN 4702 Topics in Communication (Culture and A</td>
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<td>COMN 4702 Topics in Communication (Performative</td>
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<td>Pedagogy)</td>
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<td><strong>Interpersonal and Family Communication</strong></td>
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<td>COMN 4110 Theories in Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>COMN 4020 Communication Studies: Relational</td>
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<td>COMN 4250 Seminar: Family Communication</td>
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<td>COMN 3240 Group Methods and Facilitation</td>
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<td>COMN 4251 Advanced Seminar in Family Communication</td>
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<td>COMN 4280 Theories-Group Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4300 Seminar in Persuasion</td>
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</table>
COMN 4700  Topics in Communication (Narrative Communication)
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COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Seminar in Gender and Communication)
COMN 4703  Topics in Communication (Communication and Mediated Relationships)
COMN 4710  Seminar: Nonverbal Communication

Rhetoric and Communication Ethics
COMN 3130  Organizational Communication
COMN 3315  Public Deliberation
COMN 3435/4435 Rhetoric and Public Life
COMN 3470  Seminar in Free Speech
COMN 3850/4850 Communication Ethics (multiple seminars)
COMN 4310  Communication and Collaboration
COMN 4420  Rhetorical Theory
COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Rhetoric and Biopolitics)
COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Rhetoric and Marxism)
COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Rhetoric and Neoliberalism)
COMN 4702  Topics in Communication (Seminar on Kenneth Burke)
COMN 4702  Topics in Communication (Social Movement Rhetoric)
COMN 4704  Topics in Communication (Rhetorical Criticism)
COMN 4705  Topics in Communication (Culture and Affect)
COMN 4890  Philosophy of Communication

Cognate
Minimum of two cognate courses outside of the area of emphasis and/or outside of the COMN prefix 10-15

Thesis Hours
COMN 4995  Independent Research (Required for thesis track) 0-10

Total Credits 45

Non-coursework Requirements
- Thesis
- Thesis oral defense

Comprehensive Examination Track

Coursework Requirements
Minimum of two research methods courses 10

Emphasis Area
Minimum of 15 credit hours from one of the following lists: 15

Culture and Communication
COMN 4220  Critical Intercultural Communication (required)
COMN 4932  Critical Methods for Studying Culture (required)
COMN 4933  Writing Culture (Suggested if writing a thesis)
COMN 4221  Culture, Power and Representation
COMN 4222  Theories of Identity and Subjectivity
COMN 4231  Discourse and Race
COMN 4700  Topics in Communication
COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Rhetoric and Neoliberalism)
COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Voices of Women of Color)
COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Cultural Memory)
COMN 4701  Topics in Communication (Critical Pedagogy and Culture)
COMN 4702  Topics in Communication (Critical Sexuality Studies)
COMN 4702  Topics in Communication (Performance Ethnography)
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### Interpersonal and Family Communication

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<td>COMN 4530</td>
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<td>Discourse Analysis</td>
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### Cognate

Minimum of two cognate courses outside of the area of emphasis and/or outside of the COMN prefix: 10-15 credits

### Electives

12-17 credits

### Total Credits

52 credits

### 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.

### Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies

### Degree Requirements

#### Coursework Requirements

**Core course requirements (135 graduate-level credits required)**

**Emphasis Area**

Select one of the following lists: 30 credits

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<td>Topics in Communication (Critical Pedagogy and Culture)</td>
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<td>COMN 4701</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Performatve Writing)</td>
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<td>COMN 4702</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Sexuality Studies)</td>
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<td>COMN 4702</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Performance Ethnography)</td>
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<td>COMN 4702</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Culture and Affect)</td>
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<td>COMN 4702</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Performatve Padagogy)</td>
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**Interpersonal and Family Communication**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4110</td>
<td>Theories in Interpersonal Communication (required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4250</td>
<td>Seminar: Family Communication (required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4020</td>
<td>Communication Studies: Relational (required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 3240</td>
<td>Group Methods and Facilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4210</td>
<td>Seminar: Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>COMN 4210</td>
<td>Seminar: Interpersonal Communication (Privacy and Disclosure in Interpersonal Communication)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4251</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Family Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4280</td>
<td>Theories-Group Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4300</td>
<td>Seminar in Persuasion</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4700</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Narrative Communication)</td>
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<td>COMN 4701</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Seminar in Gender and Communication)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4703</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Communication and Mediated Relationships)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4710</td>
<td>Seminar: Nonverbal Communication</td>
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**Rhetorical and Communication Ethics**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 3130</td>
<td>Organizational Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 3315</td>
<td>Public Deliberation</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 3435/4435</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Public Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 3470</td>
<td>Seminar in Free Speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 3850/4850</td>
<td>Communication Ethics (multiple seminars)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4310</td>
<td>Communication and Collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4315</td>
<td>Public Deliberation</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4420</td>
<td>Rhetorical Theory</td>
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<td>COMN 4425</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Governance</td>
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<td>COMN 4530</td>
<td>Critical Theories of Communication II: Nietzsche's Influence on Contemporary Rhetoric</td>
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<td>COMN 4701</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Rhetoric and Biopolitics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4701</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Rhetoric and Marxism)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4701</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Rhetoric and Neoliberalism)</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMN 4702</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Seminar on Kenneth Burke)</td>
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<td>COMN 4702</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Social Movement Rhetoric)</td>
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<td>COMN 4704</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Rhetorical Criticism)</td>
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<td>COMN 4705</td>
<td>Topics in Communication (Culture and Affect)</td>
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<td>COMN 4800</td>
<td>Philosophies of Dialogue</td>
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<td>COMN 4850</td>
<td>Communication Ethics</td>
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<td>COMN 4890</td>
<td>Philosophy of Communication</td>
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<td>COMN 4915</td>
<td>Discourse Analysis</td>
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**Cognate**

Three cognate courses outside of the area of emphasis
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 he/she 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 his/her 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.

Courses

**COMN 3130 Organizational Communication (4 Credits)**
This is an applied course, service learning course, based on a consulting model. While the course will extend and enrich the topical and theoretical knowledge developed in COMN 1550 and COMN 2130, the primary purpose of this course will be to help students explore how they can put such knowledge into practice by collectively working with a local non-profit organization to first diagnose and then propose (and, in some cases implement) solutions to an organizational communication problem faced by that organization.

**COMN 3230 Principles of Leadership (4 Credits)**
Roles, functions, behaviors that influence and direct; emphasis on interpersonal effectiveness; theories and methods.

**COMN 3245 Building Group/Team Effectiveness (4 Credits)**
The objectives of this course are to help students acquire a deeper understanding of groups and teams, how they function, and what contributes to their success or failure. It also aims to help students develop the skills and capacities that will allow them to contribute in concrete and significant ways to successful outcomes and satisfying experiences for themselves and others in groups and teams. Cross listed with LDRS 2540.

**COMN 3270 Health Communication (4 Credits)**
This course examines the role of health communication in our everyday lives. We will focus on communication strategies that inform and influence individuals, families and communities in decisions that enhance health. We will also explore the dynamics and impact of health communication between individuals and the health care system such as doctor-patient communication, dissemination of health related information, and the role of mediated communication in examining health communication.
GWST 3680, HCOM 3680. in terms of gender roles, but also what might be and how we, as change agents, may act to improve our individual and collective lives. Cross listed with.

Second, the course considers how we enact socially created gender differences in public and private settings and how this affects success, satisfaction, and self-esteem. Third, the course connects theory and research to our personal lives. Throughout the quarter, the course considers not only what IS theory, preparation, delivery and evaluation of public speeches.

This course focuses on the interactive relationships between gender and communication in contemporary U.S. society. This implies three priorities for the class. First, the course explores the multiple ways communication creates and perpetuates gender roles in families, media, and society in general. Second, the course considers how we enact socially created gender differences in public and private settings and how this affects success, satisfaction, and self-esteem. Third, the course connects theory and research to our personal lives. Throughout the quarter, the course considers not only what IS in terms of gender roles, but also what might be and how we, as change agents, may act to improve our individual and collective lives. Cross listed with GWST 3680, HCOM 3680.
COMN 3700 Topics in Communication (1-4 Credits)
COMN 3701 Topics in Communication (1-4 Credits)
COMN 3702 Topics in Communication (1-4 Credits)
COMN 3703 Topics in Communication (1-4 Credits)
COMN 3704 Topics in Communication (1-4 Credits)
COMN 3705 Topics in Communication (1-4 Credits)

COMN 3770 Mediated Communication and Relationships (4 Credits)
This course examines how people develop, define, maintain, and manage interpersonal relationships through their use of mediated communication. We will examine communication in relationships that occur through the internet, text-messaging, cell phones, chat rooms, gaming, and virtual communities. This is a seminar type course where students guide and are guided through their own study of mediated relationships.

COMN 3800 Philosophies of Dialogue (4 Credits)
This course explores the philosophies of dialogue of Martin Buber, Mikhail Bakhtin and others in the context of contemporary communication scholarship on ethics, culture, and relationship. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

COMN 3850 Communication Ethics (4 Credits)
This class is not just about how to be ethical communicators but it is also about how to discover ethics—the good life and care for others, answerability and responsibility—deep within the structures of human communication itself. The course is committed to a mixture of theory and practice but practice is at the heart of the matter. Half of our sessions will be devoted to dialogue or conversation about ethics in life. There we will try to work as close as we can with ethics in our own lived experience. In the other half, we will explore theory: the ethical/philosophical/communicative ground of ethics.

COMN 3991 Independent Study (1-5 Credits)
COMN 3992 Directed Study (1-10 Credits)
COMN 3995 Independent Research (1-10 Credits)
Topics and quarter hours vary. Prerequisite: instructor's permission.

COMN 4010 Introduction to Graduate Studies (5 Credits)
History of the discipline; noteworthy scholars and publications, current issues in the discipline.

COMN 4020 Communication Studies: Relational (5 Credits)
Recent social science literature in interpersonal communication; emphasis on pragmatics, meta-level perspectives, relational concerns affecting intimacies, friendships, families.

COMN 4030 Communication Studies: Organizational (3-5 Credits)
Ways in which communicative actions create, maintain, transform terms that define and regulate our practical and passionate attachments to each other; specifically how identity, knowledge, value, social organizations are constructed in and through communicative practices.

COMN 4100 Seminar: Speech Communication Theory (5 Credits)
Theoretical foundations of communication and language behavior; syntactics, semantics, pragmatics.

COMN 4110 Theories in Interpersonal Communication (5 Credits)
Selected themes in interpersonal communication, based primarily on theoretical sources, including interaction, relationships, goal achievement, hierarchies, interpersonal change.

COMN 4120 Comparative Theories in Human Communication (5 Credits)
Selected efforts to construct theories of human communication; lectures, discussions, student presentations of analysis of readings.

COMN 4130 Seminar in Communication in Human Organizations (5 Credits)
Current problems and issues in organizational communication.

COMN 4140 Graduate Colloquium (5 Credits)

COMN 4150 Culture, Ethnicity and Communication (5 Credits)
A cross-cultural approach to investigate communication codes, norms, value dimensions, power, privilege, and relationship issues within national, ethnic, and gender groups.

COMN 4160 Performance Ethnography (5 Credits)
This seminar provides a theoretical and methodological framework for understanding performance ethnography. This is not a “how to” class; rather, this is a course that examines the theories and perspectives behind performance ethnography as a method and orientation. Among the subtopics that fall within the purview of performance ethnography we will examine will be performative writing, personal narrative, poetic transcription, autoethnography, narrative ethnography, and ethics. This course provides an introduction and broad overview to performance ethnography.
COMN 4200 Physical Basis of Spoken Language (5 Credits)
The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a comprehensive understanding of the past, current, and evolving legal, policy, and regulatory issues affecting telecommunications, telecommunications-related industries, and the Internet. Laws and policies affecting multichannel television, wireline and wireless telephone companies, and the Internet will be examined in depth. Focus is placed on the role public policy plays in light of a rapidly changing information environment, critical evaluation and understanding of the rationale behind policy and regulatory activity, and the exploration of the various complex problems arising from the evolving information environment and its products.

COMN 4210 Seminar: Interpersonal Communication (5 Credits)
Selected theories applicable to interpersonal communication and their implications.

COMN 4220 Critical Intercultural Communication (5 Credits)
This seminar explores the key figures and foundational essays in the development of Critical Intercultural Communication. This seminar offers a critical perspective on current theory and research in intercultural communication. We emphasize questions and practices of “diversity” (especially involving race, class, gender, and sexuality) as they manifest in local and global contexts in the United States. The principle objective is to develop a politically informed and self-reflexive praxis in the service of reframing the study of intercultural communication.

COMN 4221 Culture, Power and Representation (5 Credits)
Central to the production of cultural knowledge about the 'other' is the labor of power implicated in all practices of discursive representation. In this course, we will examine the various theories of representation, the racial and gendered production of difference, the relation between discourse and subjectivity, and more generally, the poetics and politics of representation. These topics will be explored within a rich variety of contexts and institutional sites, e.g., in colonial and anthropological discourse, in popular media narratives and consumer culture, in the global deployment of Western theoretical/knowledge productions, among others.

COMN 4222 Theories of Identity and Subjectivity (5 Credits)
The seminar explores the communicative constitution of cultural, political, and institutional identities. Discussion will range from the historical development of the theoretical discourse on identity and subjectivity to more contemporary theories covering the emergence and transformation of identities in public discursive spaces. Particular attention will be given to theoretical frameworks and methods of inquiry animating research having to do with what is known as the "new cultural politics of difference." The course ends with a look at the contexts and arenas in which "identity" and "subjectivity" have emerged as critical sites of contestation in the 21st century.

COMN 4223 Culture and Communication: Contexts and Issues (5 Credits)
This is a capstone course in the foundations sequence for the Culture and Communication Area of Concentration in Human Communication Studies. This course will integrate content from the other three area foundations courses and specifically address implications for the study and practice of intercultural communication in such contexts of study as globalization, transnationalism, diaspora, colonization, immigration, adaptation, localization, corporate, institutional, and situated discourse. In addition current theoretical, research, and application issues and problematics such as multivocality, voice and representation, intersections and contradictions of contradictory identifications, representations, micro and macro forces, and paradigmatic separation and integration will be discussed. Prerequisites: COMN 4220, COMN 4221 and COMN 4222.

COMN 4230 Intercultural Training (5 Credits)
Research and theoretical approaches that examine international/intercultural training and instructional practices about topics such as adaptation, adjustment, competence, conflict and cultural diversity.

COMN 4231 Discourse and Race (5 Credits)
This course looks at race as a discursive formation using the literature in Critical Race Theory that has emerged over the past decade. In analyzing this body of work covering a wide range of themes and diverse theoretical perspectives, we hope to uncover the historic, material, as well as symbolic determinations of the discourse on race that have conspired to sustain a highly racialized system in place.

COMN 4232 Critical Sexualities Studies (5 Credits)
This course takes a critical approach to the study of sexualities by challenging our assumptions and everyday knowledges about identities, gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity. This course is organized around important and recent publications in the fields of Communication Studies and Sexuality Studies. Rather than simply reiterating the canonical voices such as Foucault and Butler, the course focuses on the voices of queer people of color.

COMN 4240 Seminar: Group Communication (5 Credits)
Small group literature; interpersonal and group communication.

COMN 4250 Seminar: Family Communication (5 Credits)
This course is designed to investigate and explore the communication processes associated with families. Areas of exploration include definitions of family communication and interactional patterns, the impact of life stage on family communication processes, marriage and divorce, parent-child communication, sibling interactions, the child-free family, and the later-life family.

COMN 4251 Advanced Seminar in Family Communication (5 Credits)
This advanced seminar is designed to build on the first seminar in family communication. The course will examine how historic research in the study of families have influenced the field of family communication. Emphasis will be placed on how understanding these classics can influence theory and research in the human communication area of family communication.

COMN 4280 Theories-Group Communication (5 Credits)
Examination, from different theoretical perspectives, of group communication as an area of study; research and application in speech communication discipline.
COMN 4300 Seminar in Persuasion (5 Credits)
Theory, research, special problems in persuasion and attitude change.

COMN 4310 Communication and Collaboration (5 Credits)
A survey of contemporary theories and applications.

COMN 4315 Public Deliberation (5 Credits)
An introduction to the theories and problematics of public deliberation. The course pays particular attention to the demands of inclusion, equality, and public reason as requirements of public deliberation.

COMN 4400 Seminar: Rhetoric Conversation Analysis (5 Credits)
Contemporary contributions to development of rhetorical theory ranging from perspectives on rhetoric offered by various rhetorical theorists to methods of rhetorical criticism.

COMN 4420 Rhetorical Theory (5 Credits)
Contemporary rhetorical theories.

COMN 4425 Rhetoric and Governance (5 Credits)
An introduction to the works of Michel Foucault and his influence on contemporary rhetorical theory.

COMN 4430 Rhetoric and Public Life (5 Credits)
An introduction to the conceptual and political history of the public sphere. The course pays particular attention to how the normative assumptions of public communication are affected by the demands of cultural pluralism.

COMN 4510 Seminar: Speech Communication Theory (5 Credits)
Integration of conceptual theory with behavioral practice in formal public speaking situations through lectures, discussions, performances.

COMN 4530 Critical Theories of Communication II: Nietzsche's Influence on Contemporary Rhetoric (5 Credits)
In conversation with Classical Rhetorical Theory and Critical Theories I, this course is designed to explore a major philosopher's influence on rhetoric and communication studies. Friedrich Nietzsche offers and inspires a second trajectory of thinking that allies with, but ultimately diverges from, the Marxist critical project. Broadly, Nietzschean thought echoes the Marxist concern for structural oppression, alienation, and limited consciousness; but it attempts to undermine structural power as much as possible without the tools of structural power (namely, language, values/truth/knowledge, and the subject). We explore this line of critique much more closely, considering how it has materialized in communication scholarship. This course offers a point of departure for explorations of particular theorists.

COMN 4700 Topics in Communication (1-5 Credits)
COMN 4701 Topics in Communication (1-5 Credits)
COMN 4702 Topics in Communication (1-5 Credits)
COMN 4703 Topics in Communication (1-5 Credits)
COMN 4704 Topics in Communication (1-5 Credits)
COMN 4705 Topics in Communication (1-5 Credits)
COMN 4710 Seminar: Nonverbal Communication (5 Credits)
Theoretical and practical exploration of interpersonal role relationships; emphasis on time, space, kinetic, vocal, tactile cues; methodological concerns.

COMN 4760 Linguistic Aspects of Communication Theory (5 Credits)

COMN 4800 Philosophies of Dialogue (5 Credits)
This course explores the philosophies of dialogue of Martin Buber, Mikhail Bakhtin and others in the context of contemporary communication scholarship on ethics, culture, and relationship.

COMN 4850 Communication Ethics (5 Credits)
This course explores the work of Todorov, Bakhtin, Levinas, and Hyde as foundational to communication ethics.

COMN 4890 Philosophy of Communication (5 Credits)
How speech communication is presupposed and/or demonstrated to be related to social reality, language, intersubjectivity by various methodologies used in conducting communication research; special emphasis on exploring presuppositions of recent methodological developments in contrast to more traditional approaches.

COMN 4900 Quantitative Methods I (5 Credits)
Lectures, readings, written assignments that facilitate growth and development of the research scholar.

COMN 4901 Quantitative Methods II (5 Credits)
This course is a continuation of the HCOM 4900 which explored the process of human inquiry, social science paradigms, the development of sound research questions, and strategies and techniques surrounding sampling, measurement and design. This course will expand on the exploration of research design and statistical methods that can be utilized in answering research questions and hypotheses. In addition, we will be collecting data that will be used to help us understand and analyze various statistical strategies.

COMN 4910 Theory Building in Communication (5 Credits)
Steps involved in constructing theory; application of theory building process to communication phenomena.
COMN 4915 Discourse Analysis (5 Credits)
An introduction to common theoretical assumptions and methods shared by scholars who study discourse as social interaction, with emphasis on analyzing key features of discourse that are central to their work.

COMN 4920 Communication Research Practicum (5 Credits)

COMN 4930 Speech and Communication Research - Qualitative Methods (5 Credits)
Grounded theory, phenomenology and other non-numerical approaches to research in human interaction.

COMN 4931 Qualitative Methods II (5 Credits)
This course teaches students qualitative data management skills, introduces them to an array of qualitative methods for analyzing naturalistic data, and guides them through the application of these skills to qualitative research projects. Prerequisite: COMN 4930.

COMN 4932 Critical Methods for Studying Culture (5 Credits)
This seminar provides an overview of a variety of critical methodologies (inclusive of the theory of method) for the study of culture. Potential course foci include textual analysis, critical ethnography, personal narrative, oral history, performance writing, and autoethnography.

COMN 4933 Writing Culture (5 Credits)
This seminar serves as a capstone course in the Culture and Communication seminar sequence. Students explore diverse genres used to write about culture. The course aims to help every student find a writing voice by reading excellent writing in diverse genres. By writing and rewriting all term, this course guides students through the process of writing an article centered around culture and communication, following the practices of the field.

COMN 4991 Independent Study (1-10 Credits)

COMN 4992 Directed Study (1-10 Credits)

COMN 4995 Independent Research (1-10 Credits)

COMN 5921 Seminar: Communication Research I (5 Credits)
Design, method, procedure strategies in research. Prerequisite: approved proposal.

COMN 5922 Seminar: Communication Research II (5 Credits)
Design, method, procedure strategies in research. Prerequisite: approved proposal.

COMN 5923 Seminar: Communication Research III (5 Credits)
Design, method, procedure strategies in research. Prerequisite: approved proposal.

COMN 5991 Independent Study (1-10 Credits)

COMN 5992 Directed Study (1-10 Credits)

COMN 5995 Independent Research (1-15 Credits)