

MASTER OF ARTS HANDBOOK

Department of Communication

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

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I. Introduction

The Department of Communication is part of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. The Department of Communication at Wayne State University offers graduate study leading to masters and doctoral degrees.

The Department includes about twenty tenured and tenure track faculty with strong backgrounds in both scholarly and professional approaches to communication. The Department has approximately 800 undergraduate majors and 250 graduate students. Wayne State's Graduate School is among the 10 largest in the country and, with over 10,000 students, is the largest in Michigan.

The Department office is located in 585 Manoogian Hall, near the intersection of the John C. Lodge freeway and Warren Avenue, in the heart of Detroit's Cultural Center. Faculty offices are also located in Manoogian Hall. The television production facility is located in Old Main at the intersection of Warren and Cass. Most graduate courses are offered in Manoogian in the evening.

A. The Philosophy of the Graduate Program

Communication is a human activity in which ideas, information, and perceptions are shared. The study of human communication involves the theory, research, and practice of human interaction among individuals, groups, institutions, and cultures using both quantitative and qualitative approaches in the pursuit of answers to interesting questions.

The graduate program in communication is designed to establish and maintain high standards of scholarly research and creative/professional activity, while providing excellence in academic instruction at both the theoretical and applied levels. The graduate program encompasses the full range of empirical, critical, and creative approaches, yet each student is focused through a personal Plan of Work.

Alumni of the program are skilled practitioners, critical consumers, and thoughtful observers of communication processes. While many serve as recognized scholars and educators throughout the country and world, others occupy responsible positions as communication professionals in business, government, and industry.

The Department offers masters level work with emphases in Communication Studies, Dispute Resolution, Journalism, Media Arts, Media Studies, and Speech Communication. The research interests and orientation of the faculty are diverse, and our faculty and graduate students have written extensively on rhetorical theory and criticism, interpersonal/family/health communication, organizational communication and public relations, political communication, media criticism, and

media effects. The program is deeply committed to the intersections among theory, practice, research, experience, strategy and ethics.

B. Overview of M. A. Programs

The Department offers degree programs leading to the Master of Arts in Communication with emphases in the following areas:

- Communication Education (Pedagogy)
- Communication Studies
- Journalism
- Public Relations and Organizational Communication
- Media Arts
- Media Studies
- Speech Communication

In addition, the Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution (MADR) program, as part of the Department of Communication, offers the following three degree options:

- Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution
- Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution
- Joint Program in Law and Dispute Resolution (Joint JD/MADR)

II. Admission

A. Requirements

M.A. students must be officially admitted to the program before enrolling in course work. The Department requires at a minimum that the applicant have a B.A. in communication or a closely related field, a 3.2 (B=3.0) honor point average for the upper-division (the last 60 semester hours) of coursework, and a minimum of fifteen semester credits in communication studies.

Admission is competitive and is based on each student's entire academic record. The stated requirements are minimum standards for consideration of an application. They do not guarantee admission. The department also evaluates the student's sample of written work for evidence of potential to do master's level work.

Applicants with a grade point average below 3.2 for the upper-division (the last 60 semester hours) of coursework may submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores as additional evidence of academic ability.

In some instances where a student's B.A. is not in communication and the

transcripts show fewer than 15 semester hours of course work in communication, an applicant may be admitted as a post-baccalaureate student to the university and may later apply to the Masters program at such time as sufficient background for graduate study is demonstrated. If you are interested in applying for post-baccalaureate status, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies for an appointment to discuss available options.

B. Application Materials

There are at least four basic components of the M.A. application: the completed Application form, Official transcripts, personal statement, and writing sample.

1. The following should be sent directly to:

The Office of Graduate Admissions
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202

- A completed Application for Graduate Admission form. The form can be downloaded from <http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu> Attach a check for \$50.00 payable to “Wayne State University.”
- Official transcripts from every college or university previously attended. Transcripts are to be mailed directly from the degree-granting institution to the office of Graduate Admissions.
- International students are also required to submit TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) results; the **minimum** acceptable score for the Department of Communication is 250 on the computer-based test, or equivalent score of 100 on the iBT (internet based test). We do not admit graduate students on a “qualified” basis in the hopes that they will improve their TOEFL scores.

2. The following materials should be sent directly to:

Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Communication
585 Manoogian Hall
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48201

- A one page statement describing your academic interest and professional goals.
- A recent sample of your academic writing, such as a research paper. Typically, the writing sample ranges from 5-20 pages of text.

Online Applications

The Office of Graduate Admissions also offers an online application process. Students may submit their official application, pay their processing fee, and

upload both the writing sample and personal statement electronically. (Students may also complete the application online and then mail hard copies of the writing sample and personal statement directly to the Department if necessary). Official transcripts will still need to be requested and mailed directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions. Visit the website for the Office of Graduate Admissions at <http://gradadmissions.wayne.edu/> to apply.

M.A. applicants are admitted twice a year, for the Fall Semester and for the Spring Term. Deadline dates for application and receipt of transcripts for the Fall Semester are June 1; for the Spring Term they are February 1. Admission is valid for one calendar year; after one year the applicant must reapply. The Department does not keep application materials beyond one year. Admission to departmental offerings at the graduate level is contingent upon admission to the Graduate School of Wayne State University.

Current Wayne State University Graduate Students wishing to change from their current masters program do not need to submit an application through the Office of Graduate Admissions. However, students must apply to the Department of Communication to be admitted to the MA program. Graduate students who have already been admitted to the University should complete a **Change of Graduate Status Form** in order to apply to the Master's Program in Communication. The form can be downloaded from the Graduate School's website, www.gradschool.wayne.edu, or can be obtained from the main office, 585 Manoogian Hall. All supplemental materials, including transcripts, writing sample, and personal statement, must accompany the Change of Graduate Status form and should be sent directly to the Department of Communication.

III. Financial Support

Graduate financial support for master's students at WSU is very limited. Interested applicants might want to check the following possibilities:

- Full-time and Part-time Graduate Professional Scholarships. Information about these is available at the Graduate School website, at www.gradschool.wayne.edu.
- Graduate students may also be eligible for loans or the Federal College Work Study Program. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, located in the Welcome Center, assists students seeking financial assistance to attend Wayne State University. Their telephone number is (313) 577-3378 and their web site is <http://www.financialaid.wayne.edu/>.

Occasionally the Department employs master's students as teaching assistants. In these rare instances when master's students do receive assistantships, it is almost always because they have extensive experience which prepares them to work with the Forensic Program or with University Television. Assistantships

carry a stipend, health insurance coverage, dental insurance, and a tuition waiver. Assistantships are renewable for up to three years. Graduate Teaching Assistantships are covered by the Graduate Employee Organizing Committee Agreement.

IV. Elements of the M.A. Program

A. Initial Advising and Permanent Advisor

All graduate students are assigned an initial advisor at the time of admission, and that advisor's name appears on the admission form. Your advisor will help you select courses and assist you in filing a Plan of Work (described below).

Do not begin graduate work before consulting with your graduate advisor.

If you begin classes without seeking advice, you may find later that you have wasted time and/or money in classes that are not required in your program. In addition, not every class is offered each term, or even every year! Your advisor will be able to help you plan ahead. You should seek advice at the beginning of your program and as needed or requested by your advisor.

You may keep your initial advisor as your permanent advisor or change to another member of the graduate faculty. The choice of advisor is yours dependent, of course, on the faculty member's consent. Usually students select a professor whose interests coincide with theirs and from whom they have taken at least one class.

The permanent advisor will guide your program of study and will help you complete forms and meet deadlines. The advisor may be changed at any time simply by asking a member of the Graduate Faculty to serve as the new advisor, informing the old advisor, and completing a Change of Advisor Form, available from the Graduate Secretary (585 Manoogian).

Students who are interested in changing their major area of study once admitted and enrolled in the MA program should meet with the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss changing majors. Various factors will affect a student's ability to change majors midway in their program. The Director will also assist the student in identifying a potential new advisor and in processing the proper paperwork to facilitate the change.

B. Registering for Classes

Students may register for classes through either telephone or web registration. Detailed information regarding registration procedures is available in the Graduate Bulletin (p. 26), the Schedule of Classes, and at <http://www.classschedule.wayne.edu>. Additional assistance is available by calling Registration and Scheduling at (313) 577-3541. The telephone number to access registration services is (313) 577-3279. The web address for registration is <http://pipeline.wayne.edu>. You will need your student ID number (found on the

WSU OneCard) for phone registration and you will need your AccessID and password for web registration.

C. Residency Requirement and Transfer of Credits

All M.A. students must earn at least 24 of the credits toward their degree at Wayne State University.

Credits beyond the 24 required to be taken at Wayne State under the residency requirement may be transferred from other accredited graduate schools, provided the credits are certified as graduate level on a graduate transcript and the advisor and Director of Graduate Studies approve the transfer. Only courses in which grades of B or better were earned can be approved for transfer. Petitions for transfer of credit are available for downloading at <http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu/Current/OnLineForms.html>.

D. Plan of Work

Unlike undergraduate programs that provide rigid requirements, the master's program is designed to help students develop fully their individual interests and abilities. The Plan of Work is the contractual agreement that makes this possible.

The Plan of Work must be filed within the first 12 hours of course work and should be filed after two to three courses. Prompt filing of the Plan of Work helps to insure that students take required courses when they are available and that they enroll in courses that will satisfy their degree requirements. **Students who do not file a Plan of Work by the first 12 credits will have their registration blocked until a plan is filed.**

Each student, in consultation with the permanent advisor, selects the appropriate MA degree emphasis (see below) and uses that checklist to complete a "Plan of Work" form that can be downloaded from www.comm.wayne.edu. **The checklist for the student's major emphasis must be attached to the Plan of Work form when submitted to the department for approval.**

All courses included in the degree program must be listed on the Plan of Work.

When the advisor has signed the Plan of Work the student submits it to the Graduate Secretary in Manoogian 585 for review and approval by the Director of Graduate Studies.

When the permanent advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies have approved the Plan of Work it is forwarded to the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts for approval. The approved Plan of Work is a form of "contract" that protects students against changes in requirements and policies.

The Plan of Work can be changed with the approval of the advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the College Graduate Officer. Forms for changing the

Plan of Work are available from the Graduate Secretary and from the departmental website.

E. Course Work

Any course numbered 1000-4999 is solely for undergraduate students; graduate students may take such courses for background but under no circumstances can they be counted toward a graduate degree.

Courses numbered 5000-6999 are for undergraduate and graduate students.

Courses numbered 7000 and above are solely for graduate students.

Retaking courses

Masters students may retake up to, but no more than, two courses. Students must submit a “request to repeat a graduate form” (available on the Graduate School webpage) before retaking a course.

F. Capstone Plans

A graduate degree is more than an assortment of classes; it includes an opportunity for students to synthesize and apply what they have learned. The Graduate School has approved three “capstone plans” for students seeking the M.A. degree, although not all options are available in each of the Communication emphases:

- Plan A: Course work plus an eight-credit thesis that is approved by a two-member faculty committee and may be followed by an oral examination at the discretion of the examining committee.
- Plan B: Course work plus a three-credit essay that is approved by a two-member faculty committee.
- Plan C: Requires more course work than plans A or B.

While master’s students are free to select any of the three options, some M.A. emphases encourage the student to select a particular plan. The emphasis in public relations and organizational communication, for example, encourages students to select Plan C.

G. Theses, Essays and Examinations

1. The distinction between the Plan A thesis and the Plan B essay may be made in terms of the following:

- A thesis involves eight credit hours of work while an essay involves only three credits. Both the essay and thesis should be carefully organized and written in

- a clear academic style. Although many essays are largely descriptive, they should entail a reasonably comprehensive review of literature related to the topic under examination. A thesis requires systematic analysis and/or examination of a research question. Skill in the application of an appropriate research method is, therefore, required.
- A thesis must be original research either in, or very closely related to, the student's major area of specialization. The standards employed in evaluating thesis research are more rigorous than those for the essay. An essay must show evidence of scholarly study and writing and must be related to the student's major interests. A student who elects to complete an essay may conduct research that makes no original contribution to knowledge about the field, but clearly synthesizes and integrates what is presently known.
 - The thesis requires submission of an "Outline and Record of Approval" form. The student's committee also determines whether the proposed thesis research is sufficiently original and significant. While essay research may be completed before committee members other than the student's advisor are involved, a student's committee should participate in the planning (through approval of a prospectus) as well as the evaluation of thesis research.
 - For both the thesis and the essay, the student should discuss the project with his or her advisor regularly. This includes the initial planning stages of the project and the completion of each subsequent section. Completion of a thesis or essay without substantive direction from the advisor may result in a thesis or essay that is unacceptable.
 - Candidates are directed to confer with the advisor about essay style. A thesis must conform to an editorial style approved by the major area and be prepared according to the regulations contained in the current Wayne State University Bulletin. Approved styles include the Fifth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (available at <http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html>) and the style manuals of the Modern Language Association (available at <http://www.mla.org/>). The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 5th edition, was written for high school students and undergraduates, while the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing, 2nd edition, was written for graduate students and scholars).
 - Theses and essays are distinguished in terms of the amount of work required of the student, the originality and significance of the research, the participation of the student's committee, and the manner in which the research report is prepared.

2. Procedure for the Thesis (Plan A)

- Submit a "Thesis Outline and Record of Approval" form (downloadable from <http://www.cfpc.comm@wayne.edu>) before registering for COM 8999

Masters Thesis Research and Direction. Make three copies of the form; retain one, leave one with your advisor, and file one with the Departmental Graduate Secretary.

- Select your committee in consultation with your advisor. The committee includes your advisor and one other graduate faculty member in the department.
- In consultation with the committee develop a thesis proposal. It is always to a student's advantage to secure the committee's advice and support for the general project before investing extensive time and effort on the research.
- If necessary, complete the request for permission to use human subjects and secure approval of the project. Research conducted for a thesis or any other purpose that entails the participation of, or collection of data from, people requires the approval of the University's Human Subjects Committee. It is important to complete the form and submit it well in advance of the planned research because approval is sometimes a lengthy process.
- Students who have completed all requirements for the Masters Degree must register for at least one credit of Master's Thesis Research and Direction (COM 8999) during each semester they continue to use University facilities or receive advising until the thesis is approved. Students should be aware that faculty are not normally under contract during the Spring and Summer Terms, and, therefore, are not available during those periods for advising or consultation.
- File an Application for Degree in the Records Office (5057 Woodward Avenue) no later than the last day of the registration period for the semester in which you expect to complete the requirements for the degree. If an application for a degree was filed for a previous semester and you did not graduate, a new application is necessary.
- Submit copies of the completed thesis to both committee members at least three weeks prior to the deadline for notifying the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts of satisfactory completion of the thesis.
- The completed thesis is read by the committee members who have four options available.
 - Pass—completes the degree requirements.
 - Conditional Pass—requires some fine-tuning to be supervised by the advisor
 - Thesis meeting—to discuss, explore and probe dimensions of the study and the student's grasp of the material
 - Fail—significant revisions of the research and writing are necessary

before resubmission to the committee.

- Make any changes required by your committee and participate in an oral examination if required by the examining committee.
- Have the format of the final copy of the thesis approved by the Graduate School. (See the current Graduate Bulletin for specific regulations concerning form and preparation of the thesis.)
- Submit a signed copy of the thesis to the Departmental Graduate Secretary, three signed copies to the Graduate School, and a copy to each committee member. If you or your advisor require individual copies, they must be in addition to these.

3. Procedure for the Essay (Plan B)

- Select your committee in consultation with your advisor. The committee consists of your advisor and one other graduate faculty member from the department.
- In consultation with the advisor develop the nature and parameters of the essay to be written.
- If necessary, complete the request for permission to use human subjects and secure approval of the project. Research conducted for a thesis or any other purpose that entails the participation of, or collection of data from, people requires the approval of the University's Human Subjects Committee. It is important to complete the form and submit it well in advance of the planned research because approval is sometimes a lengthy process.
- Students who have completed all requirements for the Masters Degree must register for at least one credit of Essay Direction (COM 7999) in each semester during which they continue to use University facilities or receive advising until the essay is approved. Students should be aware that faculty are not normally under contract during the Spring and Summer Terms, and, therefore, are not available during those periods for advising or consultation.
- File an Application for Degree in the Records Office (5057 Woodward Avenue) no later than the last day of the registration period for the semester in which you expect to complete the requirements for the degree. If an application for a degree was filed for a previous semester and you did not graduate, a new application is necessary.
- Submit copies of the completed essay to both committee members at least three weeks prior to the deadline for notifying the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts of satisfactory completion of the essay.
- The completed essay is read by the committee members who have three options available.

- Pass—completes the degree requirements.
 - Conditional Pass—requires some fine-tuning to be supervised by the advisor
 - Fail—significant revisions of the research and writing are necessary before resubmission to the committee.
- Make any changes required by your committee.
 - Submit signed copies of the essay to the Departmental Graduate Secretary, the advisor and the committee members. (See the current Graduate Bulletin for specific regulations concerning form and preparation of the essay.)

3. Procedure for Plan C

Complete all appropriate coursework at required level of competence. File an Application for Degree in the Records Office (5057 Woodward Avenue) no later than the last day of the registration period for the semester in which you expect to complete the requirements for the degree. If an application for a degree was filed for a previous semester and you did not graduate, a new application is necessary.

H. Grades

Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in order to graduate; this is a University requirement. If a grade of B- or lower is received in a graduate course, the course will count toward the degree, but the grade must be offset with a grade of "B+" or higher in another graduate course in order to maintain the minimum 3.0 grade point average. Students who wish to retake a course in which they have received a grade of B- or lower must file a formal petition with the Department and the Graduate School in order to retake the class and have the new grade replace the old. The "Petition to Retake a Graduate Course" form is available on the Graduate School webpage. In addition,

- One grade of B- or lower in any class will result in a meeting with the student's advisor.
- Students with a second grade of B- or lower will not be allowed to continue in the program without approval from both the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. In the event of a second grade of B- or lower the student must provide a written explanation to the Director of Graduate Studies and make an appointment with both the graduate advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss the deficiency **before enrolling in any additional courses**. Registration for subsequent coursework will be allowed only if all involved parties are satisfied that continuance in the program is warranted.

- If the student earns a third grade of B- or lower, or two grades of C or below, a hold is placed on all future registration and she or he is excluded from continuing in the graduate program.

COM 7000 must be taken and successfully passed during the student's first term in the M.A. program. In order to pass COM 7000, students must earn a B (not a B-) or better in the course. COM 7000 may be taken 3 times; however, **students who fail to meet the grade requirement during their first term are not allowed to register for any courses other than COM 7000 until COM 7000 is passed.** COM 7000 is offered in the Fall and Spring Terms only. Failure to secure a grade of B or better in 7000 after three attempts will result in dismissal from the M.A. degree program.

I. Registration--Minimum and Maximum Credit

Students holding Graduate Assistantships must register for at least 6 credits each semester. Nine or ten credits (3 courses) is the conventional expectation. Students devoting full-time to graduate study, with no outside employment or obligations, may register for up to 16 credits per semester, although that is a most unusual practice for most students.

J. Time Limitation

Students have a six-year period in which to complete all requirements for the master's degree. The six-year period begins at the end of the semester during which the student has taken course work that applies toward meeting the degree requirements. The College may, in some instances, re-validate overage credits that are between six and ten years old and which represent courses completed at Wayne State University. This seldom occurs but when it does, it typically requires convincing evidence of professional/academic success. Expired credits earned at other institutions will not be revalidated.

K. Student Contact Information and Email

The Department of Communication maintains contact information based upon initial admission information. It is the student's responsibility to notify the department of any mailing address, telephone, and email address changes. In addition, Wayne State University students are expected to utilize their WSU email accounts. All official email correspondence will be sent to students' WSU email addresses. The Department of Computing & Information Technology has instructions on how to forward WSU email to other accounts.

V. Departmental Resources and Activities

A. Colloquia, Programs and Web Site

The Department sponsors a series of events, programs and colloquia designed to promote discussion and awareness of communication in a variety of contexts. Themes have included communication and health, communication ethics, and

communication and gender. We expect all graduate students to participate, and partake of these colloquia and other programs on a regular basis. Graduate education is not restricted to academic courses. Rather, some measure of progress derives from participation in the extra curricular activities sponsored by the academic community.

Graduate students who have a special research topic may wish to arrange for an Independent Study (COM 7990) with a specific faculty member. In order to qualify for an independent study, you must file a Petition and Authorization for Directed Study form available from the graduate secretary, 585 Manoogian Hall. The authorization requires a reasonably detailed description of the proposed project.

The Department maintains a World Wide Web Page (<http://www.comm.wayne.edu>) through the Internet. This source provides useful information about the program and links to other resources.

B. Orientation and Community

Immediately preceding the beginning of the fall semester, the Department holds a Graduate Student Orientation for all new graduate students and continuing students interested in changes and advice. Please contact the Department for the dates of this orientation.

The Graduate Student Association consists of graduate students in the Department of Communication. The GSA holds regular meetings, speaks on behalf of students' needs, and encourages a sense of community among students. A representative of the GSA attends departmental Graduate Committee meetings.

C. Support for Professional Travel

The Department and the Graduate School support the professional and scholarly activities of graduate students. The Graduate Student Travel Fund is available to help fund travel to conferences and professional meetings. Contact your advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies for more information; the application form is available on the departmental website.

The College also offers support for professional travel through the Harriet Kanter Award for Student Development; see the College website for details.

The Humanities Center at WSU offers travel support for graduate students doing work in the Humanities and the Arts; see their website at www.research.wayne.edu/hum/.

D. Additional Information

Additional information about the program as well as the most current

requirements for the Graduate Programs in the Department of Communication is available at <http://www.comm.wayne.edu>.

VI. Degree Requirements

Descriptions and degree requirements for the various emphases in the Master of Arts program follow. Please consult your advisor regarding these requirements. Your Plan of Work must conform to the requirements listed below unless specific adjustments have been approved by your advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

The requirements for each M.A. degree emphasis are provided as a checklist. Print or copy the checklist for your preferred emphasis and use it when developing your Plan of Work. It will clarify your progress for you and your advisor.

Emphasis in Communication Education (Pedagogy)

This emphasis is intended for students preparing to teach speech communication classes in the secondary schools.

Required courses:

- COM 7000 Introduction to M.A. Studies in Communication (3 credits)
- COM 5030 Communication Ethics (3 credits)
- COM 6060 Teaching Communication at the Secondary Level (3 credits)
- COM 6070 Directing Forensics (3 credits)
- COM 7810 Seminar in Communication Education (3 credits)

Choose one of the following Plans:

- Plan A:** elective courses sufficient to meet the minimum requirement of thirty-two credits and eight credits of COM 8999 and an approved thesis.
- Plan B:** elective courses sufficient to meet the minimum requirement of thirty-two credits and three credits of COM 7999 and an approved essay.
- Plan C:** elective classes sufficient to bring the total credit hours to at least 35.

Emphasis in Communication Studies

The M.A. in communication studies is flexible and encourages students to sample broadly from the courses offered in the various areas of the Department, while allowing a student to construct a program related to her or his particular interests. Students must complete appropriate content courses in speech communication, media arts and studies, and journalism, as well as course work in theory and research methods. Courses that relate to the student's particular area of interest are selected in consultation with the advisor and formalized by filing the Plan of Work.

- COM 7000** Introduction to M.A. Studies in Communication (3 credits)
- Two** research method courses from among the following or other method courses as approved by the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies on the Plan of Work:
 - o COM 6530 Audience Measurement and Survey Techniques (3 credits)
 - o COM 7250 Rhetorical Criticism (3 credits)
 - o COM 7260 Behavioral Research Methods in Communication (4 credits)
 - o COM 7510 Seminar in Mass Media Research (3 credits)
 - o COM 7580 Content Analysis (3 credits)
 - o COM 7590 Criticism of Mass Media (3 credits)
 - o COM 8230 Ethnographic Methods (3 credits)
- One** theory course from among the following:
 - o COM 5510 Mass Communications and Society (3 credits)
 - o COM 7190 Classical Rhetorical Theory (3 credits)
 - o COM 7290 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory (3 credits)
 - o COM 7410 Communication Theory (3 credits)
 - o COM 7700 Mass Media and Political Communication (3 credits)
- A minimum of **three courses numbered 7001 or higher.**
 - o 7_____
 - o 7_____
 - o 7_____

Choose one of the following Plans:

Plan A:

- Three credits in elective courses:

- _____

and

- An approved thesis and 8 credits of COM 8999.

Plan C: Coursework selected in conjunction with the academic advisor totaling a minimum of 33 credits.

Emphasis in Journalism

The Master of Arts in Communication with an emphasis in Journalism program prepares students for careers in news organizations and related areas in mass media. The program includes courses in print and broadcast management skills, organizational communication, Internet-based reporting and communication and cultural diversity issues. Students finish their Masters in Journalism under Plan B with a final three-credit essay. At least 36 credit hours of total coursework are required to graduate from the program.

Required Courses:

- COM 7000 Introduction to M.A. Studies (3 credits)
- COM 5080 History and Law of American Journalism (4 credits)
- COM 6280 Media and Diversity (3 credits)

One research methods course from the following:

- COM 6530 Audience Measurement and Survey Techniques (3 credits)
- COM 7260 Behavioral Research Methods in Communication (4 credits)
- COM 7580 Content Analysis (3 credits)
- COM 8230 Ethnographic Methods for Communication Research (3 credits)

One theory course from among the following:

- COM 7410 Communication Theory (3 credits)
- COM 7520 Theories of Media Effects (3 credits)
- COM 7700 Mass Media and Political Communication (3 credits)

From the following courses, choose **five electives**. The courses should be appropriate to the student's concentration, should be selected in consultation with the student advisor, and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

- COM 5250 Professional Issues in News Media Management (4 credits)
- COM 5300 Desktop Publishing (4 credits)
- Com 5310 Investigative Reporting (4 credits)
- COM 5420 Director's Workshop (4 credits)
- COM 5460 Magazine Writing (3 credits)

- COM 5500 Publishing on the Internet (3 credits)
- COM 5700 Political and Government Reporting (4 credits)
- COM 6190 Internship (3 credits each, maximum two internships)
- COM 6540 Media Operation and Management (3 credits)
- COM 6560 Journalism and New Media (3 credits)
- COM 7330 Advanced Desktop Publishing (3 credits)
- COM 7400 Media Arts Production (3 credits)

One elective from another department selected in consultation with your advisor. Possible departments include Political Science, Anthropology, History, Sociology, Business, or others appropriate to the student's interests.

Choose one of the following Plans:

Plan B: Three credit hours of COM 7999 with an approved essay for a minimum of 36 credits.

Plan C: Coursework selected from the above requirements totaling a minimum of 36 credits.

Emphasis in Media Arts

The M. A. emphasis in media arts is a professionally oriented degree emphasizing production and other creative activity, with appropriate foundational exposure to theory and research. The degree is designed for professionally oriented students who are currently working in the mass media industry and for those who wish to pursue such a career.

All students entering the Master's programs in Media Arts and Media Studies who do not have significant recent experience with digital video production should enroll in COM 5350 "Media Arts Production" in their first fall semester. Students entering the M.A. program in Media Arts who do not have significant, recent experience with digital video production should consult with their departmental advisor (via email if necessary) before registering for production courses.

Required courses:

- COM 7000 Introduction to M.A. Studies in Communication (3 credits)
- COM 5270 Screenwriting (4 credits)
- COM 5380 Video and Film Editing (3 credits)
- COM 5400 Techniques of Film and Video Production (4 credits)

One theory course:

- COM 7520 Theories of Media Effects (3 credits)
- COM 7530 Critical Mass Communication Theory (3 credits)

One Research methods course:

- COM 6530 Audience Measurement and Survey Techniques (3 credits)
- COM 7260 Behavioral Research Methods in Communication (4 credits)
- COM 7510 Seminar in Mass Media Research (3 credits)
- COM 7580 Content Analysis (3 credits)
- COM 7590 Criticism of Mass Media (3 credits)
- COM 7600 Media and Cultural Historiography (3 credits)
- COM 7610 Feminist Media Theory and Criticism (3 credits)

- Two electives in COM numbered 5000 or higher**, appropriate to the concentration. These courses are in addition to any other 5000-level or above courses used to fulfill concentration requirements.

- _____

- _____

- Elective courses** selected in consultation with the advisor resulting in a minimum total of 35 credit credits. These electives should primarily be courses in Media Arts and Studies and selected in consultation with the advisor.

- _____

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Choose one of the following Plans:

- Plan B:** three credits of COM 7999 and an approved essay.

- Plan C:** Appropriate coursework as approved by the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Emphasis in Media Studies

This academically oriented M. A. degree is for students interested in advanced study of television, film, or other mass communication or related phenomena. This degree is appropriate for students interested in such areas as media research, media effects, theory and criticism, film criticism, and scholarly thought and writing about radio, television or film. It is an appropriate preparatory degree for doctoral work.

All students entering the Master's programs in Media Arts and Media Studies who do not have significant, recent experience with digital video production should enroll in COM 5350 "Media Arts Production" in their first fall semester.

Required course:

- COM 7000 Introduction to M.A. Studies in Communication (3 credits)

One theory course:

- COM 7520 Theories of Media Effects (3 credits)
- COM 7530 Critical Mass Communication Theory (3 credits)

One research methods course:

- COM 6530 Audience Measurement and Survey Techniques (3 credits)
- COM 7260 Behavioral Research Methods in Communication (4 credits)
- COM 7510 Seminar in Mass Media Research (3 credits)
- COM 7580 Content Analysis (3 credits)
- COM 7590 Criticism of Mass Media (3 credits)
- COM 7600 Media and Cultural Historiography (3 credits)
- COM 7610 Feminist Media Theory and Criticism (3 credits)

Four electives in COM numbered 5000 or higher, appropriate to the concentration. These courses are in addition to any other 5000-level or above courses used to fulfill concentration requirements.

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One graduate course numbered 7001 or higher.

○ _____

Elective courses selected in consultation with the advisor resulting in a minimum total of 35 credits. These electives should primarily be courses in Media Arts and Studies and selected in consultation with the advisor.

Choose one of the following Plans:

Plan B: three credits of COM 7999 and an approved essay

Plan C: Appropriate coursework as approved by the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Emphasis in Public Relations and Organizational Communication

The M.A. degree in public relations and organizational communication is a professional degree emphasizing the theory and application of communication in a variety of contexts. These include working in public relations, employee relations, media relations, public affairs, issue and crisis management, technical and employee communication, and related activities in business, industry, non-profit and governmental settings. Plan C is highly recommended.

❑ **Required Courses** (15 hours minimum) include:

- COM 7000 Introduction to M.A. Studies in Communication (3 credits)
- COM 6250 Organizational Communication (3 credits)
- COM 7140 Public Relations Campaigns (3 credits)
- COM 7330 Advanced Desktop Publishing (3 credits)
- one of the following:
 - COM 7150 Micro-level Organizational Communication (3 credits)
 - COM 7160 Crisis Communication (3 credits)
 - COM 7165 Communication and Issue Management (3 credits)
 - COM 7240 Communication Consulting and Training (3 credits)

❑ **One** of the following research methods courses:

- COM 6530 Audience Measurement and Survey Techniques (3 credits)
- COM 7250 Rhetorical Criticism (3 credits)
- COM 7260 Behavioral Research Methods in Communication (4 credits)
- COM 7580 Content Analysis (3 credits)
- COM 8230 Ethnographic Methods (3 credits)

❑ **Three** courses from among:

- COM 5030 Communication Ethics (3 credits)
- COM 5080 History and Law of American Journalism (4 credits)
- COM 5100 Speechwriting (3 credits)
- COM 6170 Principles of Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)

- COM 6190 Internship (3 credits, max 6.)
 - COM 6200 Theories of Small Group Processes (3 credits)
 - COM 6350 Communication, Culture, and Conflict (3 credits)
 - COM 7110 Theory of Argument (3 credits)
 - COM 7120 Contemporary Political Campaigns (3 credits)
 - COM 7410 Communication Theory (3 credits)
- At least **one elective from Marketing or another department** as may be appropriate, selected in consultation with your advisor and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies: possibilities include
- MKT 7330 Managerial Communication (3 credits)
 - MKT 7430 Advertising Management (3 credits)
 - MKT 7500 International Marketing Strategy (3 credits)

Choose one of the following Plans:

- Plan B:** 3 credits of COM 7999 and an approved essay for a total minimum of 33 credits.
- Plan C:** COM 7220, Professional Issues in Applied Communication (3 credits), resulting in a minimum total of 33 credits. Plan C is highly recommended.

Emphasis in Speech Communication

The M.A. degree in speech communication is designed for students with a broad interest in the study of human communication. It is intended primarily for students preparing for doctoral study in communication.

❑ **Required** course:

- COM 7000 Introduction to M.A. Studies in Communication (3 credits)

❑ **Complete a minimum of six classes (including one “M”), preferably from any one of the following tracks:**

○ ***Rhetorical Theory and Criticism***

- COM 6040 Cultures and Rhetorics (3 credits)
- COM 7110 Theory of Argument (3 credits)
- COM 7190 Classical Rhetorical Theory (3 credits)
- COM 7250 **M** Rhetorical Criticism (3 credits)
- COM 7280 The Rhetoric of Kenneth Burke (3 credits)
- COM 7290 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory (3 credits)
- COM 7300 **M** Feminist Rhetorical Theory (3 credits)
- COM 7310 Rhetoric and Ideology (3 credits)
- COM 7320 Postmodern Rhetorical Criticism (3 credits)
- COM 8350 **M**Advanced Study in Rhetorical Criticism (3 credits)

○ ***Interpersonal and Small Group Communication:***

- COM 4180 Family Communication (3 credits)
- COM 5220 Interviewing (3 credits)
- COM 6170 Principles of Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
- COM 6171 Human Communication and Aging (3 credits)
- COM 6200 Theories of Small Group Processes (3 credits)
- COM 6250 Organizational Communication (3 credits)
- COM 6270 Computer-Mediated Communication (3 credits)

- COM 6350 Communication, Culture and Conflict (3 credits)
- COM 7410 Communication Theory (3 credits)
- COM 7260 **M**Behavioral Research Methods in Communication (4cr)
- COM 7580 **M**Content Analysis (3 credits)
- COM 8170 Theories of Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
- COM 8230 **M**Ethnographic Methods (3 credits)

○ **Political and Public Communication:**

- COM 5030 Communication Ethics (3 credits)
- COM 5100 Speech Writing (3 credits)
- COM 5110 Studies of Argument (3 credits)
- COM 5120 Presidential Rhetoric (3 credits)
- COM 7040 Language of Oppression (3 credits)
- COM 7120 Contemporary Political Campaigns (3 credits)
- COM 7130 Contemporary Social Movements (3 credits)
- COM 7250 **M**Rhetorical Criticism (3 credits)
- COM 7260 **M**Behavioral Research Methods in Communication (4 cr)
- COM 7700 Mass Media and Political Communication (3 credits)

Choose one of the following Plans:

Plan A:

- Elective courses sufficient to meet the minimum requirement of thirty-two credits
- 8 credits of COM 8999 and an approved thesis

Plan B:

- Elective courses sufficient to meet the minimum requirement of thirty-two credits
- Three credits of COM 7999 and an approved essay

Plan C:

- Elective courses sufficient to bring the total credit hours to 35-45

Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution (MADR)

The Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution (MADR) offers a challenging program, informed by a multicultural perspective, in the growing and recognized field of dispute resolution. As an interdisciplinary field, grounded in the fundamental idea that dispute resolution techniques are inherently democratic in giving voice to disputants, the program provides practical and academic experience that constitutes the range of dispute resolution activities: labor and school mediation, commercial arbitration, family counseling, legal negotiation, and international diplomacy.

❑ **Required** (MADR) Core Courses:

- DR 6992 (formerly PS 7550) Topics in the History of Political Thought: Democratic Theory and Conflict Resolution (3 credits)
- COM 6350 Communication, Culture & Conflict (3 credits)
- DR 6120 Human Diversity & Human Conflict (3 credits)
- DR 7100 Roots of Social Conflict (3 credits)
- DR 7210 (MGT 7780) Concepts & Processes of Dispute Resolution I: Negotiating Theory & Practice (3 credits)
- DR 7220 Concepts & Processes of Dispute Resolution II: Neutral Intervention Theory & Practice (3 credits)
- DR 7310 Practicum in Dispute Resolution (3 credits)
- DR 7890 Final Seminar in Dispute Resolution (3 credits)
- DR 7990 Directed Study in Dispute Resolution (1-4 credits)

❑ **Elective** Courses: In addition to the core courses, students are required to take a minimum of three electives (minimum 8 credits) from offerings across campus. A list of *some* possible electives is available on the MADR web page, www.comm.wayne.edu/madr.php

Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution

The Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution provides professional study and certification to persons holding a graduate degree from an accredited educational institution or those actively pursuing a graduate degree from Wayne State University. Students in the DR Graduate Certificate Program must complete a minimum of fifteen credits in the required courses listed below and must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0. Transfer of credit from other institutions may not be applied toward the credits required for the graduate certificate. The DR Graduate Certificate Program must be completed within three years.

Required (MADR) Core Courses:

- DR 6992 (formerly PS 7550) Democratic Theory and Conflict Resolution (3 credits)
- DR 7210 Concepts & Processes of Dispute Resolution I: Negotiating Theory & Practice (3 credits)
- DR 7220 Concepts & Processes of Dispute Resolution II: Neutral Intervention Theory & Practice (3 credits)
- DR 7890 (Seminar in Dispute Resolution (3 credits)

Plus **ONE** of the following courses:

- DR 6120 Human Diversity & Human Conflict (3 credits)
- DR 7100 Roots of Social Conflict (3 credits)

Joint Program in Law and Dispute Resolution (Joint JD/MADR)

The joint JD-MADR program allows law students to develop greater breadth and depth in alternative dispute resolution than is possible from taking only one or two different courses. It also permits the achievement of this knowledge in less time than would be required if the student had to pursue an LLM degree or the MADR degree as a separate academic program. Students will be able to complete the joint degree program in as little as one semester more than the three year period normally required for the JD degree alone.

❑ J.D. Requirements:

- Eleven core courses (32 credits)
- 54 credit hours of electives (up to four courses or 12 credits can be taken outside the Law School)
- Total credits = 86

❑ MADR Requirements:

- Eight core courses (24 credits)
- Minimum of three electives courses (10 credits)
- Total credits = 32-35

❑ Joint JD/MADR:

- LEX 7616 (Negotiation), LEX 7016 (Alternative Dispute Resolution) are equivalent, to the core MADR courses of DR 7210 (Negotiation), DR 7220 (Intervention) – thus, are “required” for students in the Joint Program.
- Four additional core DR courses (3 credits each) will be counted as electives for the JD program.
- One Law School elective will be counted as meeting one elective requirement for the MADR program. The remaining elective credits for MADR **must** be taken outside the Law School and will not be counted toward the JD degree.
- A graduate level course in Social Statistics (3-4 credits) is required for the Joint Degree. It is considered a pre-requisite for the Joint Degree. *This course will NOT count toward either degree.*

Admissions Requirements: **Students are admitted separately to each program and thus must meet the minimum admission requirements for each program. Visit www.comm.wayne.edu/madr.php for sample schedule for JD/MADR joint degree.**

Acknowledgment of M.A. Degree Handbook Policies and Procedures

I have read the Department of Communication Master of Arts Handbook and familiarized myself with the policies and procedures governing the degree program I am pursuing. I also understand that I must familiarize myself with the policies, procedures, and directives from the Graduate School as detailed in the Graduate Bulletin.

I understand that 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 my dismissal from the program. I further understand that I am to maintain regular contact with my academic advisor so that I may complete my degree in a timely manner.

Student's Name (Please Print)

Signature and date

Please sign and return this form to the Graduate Secretary of the Department of Communication, 585 Manoogian Hall, with your Plan of Work. The Plan of Work is to be completed in consultation with your academic advisor and must be filed by the completion of twelve credit hours of academic study.

For office use only:

Received by and date