

# Communication

---

## Program and Application Information

<b>Department Chair:</b>	Dr. Mark Meister
<b>Graduate Coordinator:</b>	Dr. Stephenson Beck
<b>Department Location:</b>	Minard Hall 338
<b>Department Phone:</b>	(701) 231-7705
<b>Department Web Site:</b>	<a href="http://www.ndsu.edu/communication/">www.ndsu.edu/communication/</a>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	Ph.D - March 1; M.S. and M.A. - no deadline
<b>Degrees Offered:</b>	Ph.D., M.A., M.S.
<b>Test Requirement:</b>	GRE (general required; subject recommended)
<b>English Proficiency Requirements:</b>	TOEFL iBT 100, IELTS 7 for admission; TOEFL iBT 100, IELTS 7 for teaching assistantship

---

## Program Description

The graduate program in communication offers graduate study leading to the M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. The program prepares students for academic and management positions, as well as advancement within current career fields.

The department tailors student research projects and academic programs to individual needs and interests. Students may take interdisciplinary graduate course work to enhance their program of study. In addition, the M.A. and M.S. degrees are available through online delivery. Information also is available on the department's Web site, [www.ndsu.edu/communication](http://www.ndsu.edu/communication).

## Admission Requirements

Programs are open to students holding baccalaureate degrees from accredited universities or colleges.

### Master of Science or Arts

To be admitted with full status to the program, the applicant must meet the Graduate School requirements; have adequate study in communication, journalism or a related area; and provide a score for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

### Doctor of Philosophy

To be admitted with full status to the program, the applicant must meet the Graduate School requirements. In addition to materials required by the Graduate School applicants must submit:

- A CV or resume which clearly identifies your current position, including your responsibilities; your professional publications and papers; your service and professional activity; and your teaching and training experiences
- A scholarly writing sample where the candidate is first author (single authorship preferred), such as a master's thesis, proposal, or chapter; conference paper; final course paper
- Evidence of effective teaching **potential** (please include one or more of the following): teaching evaluations, teaching philosophy statement, recommendation letter(s) may speak to experience or potential of applicant, peer evaluations/observations, sample syllabi, sample lesson plan/assignment, etc.
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores
- TOEFL test results (required for international students)

## Financial Assistance

Students admitted at full or conditional status may apply for teaching assistantships at the master's or doctoral degree level. Initially, teaching assistants conduct lab sessions for the Comm 110 class. Teaching assistants may have opportunities to teach other classes during their program. The teaching assistantship deadline is March 1 for the following fall semester.

Graduate assistants receive a stipend and tuition waiver. Applications are available from the department office or online from the department's web site (<https://www.ndsu.edu/communication>) . (<http://www.ndsu.edu/communication>)

## Master's program

The Master of Arts program is designed for students who are interested in conducting qualitative or rhetorical research, while the Master of Science program is designed for those interested in quantitative research. Both programs require completion of 30 credit hours of graduate coursework with an

overall GPA of 3.0 or better. The student can elect to complete a research-based thesis, for which six of the 30 credits are awarded, or a written exam, for which three credits are awarded. A prospectus meeting and final defense of the thesis/written exam is required.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
COMM 700	Research Methods in Communication	3
COMM 711	Communication Theory	3
Teaching assistants are also required to take COMM 702 - Introduction to College Teaching in their first or second semester.		
<b>Research Tools</b>		
Select at least two of the following:		6
COMM 704	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication	
COMM 707	Quantitative Research Methods in Communication	
COMM 767	Rhetorical Criticism	
SOC 700	Qualitative Methods	
SOC 701	Quantitative Methods	
STAT 725	Applied Statistics	
Students pursuing the M.A. degree must take at least one qualitative methods course (COMM 704, COMM 708, COMM 767, or SOC 700).		
Students pursuing the M.S. degree must complete at least one quantitative methods course (COMM 707, COMM 710, SOC 701, or STAT 725).		
<b>Elective Specialization</b>		
12-15 credits of additional coursework, depending on whether the thesis or paper/project option is selected. Students can select from a wide range of specializations, pending approval from their adviser. Students may also choose graduate-level electives from other departments that may enhance specialized communication study goals.		12-15
<b>Thesis or Paper/Project</b>		
The paper/project option requires three credits of COMM 797. The thesis requires six credits of COMM 793.		3-6

## Doctor of Philosophy

The Ph.D. program is designed to be completed in 4 years, and requires at least 60 credit hours beyond the master's degree. These hours will be in a planned course of study approved and overseen by the student's adviser and advisory committee.

The department currently offers two areas of concentration:

- Media and Society
- Organizational Communication

Students with a master's degree in another discipline may be required to complete additional graduate course work in specific areas of communication deemed necessary by the student's adviser and advisory committee. Graduate work taken beyond the master's degree may be judged applicable by the advisory committee, but post-master's graduate credits beyond 9 semester hours will not count toward the 60 credit minimum required for the Ph.D.

Students are strongly encouraged to take all of the Summer Scholars courses.

## Course Requirements

Minimum of 30 credit hours in core or content concentration:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses</b>		
COMM 701	Advanced Research Methods in Communication I	3
COMM 711	Communication Theory	3
COMM 735 or 783	Media and Society or Org Comm Theory Course	3
Teaching assistants, without adequate prior teaching experience, are also required to take COMM 702 - Introduction to College Teaching in their first or second semester.		
<b>Content Concentration</b>		
Minimum of 15 credit hours in the department's 700-level courses in the student's major concentration area		12
Minimum of 9 credit hours in the department's 700-level courses in the student's minor concentration area		9
<b>Research Courses</b>		
Exclusive of COMM 701, maximum of 6 credit hours of independent study		6
<b>Dissertation</b>		

## Comprehensive Exam

When coursework is nearly completed, the DGS will consider the program of study and student's professional presentations and publications to determine readiness for the comprehensive exam process. Doctoral students will meet with their advisers to prepare for the comprehensive examination.

After completion of the written examination, the doctoral committee will evaluate the written work. If the committee deems the work to be acceptable, the advisor will schedule an oral examination in which the student will defend his or her exam.

## Dissertation

Under the guidance of an adviser and advisory committee, doctoral candidates will submit and defend a dissertation prospectus and ultimately a completed dissertation.

### **Stephenson J. Beck, Ph.D.**

University of Kansas, 2008

Research Interests: Group and Organizational Communication, Interaction Analysis, Communication Strategy

### **Ann Burnett, Ph.D.**

University of Utah, 1986

Research Interests: Legal Communication, Small Group Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Gender and Communication

### **Ross F. Collins, Ph.D.**

University of Cambridge, 1992

Research Interests: Media History, International Media

### **Elizabeth Crisp Crawford, Ph.D.**

University of Tennessee, 2007

Research Interests: Visual Storytelling, Advertising Message Strategy, Advertising Education

### **Robert S. Littlefield, Ph.D.**

University of Minnesota, 1983

Research Interests: Intercultural Communication, Risk and Crisis Communication, Forensic History and Pedagogy

### **Pamela Lutgen-Sandvik, Ph.D.**

Arizona State University, 2005

Research interests: workplace bullying, organizational communication

### **Zoltan Majdik, Ph.D.**

University of Southern California, 2008

Research Interests: Science and Risk Communication in Biotechnological Practice, Rhetorical and Argumentation Theory, Ethics and Moral Theory

### **Mark Meister, Ph.D.**

University of Nebraska, 1997

Research Interests: Rhetorical and Critical Theory, Environmental Communication

### **Amy O'Connor, Ph.D.**

Purdue University, 2004

Research Interests: Organizational Communication, Corporate Advocacy, Public Affairs and Issues Management

### **Charles Okigbo, Ph.D.**

Southern Illinois University, 1982

Research Interests: Social and Behavioral Change Communication, Health Communication

### **Carrie Anne Platt, Ph.D.**

University of Southern California, 2008

Research Interests: Rhetoric of Cultural Politics, Gender and Technology, Media in Society

### **Catherine Kingsley Westerman, Ph.D.**

Michigan State University, 2008

Research Interests: Organizational Communication, workplace friendships

### **David Westerman, Ph.D.**

Michigan State University, 2007

Research Interests: Computer mediated communication, interpersonal communication

**Nan Yu, Ph.D.**

Pennsylvania State University, 2009

Research Interests: Health Communication, International Communication

## **Emeritus**

**Paul E. Nelson, Ph.D.**

University of Minnesota

**Judy C. Pearson, Ph.D.**

Indiana University