

Graduate Program Communication Studies



Teaching AND Research Graduate Assistantships
Innovative and Comprehensive Curriculum
Award-winning Student and Faculty Research
State-of-the-Art Research and Teaching Facilities
Extensive Student/Faculty Research Opportunities
International Exchange Program
London Summer Seminar
Collegial Department in a Vibrant Urban Setting
Small Faculty-Student Ratio
Collegial Colleagues



Important Information

Our M.A. program was established in 2000. We are a small, intimate, collegial program. Our average incoming class is 8-12 students. We usually have between 25-30 active MA students. Yet, we have 15 graduate faculty members for a very small faculty-student ratio.

Our graduate program is a generalist program, in that you don't specialize in any one area but instead take courses throughout many of our interest areas. This lets you craft the program of study to meet your specific needs and interests.

For example, you may decide to combine classes across interest areas to focus on your program of study on an area such as Risk Communication, Global and International Communication, Social Advocacy, Health Information, Healthcare Groups and Teams, Healthcare Organizations, Organizational Narratives, Media Organizations, and so on.

Our rotation of elective courses covers topics such as narrative ethnography, communication focus groups, spirituality and health, healthcare campaigns, communication and aging, network society, cultural studies, rhetorical criticism, organizational power and control, information communication technology, international public relations, communication and gender, risk communication, corporate social responsibility, communicating loss and grief, virtual work, campaign management, and non-standard work. You can combine these courses and interest areas to form your own focused area of study. You will not take all of your elective classes in any one area.

Our program offers a blend of theory and praxis but this is specifically NOT a program in journalism or broadcast practice, nor is it a program for advertising or marketing. We do NOT offer journalism or interpersonal communication at the graduate level.

The program can be taken either full or part-time. Classes are offered Monday through Friday evenings, and you choose the number of classes to take each semester.

Few graduate classes are offered during the summer. You'll have ample classes to choose from in fall and spring semesters.

We offer few on-line courses. Our approach is to provide you with an on-campus experience permitting active participation and interaction.

All graduate students accepted into the program begin their studies in the fall semester. We utilize a cohort System.



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Assistantships, Teaching, and Research Opportunities

All applicants to our MA program who apply by the January 15 deadline are automatically considered for assistantship. Our graduate assistantships are highly competitive – 31% of our active MA students are funded. Most of our 9-month assistantships pay in-state tuition, student health insurance, and an \$8,000 stipend. Some competitive assistantships pay a higher stipend. Students receiving a graduate assistantship must attend school full time (2 to 3 classes a semester), and will work 20 hours a week in the department.

One of the unique things about our program is that our funded assistantships offer you both teaching and research experience. Graduate assistants serve both as teaching assistantships and research assistants, helping faculty with teaching large lecture classes, teaching laboratory sessions or supplemental instruction sessions for undergraduates, and assisting faculty in their research. GA's are given office space in the department. Having an assistantship is a wonderful opportunity that lets you more closely assimilate yourself into our academic community.

Our faculty offer many opportunities for both funded and non-funded students to work with them on their research. Our program is very hands-on and engaged, and faculty are both welcoming and outstanding in their respective areas. Our graduate program is one of a community of scholars studying similar things, sharing, stretching, enlightening, and supporting each other.



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To Apply

In order to be considered for early admission or for an assistantship, we must receive your application by January 15. All other applications are due March 1.

Please see our department's graduate website at <http://gradcomm.uncc.edu/> for more information on our additional departmental requirements.

Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission. This is a highly competitive and selective graduate program. We receive many applications each year, and closely monitor our small faculty-student ratio.

Students applying for the certificate program are required to also submit the complete application materials. The certificate program is as rigorous and selective as the MA program, and students in both programs are enrolled in the same classes.

At minimum, all applicants must have:

- A bachelors degree from an accredited institution
- A competitive undergraduate GPA
- Satisfactory scores on all sections of the GRE

Send directly to the graduate school via their online application system:

- Official transcripts from all post-secondary educational institutions in which the candidate was enrolled;
- GRE scores;
- At least 3 letters of recommendation;
- A statement of program fit.

Send directly to Dr. Christine Davis at gradcomm1@uncc.edu:

- A writing sample that shows your potential to do graduate-level work;
- An information form (found on our graduate program website)

Applications not complete and received by the deadline will not be considered.



Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts degree program in Communication requires the completion of 30 graduate credit hours and a minimum GPA of 3.0. All students are required to take 4 core courses:

COMM 6000- Professional Seminar in Communication Studies
COMM 6101- Contemporary Viewpoints in Communication Theory
COMM 6100- Communication Research Methods
COMM 6200- Topics in Communication Research Methods

To complete the 30 hours, students also take:

From 4-6 electives

A capstone project (thesis, directed project, or comprehensive Examination)

For More Information, Contact:

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To make an appointment to meet with me either over the phone or in person, please go to www.tungle.me/christine.davis and select one available slot.



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