

Changes to the Master of Arts in Communication Program Policy Statement

- Changed when the date for when applicants admitted in the program start from a “beginning of September start” to “a fall semester start” simply because the fall semester often starts at the end of August rather than in September.
- Changed the minimum required GRE score from a range for the verbal and quantitative portions to a combined minimum score of 300 for both portions of the exam. This gives the Graduate Studies Committee a little leeway when evaluating students who apply who may not quite fall into the previous ranges. In addition this would bring the requirement for the MA applicants in line with the requirements for applicants for our proposed Ph.D. program.
- For international students for whom English is not their native language we have removed the Test of Spoken English as a requirement for students simply because the exam does not exist any longer. In addition now included is the minimum score required of the International English Language Testing System exam for students who may not be able to take the TOEFL exam.
- Removed from the application procedures is the statement that the student’s essay and letters of recommendation could be send directly to the department. All materials should be submitted within the online application system.
- Changed is the date around which assistantships are awarded for applicants. This date has changed from March 15 to February 15. With an application deadline for consideration for a funded assistantship being February 1 the Department of Communication’s Graduate Studies Committee now makes those determinations in mid-February rather than mid-March.
- The title of COMM670 has been previously changed from Mass Communication Theory to Media Theory in the course catalog. The title of this course has been changed in the policy statement. In addition, the Department of Communication previously decided to change the title of one of their areas from Mass Communication to Media Communication. Any place in the document that has the phrase “mass communication” now reads “media communication.”
- The title for COMM869 has been corrected from Thesis Credit to Master’s Thesis.
- The document stated that students had to complete an “Advisor and Course Planning Form” during their first year of study. This is a form that is not used in the Department of Communication and has not been for at least 10 years. Any discussion of this form has been removed.

- The document stated that students had to complete a “Change in Degree Track” form if they chose to switch between the thesis and comprehensive exam track. This is a form that has not been used in the Department of Communication in many years. Instead a change must be discussed with the Department’s Director of Graduate Studies, and changes must be approved by both the department’s Director and the Office of Graduate Studies.
- For the non-thesis track the program statement said that students should meet with their adviser at the start of the semester they plan to take the exam in order to determine the faculty members to serve on their exam committee. This has been changed to during the semester prior to the semester they plan to take the exam so to maximize the student’s opportunity to study and prepare for the exam.
- The timetable of when the exam is typically administered (the Tuesday-Thursday-Tuesday after Spring Break) is more clearly spelled out.
- In the timetable for full time graduate students, the courses that are typically taken in the fall and spring semesters have been shuffled. They are taking the same courses but in a different order. This is now reflected in the timetable.
- In the list of graduate level courses, COMM603 is now a co- or pre-requisite to COMM604 (due to the shuffling of the schedule mentioned in the bullet above). That change is reflected. In addition two courses have been added to the list of elective courses that students may take. These courses have been added previously to the course catalog.