

COMMUNICATION STUDIES - MASTER OF ARTS

The department offers thesis, comprehensive exam, and applied project options in its Masters of Arts program. All options require a minimum of 36 credits, which includes not only Communication Studies courses but at least one course from outside the department. The thesis option requires at least 30 credits of coursework, 6 credits of thesis hours (COMM 5999 Master's Thesis), and an oral defense of the thesis and coursework. The comprehensive exam option requires 36 credits of coursework, plus six hours of written examination, followed by an oral defense. The applied project option requires at least 30 credits of coursework, 6 credits of project hours (**COMM 5994 MA Project**) and an oral defense of the project and coursework. All options require a minimum of 30 credit hours of Communication Studies courses.

Select 15 credits from Communication Studies electives for the thesis option. Take 15 credits plus at least 3 credits from related disciplines for the comprehensive exam option. Two courses (6 credits) for courses that have numbers 450+ can be counted. For all options, a total of 36 credits is required, 30 credits of COMM, a B- or better in all courses, and a minimum 3.0 GPA to graduate.

An M.A. Tracking Form for thesis, comprehensive exam, and applied project options are found on the department website (<https://comm.nmsu.edu/about-comm-studies/>).

Graduate course rotation:

Fall

COMM 5210 Political Communication

COMM 5510 Organizational Communication

COMM 5110 Theories of Communication

Spring

COMM 5130 Quantitative Research Methods/COMM 5140 Qualitative Research Methods in Communication

COMM 5710 Communication and Culture

COMM 5610 Interpersonal Communication

Thesis Option:

Prefix	Title	Credits
Degree Requirements		
COMM 5130	Quantitative Research Methods	
COMM 5110	Theories of Communication	
Select three courses from the following:		9
COMM 5210	Political Communication	
COMM 5510	Organizational Communication	
COMM 5710	Communication and Culture	
COMM 5610	Interpersonal Communication	
Electives ²		
Select 9-12 credits of COMM Electives		9-12
Select 3-6 credits must be from courses in Related Fields (outside of COMM courses and must be numbered 4220+)		3-6
Thesis		

COMM 5999	Master's Thesis	1-15
Total Credits		25-39

¹ Students must receive a minimum grade of a B or better in the methods course for which they wish to apply to their thesis work. Approval of the students thesis advisor may also be required.

² In order to graduate, students will need a total of 36 credits, of which 30 credits must be from COMM coursework. Please consult your advisor about your specific requirements and how to complete them in order to graduate.

Comprehensive Exam Option:

Prefix	Title	Credits
Degree Requirements		
COMM 5130	Quantitative Research Methods	
COMM 5110	Theories of Communication	
Select three courses from the following:		9
COMM 5210	Political Communication	
COMM 5510	Organizational Communication	
COMM 5710	Communication and Culture	
COMM 5610	Interpersonal Communication	
Electives ¹		
Select 15-18 credits from COMM Electives		15-18
Select 3-6 credits must be from courses in Related Fields (outside of COMM courses and must be numbered 4220+)		3-6
Total Credits		30

¹ In order to graduate, students will need a total of 36 credits, of which 30 credits must be from COMM coursework. Please consult your advisor about your specific requirements and how to complete them in order to graduate.

Applied Project Option:

Prefix	Title	Credits
Degree Requirements		
COMM 5130	Quantitative Research Methods	3
COMM 5110	Theories of Communication	3
Select three courses from the following:		9
COMM 5210	Political Communication	
COMM 5510	Organizational Communication	
COMM 5710	Communication and Culture	
COMM 5610	Interpersonal Communication	
Electives ¹		
Select 9-12 credits from Electives in Related Fields, 3-6 credits from (graduate levels; numbered 4220+).		9-12
Select 3-6 credits must be from courses in Related Fields (outside of COMM courses and must be numbered 450+)		3-6
Project Option		
COMM 5994	MA Project	1-6
Total Credits		31-36

¹ In order to graduate, students will need a total of 36 credits, of which 30 credits must be from COMM coursework. Please consult your advisor about your specific requirements and how to complete them in order to graduate.

Entrance Requirements for Graduate Study in Communication Studies

Students wishing to enroll in the Master program in Communication Studies must meet the following criteria:

1. Hold a BA or BS degree, from an accredited institution of higher learning; Social Science disciplines are preferred
2. Hold a minimum grade point average of 3.00

**The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test is not required for admission; however, existing GRE scores that are high will strengthen a candidate's application and are highly regarded in the awarding of Graduate Assistantships.*