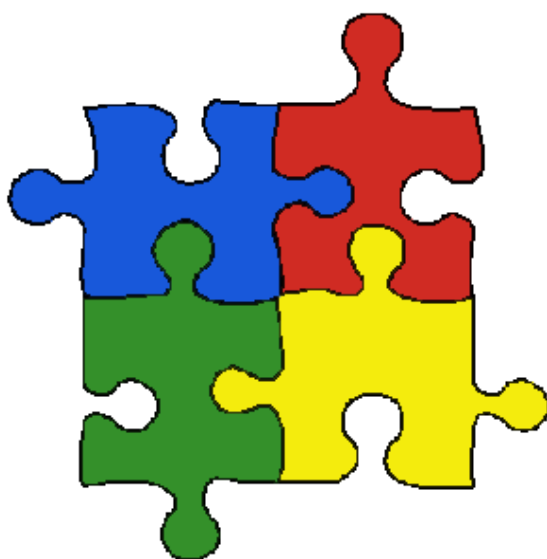




Department of
Communication



M.A. Student Handbook

Table of Contents

Facts about The University at Albany.....	2
Department Goals and Facts.....	2
Application Information.....	3
Master of Arts Program in The Department of Communication.....	4
M.A. Concentrations.....	5
Interpersonal/Intercultural Communication.....	5
Organizational Communication.....	5
Political Communication.....	5
Program Requirements.....	5
Courses and Credits.....	5
Research Seminar/Practicum or Guided Research Project.....	7
Student in Good Standing.....	8
Advisement and Registration.....	8
MyUAlbany.....	9
Financial Support.....	9
Awards.....	9
Faculty and Research Areas.....	10
Graduate Courses.....	11
Beyond the Degree.....	17
Resources.....	17
Contact Information.....	18

Facts about the University at Albany

The University at Albany, State University of New York, was the first state-chartered institution of higher education in New York. As Northeastern New York's premier academic institution and one of four university centers in the SUNY system, Albany offers graduate and undergraduate education in a broad range of academic fields at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree levels. The University enrolls students in nine degree-granting schools and colleges, including the College of Arts and Sciences, Schools of Business, Education, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, Criminal Justice, Information Science & Policy, Social Welfare, Public Health, and the School of Nanosciences & Nanoengineering.

The University at Albany is the center of higher education in northeastern New York, enrolling approximately 17,000 students, including 5,000 graduate students. Nationally and internationally renowned scholars are among some 600 full-time faculty members who are committed to maintaining the high academic standards that have characterized the University at Albany since its founding in 1844.

Albany's University Libraries are among the top 100 research libraries in the country. The University Library and the newly opened Science Library on the uptown campus, and the Thomas E. Dewey Graduate Library for Public Affairs and Policy on the Rockefeller College campus contain more than two million volumes, subscribe to 5,410 periodicals, and provide access to over 2.8 million microform items.

The University is located in New York State's capital, within minutes of the State Capitol, Legislature, courts and state agencies, and is convenient to Boston, New York City and the Adirondacks.

Department Goals and Facts

The Department of Communication provides opportunities for advanced study in communication, both theoretical and applied. The Department emphasizes the analysis and design of messages and symbol systems, and the consequences that particular messages and message strategies have in face-to-face interaction, mediated interaction, organizations, and political life. Areas of study include political communication, organizational communication, and interpersonal/intercultural communication. The department also sustains substantive focuses on information technology and health communication within the aforementioned contexts.

Graduate students enter our program with a variety of life experiences, educational backgrounds, and goals. Some entering students are mid-career professionals who are seeking either to change careers or update their existing skills while others are recent college graduates who

recognize the importance of an advanced degree to compete successfully for a challenging and responsible position in communication related fields. No specific major is required for admission to M.A. program; as undergraduates our students majored in a variety of subjects. However deficiencies in communication theory and research may need to be corrected prior to matriculation.

We are proud of the ethnic diversity of our graduate student population, and of the many states and countries represented by the students. Within the last few years, students have come from Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Wyoming (to name just a few U.S locations) and from Australia, China, Colombia, Denmark, Hungary, France, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Thailand, and Yugoslavia.

We encourage students' participation in the intellectual life of the department and in professional activities outside the university. During the last two academic years, graduate students delivered papers to the International Communication Association, the National Communication Association, the Eastern Communication Association, and the New York State Speech Communication Association.

For more information and facts on the Department of Communication, please visit us at <http://www.albany.edu/communication/graduate.html>. You will find a breadth of information here regarding the department, faculty, career possibilities, courses and frequently asked questions.

Application Information

Students may apply either for non-degree status or for admission to our Master of Arts degree program. Both non-degree and degree students may take graduate courses in our department, subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies in the department. Non-degree students may apply to the degree program, however there is no guarantee that they will be accepted. If a non-degree student who has taken courses in the department is accepted in the degree program, up to 12 graduate credits may be applied to the fulfillment of degree requirements. Successful completion of all requirements in the degree program will lead to a Master of Arts degree in communication.

Application deadlines

The deadline for applying to the program and applying for a graduate assistantship for fall semester is February 20th. The department will begin reviewing applications on March 1, but applications received after that date may still be considered if all open assistantships have not yet been awarded.

The deadline for applying to the program without applying for a graduate assistantship for fall semester is July 15th. Applications received after that date may be reviewed if there is space for new students.

The deadline for spring semester applicants is November 15th. Application received after that date may be reviewed if there is space for new students.

The deadline for applying for non-degree status for fall semester is July 15th. Applications received after that date may be reviewed if there is space for new students

How to Obtain an Application

Applications for admission to the Masters of Arts Program or for non-degree status are obtainable from several locations:

- Online at <http://www.albany.edu/graduate/index.html>
- Call (800)440-GRAD or (518) 442-3980
- Write to The Office of Graduate Admissions
University at Albany
1400 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12222
- Email graduate@uamail.albany.edu

Application Components

- Three letters of recommendation from academic references
- Transcripts from previous academic institutions
- Personal statement of background and goals
- GRE scores for those applying for funding (Graduate Assistantships)
- Academic writing sample
- A check made out to the University at Albany. Please see “Application Fee” on the Grad. Admissions website for amount: <http://www.albany.edu/graduate/instructions.shtml>

In addition, international students must include TOEFL scores (580 paper-based, 237 computer-based, 92 Internet-based) and a financial affidavit.

Master of Arts Program in the Department of Communication

The Master of Arts in Communication provides broad exposure to the field of communication, while at the same time allowing students to emphasize interpersonal/intercultural communication, political communication, or organizational communication. Students are expected to concentrate in one of those areas and to organize their studies toward the final requirements of a research seminar/practicum or a guided research project.

M.A. Concentrations

Interpersonal/Intercultural Communication

This concentration considers the process and effects of communication in personal relationships, groups, and organizations. It addresses the influence of different cultural and social backgrounds, with special attention to the interactional and cultural foundations of what people in face-to-face encounters say and do, and how they say and do it.

Organizational Communication

This concentration studies the role of messages in achieving coordination and cooperation within organizations, as well as the interactions between organizations and their social and economic environments, through both personal and mediated channels, including both mass and computer-mediated communication.

Political Communication

This concentration addresses methods of stating and defending policy, assessing and responding to public opinion, and exchanging information and decision-making between political figures or groups and their publics. Also considers how new technologies are changing political procedures.

Program Requirements

In order to earn an M.A. degree, students in this program need to complete 33 credits of graduate study and complete either a research seminar/practicum or a guided research project.

Courses and Credits

Students must take 6 credits of program core courses, 12 credits in the substantive (concentration) area, 9 credits of supporting electives, and 6 credits of Final Project (Research Seminar/Practicum or Guided Research Project). A maximum of 6 credits can be transferred in from another program as elective credits.

Program Core Courses (6 credits)

Communication Theory and Practice (COM 502)

Communication Research Methods (COM 525)

All students must receive grades of B- or better in these courses. Students must enroll in COM 502 when first offered following matriculation, and must complete the core courses within their first 15 credits.

Substantive Core Courses (12 credits in one concentration)***Interpersonal/intercultural communication***

Interpersonal Interaction (COM 575)

Culture and Communication (COM 577)

Plus six credits of electives in Interpersonal/Intercultural communication courses

Organizational Communication

Theories and Research in Public Organizational Communication (COM 551)

Plus nine credits of electives in organizational communication courses

Political Communication

Theories and Research in Political Communication (COM 520)

Plus nine credits of electives in political communication courses

Supporting Electives within or outside the concentration (9 credits)

Any graduate course within the department can serve as an elective. Core courses or electives in other substantive areas can serve as electives. Courses outside the department that are related to communication may count as electives if approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. At least three of the nine credits must be from within the Department of Communication.

Frequently offered Supporting Electives in the Department***Interpersonal/intercultural communication***

Conversation Analysis (COM 585)

Health Communication (COM 675)

Strategies in Interaction (COM 675)

Negotiation (COM 675)

Independent Study (COM 697)

Organizational Communication

Communication Audits within Organizations (COM 557)

Communication Networks (COM 559)

Organizational Culture (COM 651)

Teamwork (COM 653)

Health Communication (COM 675)
Independent Study (COM 697)
Leadership Communication (COM 659)
Corporate Communication (COM 659)

Political Communication

Perspectives on Mass Media Effects (COM 625)
Campaign Communication (COM 626)
Lobbying (COM 627)
Politics of Media (COM 631)
Independent Study (COM 697)

**Research Seminar/Practicum or Guided Research Project
(6 credits toward degree)**

Students may fulfill the requirements for the Master's degree either by completing a Research Seminar/Practicum (COM 698) or by completing a Guided Research Project (COM 697). Students should discuss these options with their advisors to ensure the selection of the option that best suits their interests and circumstances.

Research Seminar/Practicum

The completion of a research seminar/practicum provides a student with experience in applying communication theory and research in business, government, or a not-for-profit enterprise. The knowledge and skills gained by engaging in a practicum are relevant to professional employment. The research seminar/practicum comes near the end of the program, after a student has completed at least 24 credits (6 credits of program core courses, 12 credits of substantive courses, and 6 credits of an elective). The practicum component of the program includes a twenty hour a week placement in a communication internship lasting for a minimum of 12 weeks and a research project related to the placement. Students do a variety of types of internships, depending on their interests. Some are interning in state agencies, the state legislature, public relations, radio, television, advertising, personnel work, counseling, student affairs work, and fund-raising. Opportunities for internship placements are enhanced by the University's proximity to New York State government as well as by its location in the burgeoning Tech Valley region. A research seminar meets once a week to discuss the final analytic paper, which is a formal academic document on the scholarly research project carried out during the semester. Students are encouraged to bring research and other scholarly problems to the seminar and to critique the work of other students.

Guided Research Project

The completion of a guided research project provides a student with the experience of conducting an original research project. The knowledge and skills gained by completing a

project are valuable in doctoral studies. The guided research project is carried out near the end of the program although students often start planning their research projects earlier in the program. Students are allowed to register for the project (COM 697A the first semester, and COM 697B the following semester) after completing at least 24 credits.

(6 credits of program core courses, 12 credits of substantive courses, and 6 credits of an elective). A student choosing to do a research project works closely with an advisor in developing an appropriate research project. The student's research project committee, consisting of the advisor and one other faculty member in the department, approves the project proposal and, when completed, the research project.

Student in Good Standing

To be in good standing academically, students must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0. If a student's G.P.A. drops below 3.0, he or she will be put on academic probation. Students on academic probation will be given one semester to bring their GPAs up to at least 3.0. Failure to do so may result in the student's termination from the program.

Advisement and Registration

The best way to track your progress in the program is to keep a Course Checklist Form and fill it out each semester as you complete program requirements. Forms can be obtained on the Web at www.albany.edu/communication/gradadvise.html or from Debbie Bourassa, the department secretary, in SS 340. As program requirements have changed over the years, make sure you have the appropriate form for the year you were admitted to the program.

Every M.A. student needs to be advised prior to registering. When the Director of Graduate Studies approves your selection of courses for the upcoming semester, she or the department secretary will give an Advisement Verification Number (AVN) to you. The AVN is needed to register. All students register online at the **MyUAlbany** website. For information on registration procedures, go to <http://www.albany.edu/myualbany/>.

For continuing students, the procedure for obtaining an AVN is as follows: Using your Course Checklist Form and the on-line course schedule, select the courses you wish to take during the following semester. Send an email message to Debbie Bourassa at dab59@cas.albany.edu indicating the course selections. Debbie will give a copy of your email message along with your Course Checklist form to Anita Pomerantz, the Director of Graduate Studies. If she approves the selected courses, you will be sent your AVN; if she has questions about your selections, she will contact you.

MyUAlbany

MyUAlbany is the new web-based academic records system for faculty and students at the University at Albany. From MyUAlbany, you can find the latest information about registration, course availability, and other important registration information. You can review academic records and even request an unofficial copy of their transcripts. You will use this site to register online.

The Personal Portfolio notifies you of any holds on your records or any 'to do' items assigned by a University office. If you have a hold, you will not be allowed to register. Students can also check and update personal information on file.

You are encouraged to explore the services provided on MyUAlbany, including the tutorials and FAQs available on the main page <http://www.albany.edu/myualbany/>. If you have questions that are not answered there, please contact the ITS help desk at 442-3700.

You should also check MyUAlbany throughout the semester for important announcements and reminders.

Financial Support

Each year approximately 10-12 graduate students receive teaching and/or research assistantships. Students who are funded assist the faculty in teaching undergraduate courses or with their research projects. Fellowship and assistantship applications are included with the Graduate Application materials. Loans, tuition scholarships, and university fellowships are also available. Applications for an assistantship must be filed with the University by March 1 for September admission.

Awards

There are two graduate awards every year in the Department. One is the McNally Award for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant; the other is the Tompkins Award for the Outstanding Research Paper Writer. Students are nominated for both awards by the faculty in April.

Faculty and Research Areas

Michael Barberich, Visiting Assistant Professor (Ph.D., expected, University of Pittsburgh): historical and historicizing practices of public communication; rhetorical practices of public memory and their mediation through communicative technology.

Alan T. Belasen, Lecturer (Ph.D., University at Albany): Corporate communication; managerial communication; communication audits; inter-organizational communication; communication-based learning; self-management; and leadership communication.

Barry Eisenberg, Lecturer (Ph.D., Temple University): Health care administration and management; organizational communication; human resources management; corporate and management communication.

Annis Golden, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute): organizational communication; communication and the management of work-life/personal-life relationships; social effects of new information and communication technologies.

Teresa M. Harrison, Department Chair: Professor (Ph.D., Bowling Green State University): computer-mediated communication; community and government information systems; communication technology and democracy; communication theory.

William Husson, Visiting Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute): Mass media and social practice; film; computer-mediated communication; media history.

Kelli Lammie, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania): political communication; persuasion.

Anita Pomerantz, Director of Graduate Study: Professor (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine): conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, and ethnography; health communication; interactional practices used in families, friendships, and organizations.

Nancy Roberts, Professor (Ph.D. University of Minnesota): mass communication; journalism; history and literacy aspects of communication via journalism.

Mihye Seo, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Ohio State University): political communication; mass communication and communication technology.

Timothy Stephen, Professor (Ph.D., Bowling Green State University): interpersonal

and marital communication; social history; automated textual analysis; historical preservation of communication scholarship.

Jennifer Stromer-Galley, Assistant Professor (Ph. D., University of Pennsylvania): political communication; communication technology and democracy; public opinion.

To find information on how to contact a specific faculty member via phone or email please go to:
<http://www.albany.edu/communication/faculty.html>.

Graduate Courses in Communication

Com 502 Communication Theory and Practice (3)

Exploration of the interrelationship between theory and practice, employing either a general theory of communication or a theory located in one of the three departmental areas of concentration.

Com 503 Message Design and Social Influence (3)

Survey of theory and research on persuasion and critical analysis of persuasive messages aimed at individuals, groups, or large publics. Students will develop analytic and critical writing skills and research techniques needed for graduate study in communication

Com 520 Theories and Research in Political Communication (3)

Survey of key theories and research findings in the field of political communication covering concepts such as political image, issues, agenda setting, language, debates, socialization, and advertising.

Com 523 Communication in Political Decision-Making (3)

Theories and case studies of the dynamics of political decision making, particularly in legislatures, and the role of external and internal communication processes in attaining organizational goals.

Com 525 Communication Research Methods (3)

Methods of gathering data and analyzing information common to most communication studies, including political polling and surveys, content analysis, interviewing, measurement, and elementary data analysis.

Com 551 Theories and Research in Public Organizational Communication (3)

Major research and theories in organizational communication including topics such as

organizational structures and processes, communication network analysis, design decision making and control systems, and organizational development, with emphasis on public sector organizations.

Com 552 Advanced Studies in Organizational Communication and Research (3)

This course introduces the student to a wider range of perspectives than encountered in the introductory course, including the rhetorical, semiotic, and ideological dimensions of organizing. During this class, the students will be introduced to different topics that are representative of the current research in organizational communication such as democracy in organizations, decision making processes, and the role of texts and conversations in organizations.

Com 557 Communication Audits within Organizations (3)

The study of why, where, and how communication audits within organizations are conducted. Details the methodologies for conducting audits, characteristic data, and their utility for the organization. Students examine case studies, and conduct an audit in a local business or government organization.

Com 559 Communication Networks (3)

Introduction to the major conceptual and methodological issues in the study of communication networks. Gives students experience with the primary analytic tools available to network researchers, and guides students in the conceptualization, conduct, and analysis of an actual communication network study.

Com 575 Interpersonal Interaction (3)

Examines language and nonverbal practices adopted by individuals interacting in personal relationships and professional settings. Examines participants' struggles, and shows how those are consequential for the direction of the interaction, and for the participants' identities and relationships.

Com 577 Culture and Communication (3)

An examination of interactional and ritual practices that differentiate cultural groups, and the way cultural identities and customs manifest themselves in interactional practices.

Com 585 Conversation Analysis (3)

Examines published research in Conversation Analysis and audio and video recordings of interpersonal interaction. Develops a systematic approach to observing and analyzing interaction and discourse practices in everyday activities. Students record, transcribe, and analyze interactions.

Com 587 Field Research Methods (3)

Introduction to and utilization of methods for collecting and analyzing data on communication practices in natural settings. Emphasis on participation observation, informant interviewing, and video/audio-taping.

Com 625 Mass Media Effects in Political Communication (3)

Examination of selected topics in mass communication and political communication theory and research relating to the effects of mass media particularly regarding political processes, institutions, and publics.

Com 626 Campaign Communication (3)

Analysis of campaign goals and sub-goals, campaign structures and organizations, and the needs for public communication at each stage of the campaign. Prerequisites: 12 credits in communication including Com 520 or 523.

Com 627 Lobbying (3)

Examination of the types and amount of influence exerted by private organizations on legislation and the utilization of interpersonal and public communication channels in lobbying efforts. Prerequisites: 12 credits in communication including Com 520 or Com 523.

Com 629 Political Language (3)

Examination of political language through major research and theories. Includes study of definitions, forms, functions, and the interrelationship of source, message, audience, setting, and media. Prerequisites: 12 credits in communication including Com 520 or Com 523.

Com 631 Politics of Media (3)

An examination of the relationship between political organizations and interest groups and the media, through case studies and review of current research. Prerequisites: 12 credits in communication including Com 520 or Com 523.

Com 635 Topics in Political Communication (3)

Selected topics in political communication, such as public information issues and practices, the rhetoric of political institutions, voter decision-making. May be repeated for a total of six credits with changes in topic; see specific courses listed under Com 635. Prerequisites: 12 credits in communication including Com 520 or Com 523.

Com 635 Public Information Campaigns (3)

Our understanding of public information campaigns has progressed dramatically over the past half century. Early research efforts were generally simplistic, emphasizing two-step models of communication that were mediated through opinion leaders. In the early 1970s, spurred by the

noteworthy effectiveness of some information campaigns and the maturing nature of campaign designs and delivery systems, significantly more comprehensive research activity was undertaken to study such phenomena. Today's public information campaigns occur in the context of an expanding diversity of media, sophisticated marketing strategies, and advanced audience analyses. Accordingly, the research community has had a heightened interest in refining and constructing theoretical frameworks regarding information campaigns. This course will trace the evolving nature of public information campaign research. Our emphasis, naturally, will be on communication models. By way of case studies, health campaigns will occupy much of our attention. Along the way, we will evaluate the communication strategies employed by various campaigns as well as gain practice in campaign assessment, design and construction.

Com 635 Communication in Health Care Organizations (3)

The delivery of health care has experienced continuous change during the twentieth century. This change has intensified over recent decades, dramatically affecting who has access to health care, the U.S. economy, national politics and how, where and why each of us receives care. There are multiple perspectives and levels on which to explore communication in health care. Consider that communication occurs in the most basic interpersonal realm when any of us participate in a health care situation, such as when we obtain care from a physician. Communication occurs within health care organizations as the care-giving workforce seeks to coalesce around the complex goals of delivering care efficiently and effectively and in the context of ethical choices. Mass communication involving health care is pervasive, serving not only public education functions, but perhaps even more powerfully, shaping our beliefs about what health care is and how health care policy should be formulated. This course will explore this network of topics, moving from the broad landscape of how our health care delivery system is constructed and where it may be headed to the way ordinary citizens interact with and come to know it through a multiplicity of communication channels.

Com 635 Communication Campaign Practicum (3)

This class is designed to give you "real world" experience developing and implementing an effective public relations campaign on the campus of the University at Albany. We will emphasize the strategic aspects of public relations campaigns, with a special focus on the research, planning and evaluation needed to create and demonstrate an effective public relations campaign. Working with the Alliance for Donation, students will develop and implement a campaign to increase the number of students on campus who enroll in the NY State Registry of Organ and Tissue Donors. Students will be expected to think strategically about public relations as it relates to this campaign and others. Emphasis will be placed on research in preparation for the campaign, on developing appropriate messages and strategies, and on an implementation program.

Com 651 Organizational Culture (3)

Study of both academic and popular treatments of the topic of organizational culture. The course

emphasizes the central role of interaction in the development, maintenance, and decay of organizational cultures; it emphasizes the use of cultural artifacts, such as organizational stories, contexts. Prerequisites: 15 credits in communication including Com 551 or Com 557 and either Com 552 or Com 659.

Com 653 Teamwork (3)

Study of the role of human interaction in the coordination and cooperation in work groups, with special attention to cross-functional teams, social technical teams and self-management teams, their theory and practice. Prerequisites: 15 credits in communication including Com 551 or Com 557 and either Com 552 or Com 659.

Com 659 Topics in Organizational Communication (3)

Selected topics in organizational communication such as the relationship between interpersonal and organizational communication, ethics and organizations, telecommunication processes. May be repeated for a total of six credits with change in topic; see specific courses listed under Com 659. Prerequisites: 15 credits in communication including Com 551 or Com 557 and either Com 552 or Com 659.

Com 659 Corporate Communication (3)

Combining research, theory, and practice in exploring corporate communication as a strategic area of business management. Topics include: corporate communication's function and strategic framework, corporate identity, image management via mass advertising and public relations, stakeholder analyses, and crisis communication.

Com 659 Leadership Communication (3)

Leadership in organizations and the critical role communication plays in the process of moving organizational members toward shared organizational goals. Historical and current developments of leadership studies covering topics such as: teams, creating vision, initiating and facilitating change, leadership traits and styles, and shaping corporate culture through effective communication.

Com 675 Topics in Interpersonal Interaction (3)

Advanced research and theory on interpersonal interaction. Topic may vary by semester. MA students may repeat course twice with a change of topic for a maximum of 9 credits; doctoral students may repeat course with change of topic as often as advised. See specific classes offered under Com 675. Prerequisites: 6 credits in Communication.

Com 675/465 Negotiation (3)

Focus on evaluating the current research on negotiation and learning how to become a more thoughtful, strategic negotiator. Topics include the logic of negotiation, the "how to" of

negotiation, and planning negotiation. The course emphasizes the role communication and rhetoric has in people actively working out differences.

Com 675/465 Strategies in Interaction (3)

Discusses the concepts and studies about language and interaction that explain what makes interaction meaningful and consequential. Teaches students to become better speakers, interactants, and more aware of the conversational details of interaction that make a difference in what happens during and as a result of interaction.

Com 675 Health Communication (3)

Examines the role of communication in maintaining health and seeking/giving quality health care services. Reviews scholarly literature in the areas of decision-making, communicating about health between different age, ethnic, and cultural groups, information exchange between health care providers and consumers, communicating about death and dying, interaction within/among medical teams, support group interaction, the role of power in medical interaction, and ethical issues related to giving and receiving quality health care.

Com 677 Topics in Culture and Communication (3)

Advanced research and theory on cultural aspects of interaction and discourse practices. Topic may vary by semester. MA students may repeat course with change of topic.

Com 697 Independent Study in Communication (2-3)

Guided research on topics in communication. May be repeated for up to six credits, with no more than three credits from the same instructor.

Com 698 Research Seminar/Practicum in Communication (6-9)

Supervised applications of communication theory in agencies of business and government. Cannot be taken until student has completed at least 24 graduate credits in communication. Requires a written final report and seminar attendance. Prerequisite: By advisement only.

Com 699 Master's Thesis (3-9)

Research leading to an acceptable master's thesis in communication. Requires a final oral examination with members of the thesis committee. Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.

Beyond the Degree

In general, an M.A. degree in Communication helps develop expertise and experience in analyzing and improving communication in particular professional and interpersonal settings. Such expertise

has applicability in a wide variety of careers. The path followed by each graduate thus depends on the student's own interests, goals, and creativity about opportunities. Some of our graduates begin careers, or change to a new career, as a result of their graduate work. Others use their graduate studies to upgrade their competence and competitiveness in their existing careers.

Graduates of the Department of Communication M.A. program have pursued careers in human resources, lobbying, college administration, fund-raising, radio programming, executive training, public information, sales, management consulting, public relations, advertising, state agency administration, television production, and internal communication in not-for-profit, governmental, and business organizations. Some have college teaching or advisement positions. Others have gone on to law school, or to work on their doctorates in Communication or Information Sciences.

Resources

Professional Organizations

- National Communication Association (www.natcom.org)
- International Communication Association (www.icahdq.org)
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (www.asha.org)
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (www.aejmc.org/)
- American Communication Association (www.americancomm.org)
- Broadcast Education Association (<http://www.beaweb.org/>)

Journals

- Quarterly Journal of Speech*
- Communication Monographs*
- Journal of Applied Communication Research*
- Journal of Communication*
- Human Communication Research*
- Communication Theory*
- The Communication Review*
- Research on Language and Social Interaction*
- Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*

To see a complete list, you can go to the website of the University library (<http://library.albany.edu/>), click “Journals-Print & Online”, type “communication” in the “exact search”, and then submit the search.

Websites

- Communication Institute for Online Scholarship (<http://www.cios.org>)
- Communication, Cultural & Media Studies (<http://www.cultsock.ndirect.co.uk/MUHome/cshtml/>)
- Content Analysis Resources (<http://www.car.ua.edu/>)

Cultural Studies Central (<http://www.culturalstudies.net/>)

HealthCOMM (<http://www.sla.purdue.edu/HealthCOMM/>)

The Media and Communication Studies Site (<http://www.aber.ac.uk/media/>)

Political Communication Resources (<http://depts.washington.edu/~bennett/research.html>)

Contact information

Tim Stephen, Director of Graduate Studies

Office: SS 335

Phone: (518) 442-4878

Fax: (518) 442-3884

E-mail: commdgs@albany.edu

Deborah Bourassa, Secretary

Office: SS 351

Phone: (518) 442-4871

Fax: (518) 442-3884

E-mail: dab59@cas.albany.edu

Also, for more information, you can the visit the Department of Communication's website at:

<http://www.albany.edu/communication/graduate.html>