

# Communication

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## Department Information

- **Department Chair:**  
Stephenson Beck, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:**  
Justin Walden, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**  
Minard Hall 338
- **Department Phone:**  
(701) 231-7705
- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/communication/](http://www.ndsu.edu/communication/) (<http://www.ndsu.edu/communication/>)
- **Application Deadline:**  
Ph.D - March 1; M.A. - March 15, October 15
- **Credential Offered:**  
Ph.D., M.A.
- **Test Requirement:**  
GRE
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**  
TOEFL ibT 100, IELTS 7 for admission; TOEFL ibT 100, IELTS 7 for teaching assistantship; Duolingo 125

## Master of Arts Program

The Master of Arts program is designed for students who are interested in conducting quantitative, qualitative, or humanistic/rhetorical research. The program requires 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 examination, for which three credits are awarded. A prospectus meeting and final defense of the thesis/written examination is required.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
COMM 700	Research Methods in Communication	3
COMM 711	Communication Theory	3
<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	
<b>Elective Specialization</b>		<b>12-15</b>
Thesis Option - minimum of 12; Examination Option - minimum of 15		12-15
Students may also choose graduate-level electives from other departments that may enhance specialized communication study goals.		
<b>Thesis or Examination (Thesis Option - 6 credits; Examination Option - 3 credits)</b>		<b>3-6</b>
COMM 798	Master's Thesis	
or COMM 799	Master's Examination	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

## Doctor of Philosophy

The Ph.D. program is designed to be completed in four (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 supervisory committee.

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 Summer Scholar courses.

## Course Requirements

Minimum of 60 credit hours in core or content concentration:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses</b>		
COMM 700	Research Methods in Communication	3
COMM 702	Introduction to College Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences	3
COMM 711	Communication Theory	3
COMM 735 or COMM 783	Theories of Media, Technology, and Society (or organizational communication theory course) Advanced Organizational Communication I	3
<b>Content Concentration</b>		
COMM 700-level courses in the student's major concentration area		12
COMM 700-level courses in the student's minor concentration area		9
<b>Research Methods Courses</b>		<b>12</b>
Exclusive of COMM 700. Maximum of 6 credit hours of independent study		
<b>Dissertation</b>		<b>15</b>
COMM 899	Doctoral Dissertation	

## Preliminary Examination

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

## Dissertation

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