Table of contents

Facts about the University at Albany ........................................................... 1
Department Goals and Facts ..................................................................... 2
Application Information ........................................................................... 2
  Application components ........................................................................... 3
Program Structure and Policy ................................................................. 3
  Major Areas of Study .............................................................................. 4
    Health Communication ........................................................................... 4
    Organizational Communication ............................................................ 4
    Political Communication ....................................................................... 4
Program Requirements ............................................................................ 4
  Advising .................................................................................................. 4
  The Plan of Study ................................................................................... 5
  Courses and Credits ............................................................................. 5
Other Program Requirements .................................................................. 6
Other Program Information ..................................................................... 8
My UAAlbany .......................................................................................... 9
Communication Faculty and Research Areas .......................................... 9
Regularly Offered Graduate Courses in Communication ..................... 12
Resources ............................................................................................. 17
  Professional Organizations ................................................................. 17
  Selected Journals ................................................................................ 17
  Websites ................................................................................................ 18
Contact Information ................................................................................ 18
Appendix A: Ph.D. Curriculum/Checklist – Dept. of Communication .... 19
Appendix B: Suggested Timeline Through the Ph.D. ......................... 21

Updated: September 2018
**Facts about the University at Albany**

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, University at 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 and Public Health.

The University at Albany is at the center of higher education in northeastern New York, enrolling approximately 18,000 students, including 5,000 graduate students, each year. Nationally and internationally renowned scholars are among some 700 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 Library ranks among the top research libraries in the country. The University Library and the 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 2.2 million volumes and 9,000 films and videos, and provide access to over 2.9 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, political life, and in health care settings. Major areas of study include health communication, organizational communication, and political communication. The department also sustains substantive foci on interpersonal/intercultural communication and information and communication technology within the aforementioned contexts.

We encourage students’ participation in the intellectual life of the department and in professional activities outside the university. Doctoral students have 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/phd-program.php](http://www.albany.edu/communication/phd-program.php). You will find a breadth of information
regarding the department, faculty, career possibilities, courses, admissions requirements and frequently asked questions.

**Application Information**

Students entering the program with a Bachelor’s degree (having not yet earned a Master’s degree) are required to take a minimum of 60 credits, along with successful completion of a comprehensive exam and a dissertation. Successful completion of all requirements in the degree program will lead to a Doctor of Philosophy in Communication degree.

**Application deadlines**
The deadline for applying to the doctoral program for the fall semester is February 1. The department begins reviewing applications by March 1. Notifications are sent no later than April 1.

**How to obtain an application**
Applications for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Program are obtainable from several locations:

- Online at [http://www.albany.edu/graduate/apply-now.php](http://www.albany.edu/graduate/apply-now.php) (all graduate application materials are required to be submitted online.)
- Call (800) 440-GRAD or (518) 442-3980
- Email graduate@albany.edu

**Application components**

- Three letters of recommendation from academic references
- Transcripts from previous academic institutions
- Personal statement of background and goals
- GRE scores
- Academic writing sample
- A check made out to the University at Albany. Please see “Application Fee” on the Graduate Admissions website for amount: [http://www.albany.edu/graduate/apply-now.php](http://www.albany.edu/graduate/apply-now.php)

In addition, international students must include a financial affidavit and scores on English language competency exams. International students may submit either TOEFL scores (minimum of 580 paper-based, 237 computer-based, 93 Internet-based is required for admission) or scores from the IELTS (minimum 6.6 for admission, or 7.0 for consideration for a graduate assistantships).

More information is available on the department website: [http://www.albany.edu/communication/phd-faq.php](http://www.albany.edu/communication/phd-faq.php)
**Program Structure and Policy**

The Doctor of Philosophy Program in the Department of Communication is designed to prepare qualified students for college and university teaching and for careers inside or outside of the academy in communication research. The program emphasizes communication theory, research methods, and the application of knowledge in the field to identify, analyze, and propose solutions for communication problems. The program provides broad exposure to the field of communication. Students are expected to develop a concentration in consultation with their faculty advisor and Plan of Study committee.

**Major Areas of Study**

The department maintains three major areas although students are not confined to study within those three. Students with interests that intersect across these areas may also be supported. The department also sustains foci in interpersonal/intercultural communication and new technology.

**Health Communication**

Focuses on various levels and contexts of health communication: interpersonal (e.g., patient-provider communication, healthcare and family interactions, support group communication, intercultural issues); organizational (e.g., how members of healthcare organizations communicate with one another and those they serve, and how health concerns enter into the experience of working for non-healthcare organizations); community (e.g., how organizations in communities interact with one another as well as other stakeholders to address residents' health concerns; how individuals’ local environments and available communicative resources impact their access to health care, health literacy, health behaviors, and health status); and mass media (e.g., public health campaigns, direct to consumer advertising).

**Organizational Communication**

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**

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. This concentration also considers how new technologies are changing political procedures.

**Program Requirements**

In order to earn a Ph.D., students need to complete a minimum of 60 credits of course work,
participate in the department’s intellectual community via Proseminar, fulfill requirements for mastery in research and teaching, successfully complete a comprehensive examination, complete a guided research project, and complete and defend a dissertation.

**Advising**
All new doctoral students are assigned to an initial faculty advisor based on interest, field of study and advisor availability. The student may elect to change advisors at any time. Any full time tenured or tenure-track faculty member from the department may serve as a doctoral advisor.

**The Plan of Study**
In cooperation with his or her advisor, each student must complete a plan of study by the end of the first year of study. This encourages students to consider the area of study in which they wish to become proficient, both in service to their dissertation and so that they may claim a clear area of expertise in the discipline. The plan of study must be approved by the student’s advising committee and will include guidelines for completion of all program requirements.

The plan of study includes three components:

1. A narrative that describes the specific area of expertise the student seeks and identifies the student’s planned primary and secondary concentration areas.

2. A Ph.D. curriculum/checklist that tracks the student’s completion of coursework in all required areas including other degree requirements (up through admission to candidacy), including:
   a. How the student proposes to meet the pedagogy requirement
   b. How the student proposes to meet the research tool requirement
   c. How the student proposes to meet the Proseminar Requirement (for full-time students, this will normally be by regular attendance; for part-time students, this must be negotiated with the student’s advisor.)

3. A timeline that shows chronological completion of coursework and an overall timeframe for completing coursework, comprehensive exams and dissertation with an expected date of graduation. The timeline should identify courses for each semester in keeping with the goals and research objectives of the student.

The plan of study must be approved by the student’s advisor and two other faculty members with Ph.Ds. (in accordance with university policy). The plan of study, including the Ph.D. checklist, time-frame for completion and a summary narrative, will be filed in the Department office and with the student’s advisor. The Ph.D. checklist may continue to be modified throughout the student’s progress through the program, and should be consulted and amended as necessary at the beginning of each semester to reflect actual courses enrolled in or changes to the student’s plans.

**Courses and Credits**
The core, substantive area, cognate area, electives, and independent research project require a minimum of 60 credits for completion.
Core Courses (18 credits)
Consists of 3 theory courses and 3 methods courses

1. **Theory courses** (9 credits)
   - Communication Theory (COM 502)
   - Persuasion/Message Design and Social Influence (COM 503)
   - Additional advanced theory course (to be selected in consultation with advisor)

2. **Methods courses** (9 credits)
   - Communication methods (COM 525)
   - 2 additional methods courses: quantitative and/or qualitative

Breadth Courses (6 credits)
This requirement ensures that students become familiar with 1 or 2 other fields of study in the communication discipline beyond that represented by the substantive area.

Substantive Area (15 credits, with a minimum of 12 credits inside Department)
The substantive area will be defined in consultation between students and their faculty advisers. Fields of study historically associated with the discipline of communication and represented in this department are: organizational communication, political communication, and health communication. However, students may also engage in research across those areas.

Cognate Area (9 credits)
The cognate area consists of coursework related to or supportive of students’ substantive areas, consisting of courses in or outside department; courses are selected in consultation with students’ doctoral advisors.

Guided Research Project (6 credits)
Doctoral students must complete a 6 credit guided research project (courses 697A and 697B). This is typically a two-semester commitment. It is generally recommended that students complete their guided research project during the third and fourth semesters of study. An M.A. thesis completed elsewhere does not necessarily exempt a student from the guided research project requirement; this will be determined during approval of the student’s Plan of Study. Students who have completed a guided research project during their M.A. coursework at the University at Albany may transfer the credits. Internship practicum credits from the M.A. in Communication cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

Electives (6 credits)
Electives inside and outside of the department, including independent studies, as advised.

Other Program Requirements

Proseminar (not credit bearing)
These are weekly research discussions with faculty during the academic year; participation is expected until the student completes coursework.
Research Tool
Students must demonstrate competence in use of one research tool relevant to the area of specialization. The research tool requirement must be fulfilled with an acquisition of expertise in one special methodological area.

Teaching Tool / Pedagogy Requirement
Students must complete a semester-length experience (or its equivalent) focusing on the acquisition of pedagogical theory and method. This requirement may be waived by the student’s committee on the basis of past experience. The nature of the experience will be determined in consultation with the student’s committee.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination
Students will respond to questions that cover each of three areas: their major area, their cognate/secondary area, and methods. Students can choose from the following two options. The examination will be:

1. Given to the student by the department secretary and the answers returned by email to the department secretary. Students will answer only one question from each area at a time, and per 24-hour period.
2. Completed on a department supplied computer as a sit-down, non-open book exam. Students are given four hours for each area.

In either option, the exam must be completed within one week.

At minimum the exam committee is to consist of the Advisor, one additional faculty member from the Department, and a third member from the University at Albany graduate faculty.

The exam will be constructed as a collaboration of the student’s committee. Typically, each committee member with expertise in a substantive area of the exam (e.g. major area, cognate, and methods, as consistent with the student’s plan of study) submits one or more questions with instructions (e.g., answer every question; answer any one question; or answer question 1 for X percent of the exam time and question 2 for X percent of the exam time, etc.) No questions will be given to students in advance of the exam.

All answers to questions will be read independently by every member of the committee. An oral defense will be scheduled no later than two weeks after the submission of the answer to the last area question. At the conclusion of the oral defense, the student is notified of the outcome of the examination. Exams will be scored fail, low pass, pass, or high pass. Students who score a “fail” will be allowed to re-take all or the portion with a deficient answer. Students who do not pass the comprehensive exam on the second attempt will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.

The doctoral comprehensive exam is typically undertaken at the completion of required coursework.

Dissertation
Doctoral students will complete a dissertation presenting original research, guided by a committee composed of at least 3 faculty members, one of whom will serve as chair. The chair generally should be selected from faculty members in the Department of Communication. Other members of the committee will be selected by students in
consultation with the committee chair.

**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 placed 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. Consistent with University policy, completion of the Ph.D. in Communication requires an overall average of 3.0 (B) in all resident graduate courses and credits applicable to the degree.

**Other Program Information**

**Advanced Standing and Waivers**
Of the 60 credits required for the degree, 30 credits must be completed at this university. Students who have completed graduate work in our M.A. program or elsewhere may apply for advanced standing credits. Students may receive up to 33 credits of advanced standing on the approval of their plan of study committee, and this credit may or may not include credit for required courses. It also is possible for students with or without a master’s in communication to receive advanced standing for one or more courses in a related discipline.

A waiver is granted when the faculty committee deems that students have satisfied a specific requirement by some means other than taking the required course. It does not carry credit.

**Admission to Candidacy**
Students are admitted to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon the following:
1. Satisfactory record in course study
2. Satisfactory completion of the research tool requirement
3. Completion of the University residence requirements
4. Satisfactory completion of the qualifying examination (both methods and specialty areas)

**Leaves of absence**
Students should be continuously enrolled during the period of graduate study. Leaves of absence may be granted upon petition of the student’s advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate College.

**Acknowledgement of the Handbook policies and procedures**
It is important that students familiarize themselves with the policies and procedures detailed in this document. Deviations from the Department of Communication or Graduate School policies and procedures may interfere with reasonable and normal academic progress and, in extreme circumstances, may result in dismissal from the
program. Each student must maintain regular contact with his or her academic advisor in order to complete his or her degree in a timely manner.

**Getting a Master’s degree along the way**
Students who do not enter the doctoral program having already completed a Master’s degree in communication may, at their option, apply to be awarded a Master’s degree while they are completing their doctoral program. All requirements of the M.A. program must be satisfied. The application form for the Master’s degree can be obtained from the MyUAlbany website.

**My UAlbany**
MyUAlbany is the 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 transcripts. This is the site where you will register for classes online.

MyUAlbany’s Personal Portfolio notifies students of any holds on their records or ‘to do’ items assigned by a University office. If you have a hold on your account, 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](http://www.albany.edu/myualbany). If you have questions that are not addressed there, please contact the ITS help desk at (518) 422-3700.

Be sure to check MyUAlbany throughout the semester for important announcements and reminders.

**Financial Support**
Each year approximately 1 to 2 doctoral students receive teaching and/or research assistantships. Students who are funded assist the faculty in teaching undergraduate courses, or with their research projects.
Communication Faculty and Research Areas

**Rukhsana Ahmed,** Associate Professor (Ph.D., Ohio University): Health communication, organizational communication, interpersonal and intercultural communication, research methods.

**Michael Barberich,** Visiting Assistant Professor (Ph.D., 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.

**BJ Fehr,** Visiting Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Delaware): interpersonal and intercultural communication.

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

**Teresa M. Harrison,** 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.

**Archana Krishnan,** Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Connecticut): Computer-Mediated Communication, Health Communication, New Media and Health, Advanced Research Methods.

**Alyssa Morey,** Assistant Professor (Ph.D., The Ohio State University): Political communication, mass media effects, and psychophysiology and message processing.

**Timothy Stephen,** Professor (Ph.D., Bowling Green State University): interpersonal and marital communication; social history of communication; automated textual analysis; historical preservation of communication scholarship.
Piotr Szpunar, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania): Concepts of identity, conflict and media; work deals with difference, representation, collective memory, and critical/communication theory.

Masahiro Yamamoto, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Washington State University): Political Communication, Communication and Technology.


Alan Zemel, Assistant Professor (Ph. D., Temple University): health communication; interpersonal and intercultural communication.

Note: To find information on how to contact a specific faculty member via phone or email please go to: http://www.albany.edu/communication/faculty-staff.php.
Regularly Offered Graduate Courses in Communication
(Some of these courses are offered online in winter and summer)

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 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 555 Organizations and Society (3)
Examination of theoretical and research literature on the interaction between organizations and other individuals and groups in the society at large. In addition to traditional studies of technological, market, and sociopolitical environments, the course will examine relevant topics such as social responsibility and responsiveness, corporate wrongdoing, issues management, corporate political activity, whistleblowing, and organizational ethics.

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 560 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 562 Communication in Health Care Organizations (3)**

The course explores the relationships between communication and a range of cultural, social, economic, ethical, and technological factors that influence health care organizations, the delivery and receipt of health care, and the health care institutional system.

**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 620 Communicating Globally (3)**

Cultural values in different nations, and how those values influence management decisions and organizational practices. Culturally sensitive leadership, effective intercultural communication in organizational contexts, leading cultural change in organizations.
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 628 New Media and Engagement (3)

New media technologies and strategies for building and sustaining engagement with websites or other media applications in commercial, social, cultural, political, government, workplace, and health related contexts.

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 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 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 640 Risk & Crisis Communication in the Public Interest (3)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with theoretical and applied tools from which to carry out and critically assess risk and crisis communication practice. The course addresses constructions of risk and crisis, risk perception, messaging strategies, visual communication, ethics, inequality, communication campaigns, and the politics of crisis. The organizational contexts are primarily those of public/governmental, non-governmental, and grassroots organizations and the topical foci include issues of environmental, health, security, social, and technological risk/crisis. Students will carry out both academic tasks, such as critique and assessment) as well as a variety of applied projects.
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 553 or COM 555.

COM 655 Communication, Work and Organization Life (3)

This course examines how individuals negotiate their relationships with organizations – primarily as employees of organizations, but also as consumers of services offered by organizations. Topics include organizational controls, employee identification and resistance, and the management of work and personal-life interrelationships, including the impact of new information and communication technologies. Organizations are considered as sources of identity, sites for entertainment and socializing, sites for enacting spirituality and religion, sources of social relationships and support, and substitutes for different aspects of family (e.g., mentor-parents; co-worker spouses). Relationships of external stakeholders to organizations are also considered, focusing on consumers of health care services. In this context, external organizational communication by healthcare organizations, individual encounters with healthcare systems, and the impact of health information technology will be addressed.

COM 657 Leadership Communication (3)

Leadership in organizations, and the critical role of communication in the process of moving organizational members towards shared organizational goals. Topics include the history of leadership studies, leadership vision, leading learning organizations, and shaping values and culture through effective communication.

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 Topics in Organizational Communication: Communication, Community and Health

Evidence of renewed interest in the study of how the places we live in impact our health can be found across many disciplines, ranging from sociology and public health to geography and economics. This course emphasizes the contributions of communication to this line of research. Communication is an important social process through which neighborhood health effects manifest, but also a mechanism through which individuals, families, and community-based organizations and institutions can make the neighborhoods they live in and serve healthier places. In this class, you will be introduced to the burgeoning multidisciplinary literature around neighborhoods and health as well as the salient theoretical, methodological, and policy debates. You will also be encouraged to discuss how you, as communication researchers and
professionals, can contribute to the development of community-based solutions to a variety of public health challenges.

**COM 659 Topics in Organizational Communication (3)**

**Corporate Communication**

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 Topics in Organizational Communication (3)**

**Leadership Communication**

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 670 Health Literacy: Patients, Organizations, and Societies**

In a society where the health system has grown increasingly complex and difficult to navigate, and where people may have instant access to information from multiple sources, health literacy has become a major issue. It impacts individuals' communication with their health providers, communication among health and human service providers that serve diverse ethnic populations, but also the development of public health and health communication campaigns and interventions targeted towards increasingly diverse communities. This course is designed to introduce students to the concept of health literacy, the significance of health literacy as a determinant of health outcomes, the measures developed to assess health literacy, and the multiple factors that shape health literacy. (Cross-listed with HPM 569)

**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 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 693 Studies in Specialized Areas (3)**

Supervised readings to give students mastery over the literature in the area of a student’s comprehensive examination. A list of supervised readings is developed by advisor and student for each individual student. Prerequisite: Consent of Director of Graduate Studies.
COM 696 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 697A, B Guided Research Project (3,3A)

Students work with a faculty advisor on an academic research project on a topic of interest to the student and faculty member, related to student's elected track in the program. Final projects should contain a statement of research questions, proposed method for addressing the questions, data collection and analysis or other analytic activity, and project discussion. Students are expected to complete the guided research project in two semesters. In the first semester (COM 697A), students will identify relevant research literature and formulate a plan for carrying out the project. In the second semester (COM 697B), students will conduct the research and write the research report. Students who pursue this option generally anticipate the possibility or likelihood of further study at the doctoral level. Prerequisite: Completion of at least 18 credits, including program core courses and substantive area core courses.

Com 899 Doctoral Dissertation (1)

Required of all candidates completing the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Communication. Load graded. Appropriate for doctoral students engaged in research and writing of the dissertation. Prerequisites: Completion of all course work toward the doctoral degree in communication and admission to doctoral candidacy.

Resources

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

**Selected Journals**
- Quarterly Journal of Speech
- Communication Monographs
- Journal of Applied Communication Research
- Journal of Communication
- Communication Research
- Electronic Journal of Communication
- New Media and Society
Western Journal of Communication  
Communication Quarterly  
Communication Studies  
Southern Communication Journal  
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.org)  
National Communication Association (http://www.natcom.org)  
International Communication Association (http://www.icahdq.org)  
Cultural Studies Central (http://www.culturalstudies.net/)  
The Media and Communication Studies Site (http://www.aber.ac.uk/media/)  
Center for Communication & Civic Engagement (http://ccce.com.washington.edu/)  
Health Communication (http://www.healthcommunication.net/)

Contact Information
Masahiro Yamamoto, Assistant Professor  
Director of Graduate Studies  
Office: Social Science 331  
Phone: (518) 442-4881  
Fax: (518) 442-3884  
E-mail: commdgs@albany.edu

Stacey Barber, Secretary  
Office: Social Science 351  
Phone: (518) 442-4871  
Fax: (518) 442-3884  
E-mail: sbarber@albany.edu

Also, for more information, visit the Department of Communication's website at:  
http://www.albany.edu/communication/phd-program.php
Appendix A: Ph.D. Curriculum/Checklist – Dept. of Communication

Name ____________________________     ID# _______________________     Began _____________
Advisor __________________________

A MINIMUM OF 60 CREDITS, INCLUDING:

Core Courses (18 credits):
Theory Courses (9 credits)
   ______ COM 502  Communication Theory and Practice
   ______ COM 503  Persuasion/Message Design and Social Influence
   ______ ______ Additional Theory Course ______________________________

Methods Courses (9 credits)
   ______ COM 525  Communication Research Methods
      Two additional quantitative or qualitative methods courses*
      ______ ______ _______________________________________
      ______ ______ _______________________________________

**********************************************************************************

Breadth Courses (6 credits) (within the Department but outside of Substantive Area)
   ______ COM ______  ___________________________
   ______ COM ______  ___________________________

**********************************************************************************

Substantive Area (15 credits, at least 12 inside the Department):
   ______ COM ______  ___________________________
   ______ COM ______  ___________________________
   ______ COM ______  ___________________________
   ______ COM ______  ___________________________
   ______ COM ______  ___________________________

**********************************************************************************

Cognate Area (9 credits):
   ______ ______  _______________________________
   ______ ______  _______________________________
   ______ ______  _______________________________

**********************************************************************************

Independent Research Project (6 credits):
   ______ COM 697A  Guided Research Project
   ______ COM 697B  Guided Research Project
Electives (6 credits):

Research Tool:

Pedagogy Requirement:

Proseminar Requirement:

Notes:
**Appendix B: Suggested Timeline Through the Ph.D.**

(Please supply your own proposed timeline using this format, and update with your advisor each semester, along with the Curriculum/Checklist document)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester One</th>
<th>Semester Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM 502 (3)</td>
<td>Course in Substantive Area #2 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 525 (3)</td>
<td>Course in Substantive Area #3 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course in Substantive Area #1 (3)</td>
<td>2nd Methods Course (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total = 9, Cumulative = 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total = 9, Cumulative = 18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Three</th>
<th>Semester Four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM 503 (3)</td>
<td>Breadth Course #1 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 697A Guided Research Project (3)</td>
<td>Course in Substantive Area #4 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Methods Course (3)</td>
<td>COM 697B Guided Research Project (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total = 9, Cumulative = 27</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total = 9, Cumulative = 36</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Five</th>
<th>Semester Six</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course in Substantive Area #5 (3)</td>
<td>Cognate Course #1 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective #1 (3)*</td>
<td>Cognate Course #2 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Theory Course (3)</td>
<td>Elective #2 (3)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
<td>Proseminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total = 9, Cumulative = 45</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total = 9, Cumulative = 54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Seven</th>
<th>Semester Eight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breadth Course #2 (3)</td>
<td>Com 899 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognate #3 (3)</td>
<td><strong>Dissertation Proposal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Exams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total = 6, Cumulative = 60</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>