

MA IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. Fri, 20 Sep 2019 18:55:14 GMT
Andrew Stoner (andrew.stoner): Approved for COMS Committee Chair
2. Thu, 26 Sep 2019 00:25:47 GMT
Gerri Smith (smithg): Approved for COMS Chair
3. Mon, 14 Oct 2019 02:13:58 GMT
Robin Fisher (rfisher): Rollback to Initiator
4. Tue, 15 Oct 2019 15:39:59 GMT
Andrew Stoner (andrew.stoner): Approved for COMS Committee Chair
5. Tue, 15 Oct 2019 17:47:29 GMT
Gerri Smith (smithg): Approved for COMS Chair
6. Thu, 17 Oct 2019 03:35:42 GMT
Robin Fisher (rfisher): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
7. Thu, 17 Oct 2019 17:11:54 GMT
Melinda Wilson Ramey (mwilson): Approved for ALS Dean

History

1. May 4, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Jul 11, 2019 by 212408496
3. Jul 11, 2019 by 212408496

Date Submitted: Tue, 15 Oct 2019 00:13:47 GMT

Viewing: MA in Communication Studies

Last approved: Thu, 11 Jul 2019 15:04:53 GMT

Last edit: Tue, 15 Oct 2019 00:13:45 GMT

Changes proposed by: Shawna Malvini Redden (201158507)

Academic Group: (College)

Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

Communication Studies

Catalog Year Effective:

2020-2021 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	916-278-6688

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:

In order to make the program more current with disciplinary standards, as well as offer support and flexibility for students, we would like to adjust our core course requirements. Specifically, we plan to transition back to requiring an introductory class to help socialize students to the program and rigors of graduate school as well as requiring Communication Theory, as most other Communication Graduate Programs do.

Core Course Requirements (with new course titles/numbers reflected)

COMS 200 Introduction to Graduate Study (2 units; 1 unit per semester)

COMS 201 Communication Theory (3 units)

A Communication Method (3 units) (either COMS 202 Quantitative Methods, COMS 203 Qualitative Research Methods, or COMS 204 Rhetorical Criticism)

(Please note, we have submitted numerous Form As to reflect curriculum updates, and several of those classes are not available in the system yet, so I added them in manually. Additionally, COMS 200 is intended to be Introduction to Graduate Study, not Qualitative Methods as in the current catalogue. We have submitted the proposal to change the title and keep numeric continuity with our Core Course Requirements.)

Additionally, we would like to change some admissions requirements. Specifically:

1. We would like to broaden the units that count towards the GPA minimum to allow for students taking courses after they earn their undergraduate degree in order to raise their cumulative GPA. Currently, our requirements specify a GPA minimum in the last 60 units of the undergraduate coursework, and this prohibits certain students from applying, even if they show promise and competence in later coursework.
2. We wish to remove the GRE as an admissions requirement, and make it optional. Our rationale is based upon recent studies that show the GRE does not, in fact, predict success in graduate school, and like many standardized tests, is biased against minorities, women, and those of lower socioeconomic status. Furthermore, it is cost-prohibitive for many of our students, and we would like to increase the access to graduate education for qualified students who may have fewer financial means.
3. We wish to add an intake form and essay to the admissions requirements that will help us determine preparation and fit for the program in a more tailored and fair way than the GRE. The intake form and essay would be available for download on our department website, and would ask applicants to respond to a common set of questions that may change throughout application cycles, but would include topics such as: analyzing a brief contemporary communication case study, describing their preparation for graduate school, discussing how their graduate work would benefit their local community, etc.

Objectives of the degree program:

To introduce new graduate scholars to the Communication Studies discipline and prepare them for doctoral programs, university and community college teaching positions, and careers in industry and public service.

University Learning Goals

Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:

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

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 "B-" or better in the following (or equivalent courses):

Code	Title	Units
Select one of the following:		
COMS 167	Systems and Theories of Rhetoric	
COMS 168	Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism	
COMS 169	Television Criticism	
Select one of the following:		
COMS 170	Data Analysis in Communication Research	
COMS 171	Survey Methods in Communication Research	
COMS 172	Content Analysis	

- 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 explain the applicant's motivation for pursuing those goals;
- 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 essay;
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) verbal, quantitative, and analytical scores (optional);
- an earned baccalaureate degree, and
- two examples of writing that indicate research, analytical, and/or creative abilities.

Admission Procedures

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply several months prior to the semester first enrollment is sought. **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
- two sets 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 and "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 200	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	2
COMS 201	Communication Theory	3
Select one of the following:		3
COMS 202	Quantitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMS 203	Course COMS 203 Not Found	
COMS 204	Course COMS 204 Not Found	
Total Units		8

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

At least 18 units must be 200-level courses and no more than 6 units of courses numbered 150-198 (excluding 195) may 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 200	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	2
COMS 201	Communication Theory	3
Select one of the following:		3
COMS 202	Quantitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMS 203	Course COMS 203 Not Found	
COMS 204	Course COMS 204 Not Found	
Major Courses		16 - 19
Select 16-19 units of graduate courses ¹		
Culminating Requirement		1 - 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 and still be counted toward the degree.

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:

There will be no change to existing programs

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

There will be no fiscal impact to the proposed changes.

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

There will be no fiscal impact to the proposed changes.

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?

No.

Reviewer Comments:

Robin Fisher (rfisher) (Mon, 14 Oct 2019 02:13:59 GMT):Rollback: Dear Dr. Redden, please clarify what "a supplemental application and essay from the Department" means; in the Admission requirements, please leave out notes about "what is intended;" instead list courses as they correspond to your Form A proposals (i.e. COMS 200 Intro to Grad Studies); For Quant Research, in "Comment" box, use "Select one of the following courses:" instead of "We intend...." and list all 3 courses. Be sure to alert your committee and department chair about the need for quick approval, once these edits have been made. Please let me know if you have questions. Thank you, Robin Fisher, AL Committee Chair

Key: 11