Communication Studies, M.A.

Requirements

The Master of Arts program in communication studies requires a minimum of 36 s.h. of graduate credit, including at least 30 s.h. earned at the University of Iowa and in courses numbered above 4999. No more than 6 s.h. that are numbered between 3000 and 4999 may be counted toward the major. Students must earn a program g.p.a. of at least 3.00 in major coursework. The degree program includes specializations in interpersonal communication and relationships; media history and culture; and rhetoric, culture, engagement. For further information on the specialization areas, see the Master of Arts introductory section.

The M.A. with a major in communication studies requires the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of these:</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:5200</td>
<td>Introduction to Research and Teaching (taken the first semester)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:5205</td>
<td>Proseminar in Communication Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:5230</td>
<td>Introduction to Rhetorical Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:5241</td>
<td>Theories of Mass Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:6371</td>
<td>Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>In exceptional circumstances, replacement courses may be approved by the student's advisor and the Graduate Affairs Committee.</td>
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<td>One of these:</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:5297</td>
<td>M.A. Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM:5298</td>
<td>M.A. Thesis (must be taken twice)</td>
<td>6</td>
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Up to 9 s.h. in coursework may be earned in credit outside the department. Students take courses in specific topical areas as determined in their plan of study meeting.

Thesis or Comprehensive Exam

Students, with the approval of their advisor and the Graduate Affairs Committee, can elect to write a thesis or complete a week-long, seven day take-home written exam which may be completed more quickly if desired or take a four-hour, written master's comprehensive exam near the completion of the required coursework for the master's degree. The master's comprehensive exam is not a duplicate of previous course examinations, but seeks to examine students on their ability to synthesize, integrate, and apply research and theory.

The master's comprehensive exam committee and the thesis committee are three-person faculty committees selected to reflect the pattern of coursework counted toward the master's degree. One of the three members of the committee must be the student's advisor. The examination or thesis is judged satisfactory or unsatisfactory, with two unsatisfactory votes necessary for a committee judgment of unsatisfactory. The thesis committee conducts an oral defense of the thesis.

The report of the master's comprehensive examination or thesis defense is due in the Graduate College no later than two weeks after the examination and by the deadline date established by the Graduate College. If the department so recommends, students who fail the examination or thesis defense may be eligible for a reexamination. The examination or thesis defense may be repeated only once.