

# Communication Studies, MA

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.

## 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. of courses numbered 3000–4999 may be counted toward the major. Students must earn a program grade-point average of at least 3.00 in major coursework. The degree program includes specializations in interpersonal communication and relationships and in media history and culture.

The MA in communication studies requires the following coursework.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
COMM:5200	Introduction to Research and Teaching (taken the first semester)	2
COMM:5230	Introduction to Rhetorical Studies	3
COMM:5241	Theories of Mass Communication	3
COMM:6371	Communication Theory	3
One of these:		
COMM:5297	MA Research	3
COMM:5298	MA Thesis (taken twice for 3 s.h. each)	6

In exceptional circumstances, replacement courses may be approved by the student's advisor and the Graduate Affairs Committee.

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 to the Graduate College no later than two weeks after the examination and by the deadline established by the Graduate College. If the department so