

# COMMUNICATION

**Chair:** Lisa B. Keränen

**Graduate Director:** Amy Hasinoff

**Program Assistant:** Michelle A. Médal

**Internship Director:** Megan Hurson

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## Overview

Our vibrant community of scholars and teachers is committed to providing a real-world, hands-on, and theoretically robust master's degree that will enrich students' communication knowledge and skills for the twenty-first century. Our program is a 33-credit generalist degree designed to enhance students' intellectual and professional growth through the understanding and practice of effective communication. Our faculty members are nationally and internationally recognized leaders in their field. Students who complete our program often receive offers to top-notch PhD programs or accept positions related to communication management, public relations, human relations, and corporate and non-profit communication.

## Graduate Program

Click here (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/communication/communication-ma/>) to learn about the **Master of Arts in Communication**.

## Grade Requirements

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher across all courses applied to a graduate degree or to a graduate certificate.

## Course Transfer Policy

A maximum of 12 semester hours of relevant graduate course work may be transferred from another university. Students cannot receive credit for transferred courses in which less than a B grade was earned. Course work transferred from another university must be approved by the director of the MA program and must not have been used for another graduate degree.

## Time Limits for Completion of Degree

Students have seven years from the date of the beginning of their course work to complete all requirements for a master's degree in communication.

## Graduate Certificate

Click here (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/communication/strategic-communication-graduate-certificate/>) to learn about the Strategic Communication Graduate Certificate.

## Grade and Residency Requirements for Certificates

A grade of B or better must be earned in each course completed as part of the certificate (B- is not acceptable). All semester hours for a certificate must be earned at CU Denver.

For more information about admission requirements please visit our website (<https://clas.ucdenver.edu/communication/programs/master-arts/admissions/>).

## Application Procedures for U.S. Citizens

Students must submit the following materials to apply for admission to the MA program:

- letter of application explaining career plans and reasons for interest in the degree
- online graduate admission application
- three letters of recommendation, preferably from university faculty (those writing the recommendations must use the request for recommendation form and their own letterhead stationery)
- official transcripts from every college or university attended
- preferred 3.25 undergraduate GPA
- resume or vita
- academic writing sample (showing ability to make and sustain an argumentative analysis)
- Optional GRE scores
- \$50 application fee (nonrefundable)
- international students need TOEFL scores

## Deadlines for Application

**February 15:** Priority deadline for fall semester start and full consideration for Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA). Applications will be considered until May 1, which is the non-priority deadline for fall semester start and excludes GTA consideration.

**October 1:** Deadline for spring semester start. Graduate Teaching Assistantships are generally not offered for spring semester start.

All application materials not uploaded through the online application process should be sent to:

### Graduate School

University of Colorado Denver  
Campus Box 163  
1380 Lawrence Street, Suite 1250  
P.O. Box 173364  
Denver, CO 80217-3364

Students are notified by e-mail of the graduate admission committee's decision concerning their admission.

## Application Procedures for International Students

Students who are not U.S. citizens should begin the process of application to the MA program in Communication by contacting the Office of International Affairs (website: [www.ucdenver.edu/academics/InternationalPrograms/OIA/admissions/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/InternationalPrograms/OIA/admissions/Pages/default.aspx)) at CU Denver. This office will assist students in compiling their application materials, which then are submitted to the Communication department. See the International Students (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/international-admissions/>) chapter for further information.

## Programs

- Communication, MA (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/communication/communication-ma/>)
- Strategic Communication Graduate Certificate (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/communication/strategic-communication-graduate-certificate/>)

## Faculty

### Professors:

**Sarah Fields**, PhD, University of Iowa

**Stephen J. Hartnett**, PhD, University of California at San Diego

### Associate Professors:

**Hamilton Bean**, PhD, University of Colorado at Boulder

**Larry Erbert**, PhD, University of Iowa

**Amy Hasinoff**, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Lisa B. Keränen**, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

### Associate Professor Clinical Track:

**Patrick Shaou-Whea Dodge**, PhD, University of Denver

**Xiyuan Liu**, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago

### Assistant Professors:

**Soumia Bardhan**, PhD, University of New Mexico

**Catalina M. de Onis**, PhD, Indiana University

**Mia Fischer**, PhD, University of Minnesota

### Senior Instructors:

**Kristy Frie**, MA, Regis University

**Yvette Bueno Olson**, PhD, University of Miami

**e. j. Yoder**, PhD, University of Denver

### Instructors:

**Megan Hurson**, PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

**Diann Logan**, MA, University of Colorado Denver

**James McNeil**, MA, University of Colorado Denver

**Ali Nassiri**, MA, University of Colorado Denver

**Tamara Powell**, PhD, University of California San Diego

### Emeritus:

**Brenda J. Allen**, PhD, Howard University

**Sonja K. Foss**, PhD, Northwestern University

**James F. Stratman**, PhD, Carnegie-Mellon University

**Barbara J. Walkosz**, PhD, University of Arizona

## Communication (COMM) Courses

**COMM 5000 - Communication and Sport (3 Credits)**

Examines the language and imagery used in sporting discourse.

Considers how sports reflect and refract culture, both positively and negatively. Cross-list COMM 4000. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5021 - Perspectives on Rhetoric (3 Credits)**

Introduces major theories of rhetoric from classical through contemporary times, including the theories of Aristotle, Cicero, I. A. Richards, Kenneth Burke, Michel Foucault and Jurgen Habermas.

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4021. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5040 - Communication, Prisons, and Social Justice (3 Credits)**

Examines the U.S. prison-industrial complex and enables students to envision ways of reducing crime and improving democracy by engaging in community service. Note: This course fulfills the communication department's exit class requirement. Cross-listed with COMM 4040.

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors.

Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with Permission of instructor. COMM 2020 is recommended preparation for this course.

Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5051 - Advanced Strategic Communication (3 Credits)**

Provides senior-level training in hands-on communication environments where targeted messaging seeks specific outcomes. All students

complete projects for community group, media outlet or corporation they choose. Students will not receive credit for this class if they have

already received credit for COMM 5640. Cross-listed with COMM 4051.

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors.

Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with Permission of

instructor. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5152 - Religion & Communication (3 Credits)**

This course focuses on the relational/coconstitutive dynamics between religion, culture, and communication and how that shapes the world

in which people live; how the legacy of political religious conflict, in

conjunction with international culture wars, instigate socio-cultural

conflict and change; and how an in-depth study of the dynamics

of religion, culture, and communication can improve intergroup/

intercultural/international relations or even negotiation/conflict

resolution processes. Students will develop capacity to critically analyze

the socio-cultural and political implication of religious ideology (radical

and moderate), ways in which these ideologies are performed and

communicated, and their (students') agency/ability to contribute to

intercultural/international understanding, conflict resolution, civic

engagement, and/or social justice efforts. In addition, upon completion,

students should be prepared to engage in complex conversations

about the idea of religion, its role and relevance in human lives, and

recognize several commonalities and differences between their

(students') and non-Western/other societies' worldviews, cultures,

and communicative dynamics. We will engage these topics through

multiple and diverse readings, examples from television, film, and social

media, reflexive writing assignments, research and analytical activities,

critical discussions, and experiential learning activities. Restriction:

Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors. Cross-listed

with COMM 4152, INTS 4152, RLST 4152, INTS 5152, and RLST 5152. Max

hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5221 - Research Methods: Qualitative (3 Credits)**

Applies qualitative research methods to human communication practices, including the processes of designing qualitative studies, collecting data, analyzing and interpreting data, and reporting results. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4221. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5240 - Organizational Communication (3 Credits)**

Addresses the relationships among such communication factors as flow, media, channel, diversity, information delivery and organization functioning, morale, and productivity. Stresses functional workplace skills and practices. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4240. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5255 - Negotiations and Bargaining (3 Credits)**

Designed to allow students to study theories and apply concepts that explain the influences of various forms of mediating, reducing, and/or resolving conflict among individuals, groups, organizations, nations and cultures. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4255. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5260 - Communication and Conflict (3 Credits)**

Studies the influence of communication on intrapersonal, interpersonal, intragroup and intergroup conflict situations. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4260. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5265 - Gender and Communication (3 Credits)**

Examines gender as it is constructed, performed, evaluated, and negotiated through communication. Topics covered include the nature of gender, the gender binary, scientific research on gender, gender stories in popular culture, the process of crafting and performing gender stories, and responses to gender performances. Cross-listed with COMM 4265.

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5270 - Intercultural Communication (3 Credits)**

Examines the philosophy, process, problems, and potentials unique to communication across cultural boundaries. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Cross-listed with COMM 4270 and INTB 6270. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5282 - Environmental Communication (3 Credits)**

Studies the communication processes involved in policies and practices affecting natural and human environments. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4282. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5430 - Communication, China, & the US (3 Credits)**

This course provides a senior-level opportunity to study how China & the USA have spoken about and to each other, from the Opium War through the Cyber Wars, thus situating this nation in a world of globalizing communication. Note: this course fulfills the communication department's exit class requirement. This course may count for the International Studies major or minor. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with Permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4430. Term offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5500 - Health Communication (3 Credits)**

Examines the role of communication in a wide range of health contexts. Topics include cultural constructions of health and illness, public health communication campaigns, client-provider interactions, telemedicine, community-based health programs and medical journalism. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4500. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5550 - Rhetorics of Medicine & Health (3 Credits)**

This senior seminar/bridge class investigates persuasion in contemporary medicine/health care from clinical settings through mass media. Case studies explore contagion, health policy, the body, death, and biopower. The course requires extensive discussion of readings and an original research project. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Cross-listed with COMM 4550. Term offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5558 - Digital Health Narratives (3 Credits)**

This course blends readings, discussions and activities about health narratives with digital media production skills to teach students how to create compelling digital stories about health-related topics. Cross-listed with COMM 4558. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with Permission of instructor. Term offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5575 - Designing Health Messages (3 Credits)**

Examines the roles of communication in the design and impact of health messages/campaigns. We will design and assess health communication messages/campaigns in a participatory, process-oriented way using varied communication tools. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors (NDGR-NHL and NDGR-NLA). Cross-listed with COMM 4575. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5601 - You Are What You Eat: Food as Communication (3 Credits)**

Because food provides a communication channel for much of who we are as individuals, as a community and as a society this course analyzes food as a form of communication. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with Permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4601. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5620 - Health Risk Communication (3 Credits)**

Acquaints students with contemporary theory, research, and practice in health risk communication. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4620, ENVS 5620, and PBHL 4620. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5621 - Visual Communication (3 Credits)**

Explores the social, cultural, and behavioral effects of visual images in a variety of contexts, including graffiti, film, advertising, art and architecture. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4621. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5660 - Queer Media Studies (3 Credits)**

Queer Media Studies is a discussion-based, writing-intensive seminar that examines the history and development of U.S. LGBTQI media by focusing on media texts and production, sociocultural context, and media reception. Cross-listed with COMM 4660, WGST 4660, WGST 5660. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5665 - Principles of Advertising (3 Credits)**

Provides a fundamental understanding and appreciation of advertising in today's global society, including consumer motivation, buying behavior, research, creative development and media planning. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4665. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5682 - Political Communication (3 Credits)**

Examines the communication processes involved in mediated political events. Topics include the stages of the campaign process, media coverage of the political campaign process, and literacy skills needed to understand political advertising. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll by permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4682. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5720 - Dynamics of Global Communication (3 Credits)**

Explores the word "global" in a communication context by analyzing the relationships between world media, international events, economics and the geopolitics of culture. This analysis is supported by the application of mass, human and cultural communication theory. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Cross-list COMM 4720. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5760 - New Media and Society (3 Credits)**

This course examines the relationship between new media (such as the internet and mobile phones) and society. Students will investigate the social and cultural aspects of communication technologies. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll by permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4760. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5840 - Independent Study (1-3 Credits)**

Note: Students must submit a special processing form completely filled out and signed by the student and faculty member, describing the course expectations, assignments and outcomes, to the Graduate School for approval. Prereq: Permission of instructor. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Repeatable. Max Hours: 9 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 9.

**COMM 5880 - Directed Research (1-6 Credits)**

Students will engage in original research projects supervised and mentored by faculty. Students must work with faculty prior to registration to develop a proposal for their project and receive permission to take this course. Note: Students must submit a special processing form completely filled out and signed by the student and faculty member, describing the course expectations, assignments and outcomes, to the Graduate School for approval. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Repeatable. Max Hours: 6 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 6.

**COMM 5939 - Internship (1-6 Credits)**

Applies communication or technical communication concepts and skills in supervised employment situations. Note: Students must submit a special processing form completely filled out and signed by the student and faculty member, describing the course expectations, assignments and outcomes, to the Graduate School for approval. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Repeatable. Max Hours: 9 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 9.

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

**COMM 5995 - Global Study Topics (1-15 Credits)**

This course is reserved for CU Denver faculty-led study abroad experiences. The course topic will vary based on the location and course content. Students register through the Office of Global Education. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Max hours: 15 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

COMM 6013 - Introduction to Graduate Work in Communication (3 Credits)

Designed to familiarize students with the philosophical, ideological, and methodological bases of study in communication. Note: Required of all graduate students in M.A. program in communication. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

COMM 6200 - Communication and Critical Theory (3 Credits)

This course offers students an introduction to the intellectual history and current status of the relationship between communication and critical theory; canonical thinkers (Marx, Freud, Adorno, etc.) are coupled with contemporary communication scholars who work on questions of social justice. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

COMM 6400 - Communication, Globalization and Social Justice (3 Credits)

This course offers students an introduction to the intersections of communication as a discipline, globalization as a world process, and social justice as a contested, ever-evolving goal of activists. Note: This course may count for the International Studies major or minor. See your INTS advisor for more information. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

COMM 6700 - Thesis and Project Practicum (3 Credits)

Focuses on strategies of research design and writing for undergraduate students working on theses for Latin honors and for master's students seeking to complete a major research paper or thesis. Cross-listed with COMM 4700. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll with Permission of instructor. Term offered: fall, spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

COMM 6710 - Topics in Communication (1-3 Credits)

Special classes for faculty-directed experiences examining communication issues and problems not generally covered in the curriculum. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree majors. Undergraduates with senior standing may enroll by permission of instructor. Cross-listed with COMM 4710. Term offered: fall, spring.

Repeatable. Max Hours: 15 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 15.

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

COMM 6711 - Topics in Communication (1-15 Credits)

Special classes for faculty-directed experiences examining communication issues and problems not generally covered in the curriculum. Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors. Repeatable. Max hours: 15 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 15.

Restriction: Restricted to Graduate and Graduate Non-Degree Majors

COMM 6950 - Master's Thesis (1-6 Credits)

Note: Students must submit a special processing form completely filled out and signed by the student and faculty member, describing the course expectations, assignments and outcomes, to the Graduate School for approval. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Repeatable. Max hours: 6 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP

Repeatable. Max Credits: 6.

Additional Information: Report as Full Time.

COMM 6960 - Master's Project (1-3 Credits)

Note: Students must submit a special processing form completely filled out and signed by the student and faculty member, describing the course expectations, assignments and outcomes, to the Graduate School for approval. Term offered: fall, spring, summer. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP

Additional Information: Report as Full Time.