COMMUNICATION

Graduate study in communication examines problems of human interaction and relationship, participation and collaboration and deliberation, dialogue and decision making in personal relationships, workplace and institutional contexts and community and public life.

Graduate students pursue research within three main areas—community & social interaction, organizational communication and rhetoric & culture—crafting individualized programs of study that meet their individual needs.

The master’s program provides students with knowledge of selected bodies of communication scholarship and develops their skills in analyzing complex communication situations for a range of professional positions in business, nonprofit institutions and other types of community groups, and for doctoral study in communication.

The doctoral program provides students with opportunities to conduct theoretically grounded, practically useful research that crosses traditional academic boundaries and that prepares them to assume faculty positions in universities, as well as in research and training programs in business, government and social service agencies.

Course code for this program is COMM.

Master's Degree

- Communication - Master of Arts (MA) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/communication/communication-master-arts-ma)

Doctoral Degree

- Communication - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/communication/communication-doctor-philosophy-phd)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member's home department.

Ackerman, John Martin (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_144951)
Associate Professor; PhD, Carnegie Mellon University

Ashcraft, Karen Lee (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_147453)
Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Boromiszsa-Habashi, David (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145833)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Bowers, John Waite
Professor Emeritus

Campbell, Kathleen G.
Professor Emeritus

Craig, Robert T.
Professor Emeritus; PhD, Michigan State University

Darnell, Donald K.
Professor Emeritus

Deetz, Stanley A.
Professor Emeritus; PhD, Ohio University

Donald, Darnell K.
Professor Emeritus

Flores, Lisa A. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145474)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Georgia

Frey, Lawrence R. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_125937)
Professor; PhD, University of Kansas

Gries, Laurie Ellen (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_155951)
Assistant Professor; PhD, Syracuse University

Hauser, Gerard A.
Professor Emeritus

Hickerson, Ruth Lynne (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151159)
Instructor; PhD, University of Denver

Jahn, Jody L (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_153426)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California-Santa Barbara

Koschmann, Matthew A. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_145807)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Texas at Austin

Kuh, Timothy R (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_118144)
Professor; PhD, Arizona State University

Motter, Jeffrey Brian (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156154)
Instructor; PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Pezzullo, Phaedra Carmen (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156204)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Simonson, Peter D. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_143251)
Professor; PhD, University of Iowa

Skerski, Jamie L (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_149871)
Senior Instructor; PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Sprain, Leah MH (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_151292)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Washington

Striphas, Theodore G. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_155205)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Taylor, Bryan Copeland (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_107421)
Professor; PhD, University of Utah

Tompkins, Elaine V.
Professor Emeritus

Tompkins, Phillip K.
Professor Emeritus
Tracy, Karen (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_101190)
Professor; PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison

White, Cindy Hagemeier (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_107461)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Arizona

Courses

COMM 5210 (3) Readings in Communication Theory
Critical overview of leading theoretical traditions in communication studies. Gives attention to metatheoretical issues, including epistemological foundations, the structure of communication theory as a field, and reflexivity between communication theory and cultural practice. Required for doctoral students in communication; optional for master’s students.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5220 (3) Seminar: Functions of Communication
Topical seminar on the functions of communication across interpersonal, group, organizational, and public contexts. Reviews current theory and research on topics such as communication and conflict, persuasion, and ethical dimensions of communication practices.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: COMM 4220
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5225 (3) Environmental Communication
Investigates key concepts in environmental communication and considers which theoretical frameworks and practical actions can inform the effects of various constituents to address environmental issues.

COMM 5230 (3) Applied Communication
Examines the study of applications of communication concepts, theories, methods, interventions, and other practices to address real-world issues and problems. Discusses conceptual issues framing applied communication, examines purposes and methods informing such scholarship, and provides opportunity to evaluate and propose research.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5300 (3) Seminar: Rhetoric
Reviews current theory and research on topics such as rhetoric and publics, rhetoric as an interpretive social science, and rhetoric of social movements and political campaigns.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: COMM 4300
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5310 (3) Contemporary Rhetorical Criticism
Advanced critical analysis of rhetorical texts in terms of how they shape issues and appeals for judgment, create identities for speakers and their audiences, and construct perceptions of time, space, and the human condition.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5320 (3) Readings in Rhetoric
Survey of classical and contemporary readings in rhetoric. Required for doctoral students in communication; optional for master’s students.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5425 (3) Readings in Discourse and Social Practices
Examines the way communicators’ discourse expressions (language, talk, interactional devices, semiotic practices, written texts) reflect and construct interpersonal exchanges, societal activities, and institutional scenes, as well as how discourse expression varies across different speech communities.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5435 (3) Readings in Community and Social Interaction
Focuses on how everyday communication practices shape and are shaped by community contexts. Contains theoretical and empirical readings that illustrate how interactions among group members negotiate and maintain distinct communities and how group communication practices reflect shared norms among community members. Also reviews methods to study everyday interactions among community members (e.g., discourse analysis, qualitative coding, surveys and applied approaches/methods).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

COMM 5500 (3) Seminar: Organizational Communication
Reviews current theory and research on topics such as communication and organizational decision making, organizational culture, gender relations, communication technology, and power and control in organizations.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: COMM 4600
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5610 (3) Organizational Culture and Symbolism
Focuses on relationship between ideological elements (e.g., norms, values, and beliefs) and symbolic practices (e.g., metaphor, ritual, and storytelling) of organizational culture. Analyzes topics from viewpoints of academic theory and managerial practice. Reviews interpretive methods of researching workplace culture and symbolism.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5620 (3) Readings in Organizational Communication
Survey of historical and contemporary readings in organizational communication. Treats theory, research, and application from a variety of perspectives.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5720 (3) Readings in Communication and Technology
Survey of multidisciplinary research that examines various relationships between communication and technology. Students are encouraged to develop critical skills in perceiving assumptions and perspectives that motivate major theories in this area, and to examine how these phenomena have changed over time.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 5930 (1-6) Graduate Internship
Offers opportunities for graduate-level communication related work projects. Limited to 3 hours in spring and fall semesters, 6 hours in summer. The 6-hour limit at MA level and 9-hour limit at PhD level applies to any combination of independent study and internship credit.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 9.00 total credit hours.

COMM 6010 (3) Communication Research and Theory
Provides an introduction to graduate study of communication, offering an overview of the discipline and its scholarship. Required for MA and Ph.D. communication students.
Requisites: Restricted to Communication (COMM or COMN) graduate students only.
COMM 6020 (3) Quantitative Research Methods
Introduces students to the practice of quantitative research in communication: conceptualization and critique of research projects, measurements, methods (e.g., experimental and survey), statistical data analysis, and written reports.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6030 (3) Qualitative Research Methods
Introduction to the epistemology, methodology, and representational practices associated with qualitative communication research. Fieldwork methods emphasized include participant observation, interviewing, and document/artifact analysis.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6200 (3) Seminar: Selected Topics
Facilitates understanding of current and past theory and research on a selected topic in communication and the ability to develop new theory and research on that topic.
**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 9.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6310 (3) Advanced Rhetorical Criticism
Reviews current critical methods and issues related to rhetorical criticism and rhetorical field methods.
**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisites COMM 5310 and COMM 5320.

COMM 6320 (3) Rhetorical Theory
Reviews current theory and research on topics such as contemporary rhetorical theory, rhetoric and public life, rhetoric as an interpretive social science, and rhetoric of social movements and political campaigns.
**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5320.

COMM 6330 (3) Rhetoric of Inquiry
Surveys foundational texts and contemporary research in the rhetoric of inquiry. Focuses on the role of persuasion in the production of knowledge. Critical analysis of major theoretical and methodological traditions and topics, with an emphasis on social dimensions of inquiry.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5320.

COMM 6340 (3) Rhetoric and Civic Community
Considers performances of public life as rhetorical inducements of civitas. Topics include negotiation of self-regulation among interdependent partners, rhetorical exclusions and/or counterpublics, and dialectical tensions of public/private as these contribute to and have civic consequences for publicness, community, and social will.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5320.

COMM 6350 (3) Seminar in Argumentation
Surveys foundational texts and contemporary research in argumentation. Analysis of distinctions between philosophical and rhetorical approaches to argument. Critical analysis of major theoretical and methodological traditions and topics with an emphasis on social dimensions of argument.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5320.

COMM 6360 (3) Social and Cultural Theory
Traces select traditions in social and/or cultural theory, emphasizing how those traditions affect and are affected by the field of rhetoric studies. Examines the origins and resolutions of major debates in social and/or cultural theory from a rhetorical perspective.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5320.

COMM 6410 (3) Discourse Analysis
Acquaints students with the main types of discourse analysis: conversation analysis, critical discourse analysis, and rhetorically informed discourse approaches. Teaches how to conduct discourse analysis, including transcribing, selecting excerpts, documenting inferences, and linking findings to scholarly controversies.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6420 (3) Grounded Practical Theory
Examines theory, method, and application of grounded practical theory, an approach to building normative theory through description, critique, and theoretical reconstruction of situated communicative practices. Semester project involves analysis of a sample of discourse from a public or field observation setting.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5210.

COMM 6440 (3) Interaction Analysis
Examines the origins and resolutions of major debates in social and/or cultural theory, and those traditions affect and are affected by the field of rhetoric studies. Traces select traditions in social and/or cultural theory, emphasizing how those traditions affect and are affected by the field of rhetoric studies. Examines the origins and resolutions of major debates in social and/or cultural theory from a rhetorical perspective.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5210.

COMM 6445 (3) Language, Ideology and Identity
Focuses on cultural foundations of social interaction, with a special emphasis on ideology (including potentially contested cultural norms, values and premises) as a basic condition of meaningful interaction. Identities are discussed as culturally variable, historically embedded interactional accomplishments, constructed from communicative resources such as language and other types of signs, that serve the purpose of participation in communal life.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6470 (3) Public Deliberation and Dialogue
Explores the theory, research and practices of deliberative democracy and dialogue. Considers “ideal” communicative conduct and common interactional troubles, cross-cultural differences and routine communication practices.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6730 (3) Collaboration and Decision Making in Organizations
Explores theory and research on communication processes associated with collaboration and decision making in contemporary organizations, particularly as they are influenced by participation programs, technology, and team structures.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisites COMM 5620 and COMM 6010.

COMM 6740 (3) Theory and Philosophy of Organizing and Organizations
Reviews theory and philosophy of organizations and organizing where communication processes are seen as constitutive. Focuses on discursive and material practices in the formation and change of organizational structure, culture, and operation.
**Requisites:** Restricted to graduate students only.
**Recommended:** Prerequisite COMM 5620.
COMM 6750 (3) Communication and Organizational Change
Addresses the role of communication in cultural change efforts in organizations. Topics include the nature and function of organizational cultures, role of leadership, ethical issues, and member involvement in change processes. Specific organizational cases are highlighted throughout.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.
Recommended: Prerequisite COMM 5620.

COMM 6780 (3) Roles, Relationships, and Identities in Interaction
Examines how social roles influence communicative practices, the development of relationships, and the impact of relationships on identity. Considers these processes in contexts, such as personal relationships and institutional settings. Topic varies.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6840 (1-3) Master's Independent Study
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to graduate students only.

COMM 6940 (1) Master's Degree Candidate
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 3.00 total credit hours.
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail

COMM 6950 (1-6) Master's Thesis
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

COMM 8840 (1-6) Doctoral Independent Study
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 18.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

COMM 8990 (1-10) Doctoral Dissertation
All doctoral students must register for not fewer than 30 hours of dissertation credit as part of the requirements for the degree. For a detailed discussion of doctoral dissertation credit, refer to the Graduate School section.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 30.00 total credit hours.