

MA IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES



SACRAMENTO STATE
Redefine the Possible

In Workflow

1. COMS Committee Chair (phillip.reese@csus.edu)
2. COMS Chair (mdludwig@csus.edu)
3. ALS College Committee Chair (irwin@csus.edu)
4. ALS Dean (mwilson@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (curriculum@csus.edu)
6. Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair (curriculum@csus.edu)
7. Dean of Undergraduate (james.german@csus.edu; renee.leonard@csus.edu)
8. Dean of Graduate (cnewsome@skymail.csus.edu)
9. Catalog Editor (catalog@csus.edu)
10. Graduate Studies (jdsmall@csus.edu; mxiong@csus.edu)
11. Registrar's Office (wlindsey@csus.edu)

Approval Path

1. Tue, 04 Oct 2022 20:08:07 GMT
Phillip Reese (phillip.reese): Approved for COMS Committee Chair
2. Tue, 18 Oct 2022 20:25:31 GMT
Mark Ludwig (mdludwig): Approved for COMS Chair
3. Thu, 03 Nov 2022 20:23:07 GMT
Jacqueline Irwin (irwin): Rollback to Initiator
4. Fri, 04 Nov 2022 19:38:19 GMT
Phillip Reese (phillip.reese): Approved for COMS Committee Chair
5. Fri, 04 Nov 2022 20:01:21 GMT
Mark Ludwig (mdludwig): Approved for COMS Chair
6. Fri, 04 Nov 2022 21:52:40 GMT
Jacqueline Irwin (irwin): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
7. Mon, 07 Nov 2022 17:46:09 GMT
Melinda Wilson Ramey (mwilson): Approved for ALS Dean

History

1. May 4, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Jul 11, 2019 by Kaitlyn Ehrmantrout (k.ehrmantrout)
3. Jul 11, 2019 by Kaitlyn Ehrmantrout (k.ehrmantrout)
4. Feb 16, 2021 by Shawna Malvini Redden (malviniredden)

Date Submitted: Fri, 04 Nov 2022 18:22:08 GMT

Viewing: MA in Communication Studies

Last approved: Tue, 16 Feb 2021 23:52:11 GMT

Last edit: Fri, 04 Nov 2022 18:22:07 GMT

Changes proposed by: Shawna Malvini Redden (201158507)

Academic Group: (College)

Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

Communication Studies

Catalog Year Effective:

2022-2023 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Shawna Malvini Redden	malviniredden@csus.edu	916-747-3166

Type of Program Proposal:

Major

Program Change Type:

Non-Substantive

Title of the Program:

MA in Communication Studies

Designation: (degree terminology)

Master of Arts

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

We are seeking to clarify admissions requirements since changing our core curriculum in 2021. Likewise, we are seeking to clarify policy regarding coursework students may take outside of COMS graduate courses and to fix one typo. These changes are to improve clarity for prospective and current students, encourage enrollment in graduate-level courses, and align with our Graduate Handbook.

University Learning Goals**Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

Critical thinking/analysis
 Communication
 Information literacy
 Disciplinary knowledge
 Intercultural/Global perspectives
 Professionalism
 Research (optional)

Program Learning Outcomes**Program Learning Outcomes**

Learning Outcome
PL01 Students critically evaluate the array of Communication Studies topics, concepts, and theories
PL02 Students demonstrate expertise in one or more specific areas within the Communication Studies discipline.
PL03 Students demonstrate advanced proficiency in scholarly writing for a variety of audiences
PL04 Students critique scholarly writing from a variety of theoretical, methodological, and conceptual perspectives.
PL05 Students design and assess advanced oral communication activities in a variety of settings, including classrooms, organizations, and group problem solving and decision-making contexts.
PL06 Students construct and complete independent research projects using advanced understandings of research methodologies (quantitative, qualitative, and/or rhetorical)
PL07 Students demonstrate in-depth understanding of communication ethics and social responsibility in a variety of settings.
PL08 Students participate in local and disciplinary scholarly communities via academic activities on campus and, depending on resource availability, regional, national, and international professional associations' conventions.

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Catalog Description:

Total Units required for the MA: 30

Program Description

A Master's degree can lead to doctoral or other professional education, or to advanced positions in business, public service, or government. The graduate program in Communication Studies is guided by two interrelated goals. First, that each student has the opportunity to study and conduct original communication research consistent with individual interests and abilities. Second, each student develops and follows a coherent, rigorous plan of study within the field of communication. Accordingly, a structured advising

procedure has been established in the Department to help accomplish these two goals (see "The Graduate Document," available from the Department, for details). As an integral part of a plan of study, each student will designate a series of courses to be completed for their degree with the assistance of their advisor and the approval of the Graduate Committee. A statement outlining the logic of the chosen courses will be required and will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee. Areas of faculty expertise include (but are not limited to):

- Mediated Communication
- Organizational Communication
- Instructional Communication
- Rhetoric and Criticism
- Political Communication
- Intercultural/International Communication
- Relational Communication

As mentioned above, this program, culminating in the Master of Arts in Communication Studies, is designed for the student who subsequently will pursue a doctoral degree or a professional career. The program is **NOT** designed for students who wish to train in production or presentational skills which are taught at the undergraduate level in the Sacramento State Communication Studies Department.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Communication Studies is based on the assessment of individual credentials by the Graduate Committee, but requires at least:

- a 3.0 overall GPA or 3.25 GPA in the last 60 units completed;
- a grade of "B-" or better in a methods course such as qualitative, quantitative, or rhetorical methods. Prospective students can still apply without methods training, but may be asked to take an advanced undergraduate methods course prior to enrolling in graduate level methods.
- a clearly written statement of purpose for pursuing this particular MA degree. This statement is part of the application to the graduate program and should explain the applicant's career and academic goals, specifying how the program will help to accomplish these goals, and explaining the applicant's motivation for pursuing those goals;
- a clearly written personal statement reflecting why the applicant wishes to pursue graduate education and how they have prepared, as well as any personal contextual factors that would help the graduate committee assess the application package;
- three letters of recommendation indicating the applicant's abilities and potential for completing graduate work successfully. These letters should assess at least the student's abilities to perform well in academic courses; to conduct research independently; to express ideas well in writing and orally; and to think critically, analytically, and creatively;
- an online intake form available on the department website that includes a short Analytic Essay allowing applicants to demonstrate their ability to analyze a communication problem and craft an argument;
- at least one substantive example of writing that indicates research, analytical, and/or creative abilities;
- an earned baccalaureate degree, and
- (Optional) Graduate Record Exam (GRE) verbal, quantitative, and analytical scores.

Admission Procedures

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply several months prior to the semester first enrollment is sought and to consult the program website (<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/communication-studies/graduate-study-communications.html>) for detailed instructions on the above materials. **All** application materials must be received before any evaluation begins. Applicants must complete a separate university application by the posted application deadline date for the term applying. *For more admissions information and application deadlines, please visit <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/>:*

- an online application for admission; and
- one set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, *other than Sacramento State*.

A decision regarding admission will be mailed to the applicant.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 30

Minimum cumulative GPA: 3.0. No course with a grade lower than "B-" may apply towards the degree

Advancement to Candidacy

Near the completion of coursework each student must submit an Advancement to Candidacy form, with their major advisor and graduate coordinator's approval, to the Office of Graduate Studies. This procedure may begin upon satisfactory completion of the following:

- all deficiencies in admission requirements removed;
- all undergraduate course deficiencies, as noted as conditions on application response;
- the following with a grade "B-" or better;

Code	Title	Units
COMS 200A	Intro to Graduate Study--Disciplinary History and Conventions	1
COMS 200B	Intro To Graduate Studies--Paradigm and Methods (Intro to Graduate Study--Paradigm and Methods)	1
COMS 201	Communication Theory 	3
Select one of the following:		3
COMS 202	Quantitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMS 203	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMS 204	Rhetorical Criticism	
Total Units		8

- at least 50 percent of coursework toward the degree; and
- taken a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento.

At least 18 units must be 200-level courses. Students may take up to 6 units of courses numbered 150-198 (excluding 195), out-of-department, or independent study (COMS 295/299) courses to complete degree requirements. However, no more than 3 units of COMS courses numbered 150-198 (excluding 195) may count toward the minimum 30-unit requirement. Additionally, students may take up to 4 variable content 1-unit modules (e.g., COMS 296A, COMS 296B, COMS 285) to count toward the minimum 30-unit requirement. By University policy, courses completed to satisfy deficiencies or admission requirements are not counted toward the MA degree.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses (8 Units)		
COMS 200A	Intro To Graduate Studies--Disciplinary History and Conventions	1
COMS 200B	Intro To Graduate Studies--Paradigm and Methods	1
COMS 201	Communication Theory 	3
Select one of the following:		3
COMS 202	Quantitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMS 203	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies (Qualitative Methods)	
COMS 204	Rhetorical Criticism (Rhetorical Criticism)	
Major Courses		16 - 19
Select 16-19 units of graduate courses ¹		
Culminating Requirement		3 - 6
Select one of the following:		
COMS 297	Directed Study and Comprehensive Examination (Plan C: Exam) ²	
COMS 500	Culminating Experience (Plan A: Thesis, Plan B: Projects) ²	
Total Units		30

¹ Select between 16 and 19 units of graduate courses with the assistance of your advisor. Be certain these Major Courses contain a specific focus or area of concentration that can be described and explained to the Graduate Committee. Courses may be grouped into a Major and Minor area of concentration if desired. Up to six units may be taken in a related department or accomplished via independent study (COMS 295/COMS 299), with advisor and Graduate Committee approval. 3 units of COMS undergraduate courses (150-199, excluding 195) may count toward the degree, with advisor and Graduate Committee approval. Additionally, students may take up to 4 variable content 1-unit modules (e.g., COMS 296A, COMS 296B, COMS 285) to count toward the minimum 30-unit requirement.

² For students completing Plan A or B, no more than a total of 3 units of COMS 295 or COMS 299 may be applied to the 30-unit MA requirement. For students completing Plan C, this limit is increased to 6 units. Graduate Committee approval is required in the semester prior to enrollment for these units.

For graduate programs, the number of declared undergraduate major and the degree production over the preceding years of the corresponding baccalaureate program:

0

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

N/A

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

N/A

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

The above changes will not impact department/College fiscal resources.

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

None

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

0

Reviewer Comments:

Ian Harvey (iharvey) (Thu, 03 Nov 2022 19:05:33 GMT): Dear Shawna, This is Ian Harvey on behalf of the ALS Curriculum Committee. Your program change proposal has been approved pending revisions to the PLOs. We are not questioning the content of the PLOs, however we are suggesting that you reconsider the format in order to avoid questions from the committee above ours. The PLO's should be simplified to include a single verb and predicate for each PLO. For instance: • PLO 1 is substantively two outcomes one concerning critical evaluation and the second concerning achieving expertise in a specific communication discipline. • PLO 2 shares outcomes with PLO 9. • PLO 3 seems OK as is. • PLO 4 has three action verbs. • PLO 5 seems redundant in relation to PLOs 2 and 9 And etc. You might refer to Bloom's Taxonomy for selecting and setting up an appropriate sequence of verbs. <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/internal/curriculum-resources.html>.

Jacqueline Irwin (irwin) (Thu, 03 Nov 2022 20:23:07 GMT): Rollback: Dear Shawna, Please see suggestions for revision from Ian. Once your proposal has been revised as per their recommendations, please resubmit and send me an email so I know that your proposal is ready to move forward. Thank you, Jacqueline, ALS Curriculum Chair

Key: 11