

COMMUNICATION STUDIES - M.A.

College of Sciences and Humanities
 School of Communication Studies
 www.kent.edu/comm

About This Program

The Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies provides a broad spectrum of knowledge about human communication in various social contexts, and the ways in which information is produced and processed. The program prepares individuals to pursue a doctorate degree, as well as for non-academic careers in which a broad understanding of communication theory and research is desirable. Read more...

Contact Information

- **Meghan Harper** | comm@kent.edu | 330-672-2659
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Communications teachers, postsecondary

- 2.1% slower than the average
- 35,800 number of jobs
- \$77,800 potential earnings

Fundraising managers

- 4.2% about as fast as the average
- 45,700 number of jobs
- \$123,480 potential earnings

Market research analysts and marketing specialists

- 6.7% faster than the average
- 941,700 number of jobs
- \$76,950 potential earnings

Public relations managers

- 5.0% faster than the average
- 83,200 number of jobs
- \$138,520 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at

which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Goal statement
- Sample of scholarly writing
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following: ¹
 - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
 - Minimum 58 PTE score
 - Minimum 110 DET score

¹ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores may be considered for conditional admission.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Application deadline: April 15
- **Spring Semester**
 - Application deadline: November 15

All application materials (including applicable fee, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) submitted after these deadlines will be considered on a space-available basis.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
CCI 61000	QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION	3
or CCI 62000	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION	
COMM 65000	FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY	3
COMM 65652	THEORIES OF COMMUNICATION	3
Communication Studies (COMM) Graduate Electives (50000 or 60000 level) ¹		15-18
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
Choose from the following:		3-6
COMM 60199	THESIS I	
COMM 61198	MASTERS PROJECT IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	
COMM 64092	MASTERS INTERNSHIP IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	

Coursework-Only Option	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	30

¹ A minimum 9 credit hours must be at the 60000 level. A maximum 6 credit hours may be taken from courses outside of the School of Communication Studies. A maximum 4 credit hours of workshop coursework may be taken. Some examples of routinely offered electives include COMM 65070, COMM 65662, COMM 65686, COMM 65851 and COMM 66501.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- No more than one-half of a graduate student’s coursework may be taken in 50000-level courses.
- Grades below C are not counted toward completion of requirements for the degree.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to:

1. Read, critique and engage in theory-based research involving a broad spectrum of topics in human communication.
2. Understand and master appropriate methodological skills for the study of human communication and apply them to relevant and shifting real-world contexts that often include newer communication technologies.
3. Utilize theory-based and state-of-the-art knowledge to stimulate and improve communication processes in educational, business and nonprofit environments.

Dual Degree with Master of Business Administration

Students have the opportunity to complete a dual degree program with the M.A. degree in Communication Studies and the M.B.A. degree in Business Administration. A separate application must be submitted for each program. Students can view admission requirements for each program on their respective catalog page.

The dual M.A./M.B.A. degree program is designed for students and professionals whose career goals focus on communication, particularly global communication, and provides direction and leadership in economic and business development processes.

Dual Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
ACCT 63037	FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING FOR DECISION MAKING	2
ACCT 63038	MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING FOR DECISION MAKING	2
BA 64005 or COMM 65020	ANALYTICS FOR DECISION MAKING QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN COMMUNICATION	2-3
BA 64027	SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	2
CIS 64042	GLOBALIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY	2

COMM 65000	FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY	3
COMM 65652	THEORIES OF COMMUNICATION	3
COMM 65851	ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION	3
ECON 62021	MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS	2
ECON 62022	MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS	2
FIN 66050	LAW AND ETHICS	2
FIN 66060	MANAGERIAL FINANCE	2
HRM 64271	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	2
MGMT 68051	BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT I	1
MKTG 65051	MARKETING MANAGEMENT	2
Business Electives		6-7
Communication Studies (COMM) Electives ¹		12-15
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
MGMT 64399	BUSINESS STRATEGY	3
Choose from the following: ¹		3-6
COMM 60199	THESIS I	
COMM 61198	MASTERS PROJECT IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	
COMM 64092	MASTERS INTERNSHIP IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	
Coursework		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		60

¹ Students who do not select the thesis option must complete 15 credit hours of electives to earn minimum 60 credit hours for the degree.

Full Description

The Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies is intended to provide a broad spectrum of knowledge about human communication in various social contexts, and the ways in which information is produced and processed. Curriculum focus is on the social and behavioral study of communication theory and research. The program prepares individuals to pursue a doctorate degree, as well as for non-academic careers in which a broad understanding of communication theory and research is desirable.