

## Memo

TO: College of Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee

FROM: Department of Communication Studies

RE: Proposed Program Changes

DATE: January 27, 2016

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The Department of Communication Studies requests approval to make a number of program changes based on assessment data and exit interviews with graduate students.

### **Program changes**

First, the graduate faculty wants to remove the comprehensive exam requirement. Currently communication students complete both a required thesis and comprehensive exams. The department's comprehensive exams cover our core classes and focus most heavily on the research methodologies used in the field. Originally the exams were created as an evaluation of students' readiness to complete a thesis. However, our assessment data reveals no correlation between success on the exams and thesis completion. Simply put there is no evidence they are performing the function for which they were put into place. In fact, qualitative assessment data demonstrates that the exams are having a negative impact on thesis completion. Students report spending most of their second semester focused on comprehensive exams. The exams induce anxiety and most students worry about whether or not they will pass since it is currently a requirement to continue in the program. Students who must retake comprehensive exams (every student is allowed one opportunity to retake the exams if they fail the first time) don't know until the first week of June (or January) whether they are even allowed to return to the program. Therefore, students do not seriously engage their thesis ideas until after they have passed comprehensive exams. It is for all the above reasons that the graduate faculty would like to remove the comprehensive exam requirement.

Second, the graduate faculty request changes to the required department core. The current core is structured as a way to prepare students for comprehensive exams. However, with the removal of comprehensive exams the department core can be changed to provide students with a more comprehensive foundation of the field and to enhance their overall experience. The department would like to remove CMN

5000 (Quantitative Research Methods), CMN 5005 (Qualitative Research Methods), and CMN 5030 (Methods of Critical Inquiry) from the core. In their place the graduate faculty would like to add CMN 5020 (Communication Theory), CMN 5040 (Communication Research Methods) and CMN 5550 (Seminar in Communication Studies). We believe these courses will provide students with a broader understanding of the interaction between communication theory and research during their first year of graduate study, establishing a stronger foundation to complete their thesis during their second year. Additionally the new core will provide second year students a special topics course in communication that is designed to address topics that overlap our concentration areas, providing more breadth and depth to the overall degree.

Currently students complete the core as follows:

- First fall: CMN 5240 and CMN 5030
- First spring: CMN 5000 and CMN 5005

The updated core will be completed as follows:

- First fall: CMN 5240 and CMN 5020
- First spring: CMN 5040
- Second spring: CMN 5550

If approved, the program changes will require the following course proposals (forwarded with this document):

- CMN 5020 – revised course
- CMN 5040 – new course proposal
- CMN 5550 – new course proposal

Lastly, the graduate faculty request the addition of EDF 5500 as an elective in the Communication Pedagogy Option. Currently students choose from CSD 5770 and CSD 5780. This additional course provides students more flexibility in their elective coursework (please see email from Dr. Stephen Lucas agreeing to the course's inclusion as an elective).

### **Other catalogue language changes**

The graduate faculty also request other, minor, changes to the catalogue language that include:

- Changes to both the MA in Communication Studies and the Communication Pedagogy Option
  - Updated mission statements/programs descriptions
  - Addition of a resume as an admission document
  - Removal of a specific TOEFL score to accept all of the graduate school's requirements for tests of the English language
- Changes for just the Communication Pedagogy Option

- Addition of a graduate GPA as an admission requirement for the option

The remaining changes to the catalogue language are mostly rewording or reorganization.

## Proposed changes to catalogue language (with change indicators):

\*\*\*To see the new language without change indicators please see p. 11 of this document)

## Communication Studies

**Program Mission:** ~~The Master of Arts in Communication Studies provides students with an opportunity to engage in a multifaceted course of study which is grounded in a strong theoretical base but also recognizes the marketplace. Students may choose from three areas of concentration, Human Communication Processes, Strategic Communication, or Critical/Cultural Studies. The program prepares students to be more competitive in the work place or to continue studies in a Ph.D. program.~~

The Master of Arts in Communication Studies offers a program in advanced scholarship that reflects the development of historical and contemporary influences on communication theory and practice. Specifically, we offer concentrations grounded in a rigorous theoretical base that inform communication practices, therefore preparing students to enter into academic and workplace environments.

**Admission Requirements:** A limited number of students are accepted each year; admission to the program is competitive. To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (See "Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs"). A minimum of 18 hours in communication studies with a grade of C or better is required in order to be admitted to the program. An applicant must [submit to the department a personal/goals statement](#) ~~complete a written statement of goals, submit an academic~~ writing sample, [a CV or resume](#) and three letters of recommendation attesting to the potential for successful completion of graduate work. International applicants whose native language is not English must [achieve](#) ~~obtain a score of 600 or higher on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a score of 250 or higher on the computer-based TOEFL~~ [a score consistent with the requirements of the Graduate School on a test of English language](#). While students may be admitted to the Graduate School with fewer than 18 hours in communication studies, any deficiency in undergraduate ~~speech~~ communication hours must be made up before the student will be admitted to degree candidacy in Communication Studies.

**Degree Audit:** The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of

degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the “Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates” section of the Graduate Catalog. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

## Degree Requirements

The approved plan of study is the guiding document for each student’s course of study. A student, in consultation with an advisor, develops a course of study with a minimum of ~~39~~ 36 semester hours reflecting educational development and areas of specialization. The plan should reflect the following guidelines:

- ~~All~~ Students are ~~expected~~ required to complete the four-course department core ~~take a core of 12 hours composed of CMN 5000, CMN 5005, CMN 5030, CMN 5240.~~
- Students must complete the coursework associated with their chosen concentration area
- ~~The total program (including the core but excluding CMN 5500) is a minimum of 36 hours.~~
- Semester hours generated from CMN 5500: Techniques for Teaching Assistants in Communication cannot be applied to graduation.

## Department Core Courses

Students will complete a core of 12 semester hours composed of the following courses:

- ~~CMN 5000 – Quantitative Research Methods Credits: 3~~
- ~~CMN 5005 – Qualitative Research Methods Credits: 3~~
- ~~CMN 5030 – Methods of Critical Inquiry Credits: 3~~
- CMN 5020 – Communication Theory. Credits: 3
- CMN 5040 – Communication Research Methods. Credits: 3
- CMN 5240 – Communication Pedagogy. ~~Seminar in Teaching Speech.~~ Credits: 3
- CMN 5550 – Topics in Communication Studies. Credits: 3

## Concentration Area

Students will complete one of three concentration areas of 12 semester hours composed of the following courses:

- **Human Communication Processes**
  - CMN 5510 - Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5530 - Intercultural Communication. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5520 - Social Interaction. ~~(5620)~~ Credits: 3
  - CMN 5150 - Seminar Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
- **Strategic Communication**
  - CMN 5700 - Public Relations. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5710 - Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5720 - Seminar in Public Relations. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5170 - Seminar in Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
- **Critical/Cultural Studies**
  - CMN 5610 - Media Criticism. ~~(5330)~~ Credits: 3
  - CMN 5010 - Rhetorical Theory. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5180 - Seminar in Rhetoric. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5160 - Seminar in Mass Media. Credits: 3

### Electives

Students will take a minimum of 6 semester hours of elective coursework from the following:

- CMN 5010 - Rhetorical Theory. Credits: 3
- CMN 5150 - Seminar Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN 5160 - Seminar in Mass Media. Credits: 3
- CMN 5170 - Seminar in Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN 5180 - Seminar in Rhetoric. Credits: 3
- CMN 5510 - Interpersonal Communication Credits: 3
- CMN 5520 - Social Interaction. ~~(5620)~~ Credits: 3
- CMN 5530 - Intercultural Communication Credits: 3
- CMN 5610 - Media Criticism. ~~(5330)~~ Credits: 3
- CMN 5700 - Public Relations Credits: 3
- CMN 5710 - Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN 5720 - Seminar in Public Relations. Credits: 3
- CMN 5990 - Independent Study Credits: 1 to 6

### Capstone Experience

~~Students must demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the discipline in order to complete their degree. To do so all students must take and successfully pass comprehensive exams covering the core classes.~~ All students must complete a capstone project of 6 semester hours in order to graduate. ~~may then~~ Students may

choose between an [academic](#) thesis (CMN 5950) or a creative thesis (CMN 5940) [as a capstone experience](#). Students considering doctoral work are encouraged to complete an [academic](#) thesis.

### **Financial Assistance**

~~The department's primary source of financial assistance for its graduate students is teaching assistantships in such courses as introductory public speaking. Teaching such classes requires a deep familiarity with American culture and with the norms and patterns of communication embedded in that culture. Consequently, teaching assistantships are not offered to applicants who are not native speakers of English before they have spent sufficient time in this country to become well-acquainted with American culture.~~

~~International students who believe they have the requisite language skills and culture knowledge for teaching communication courses to a largely American student body may ask to be considered for teaching assistantships.~~

To be considered [for a Graduate Assistantship in the Department of Communication Studies](#), ~~such~~ students must provide evidence of proficiency in oral English. One form of evidence [for international students](#) is the attainment of a high score on the Test of Spoken English (TSE). ~~This~~ [Such evidence requirement](#) is [required](#) in addition to the [test of English language TOEFL](#) score, which is required for admission.

Applications for assistantships are normally due in February with the award for the following academic year. Graduate teaching assistants must enroll in CMN 5500 in both the fall and spring semesters.

### **Graduate Assistantships**

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of Graduate Studies or Chair, Department of Communication Studies, ~~1825~~ [1260](#) Coleman Hall, EIU.

## Communication Pedagogy Option

**Program Mission:** ~~The Master of Arts in Communication Studies with an Option in Communication Pedagogy prepares students for teaching communication courses at two-year colleges. A combination of theoretical and applied courses, instructional practicums and supervised student-teaching provide students with a strong background in communication and pedagogical theory and the opportunity to put the theory into practice.~~

The Master of Arts in Communication Studies with an Option in Communication Pedagogy offers a program in advanced scholarship that reflects the development of historical and contemporary influences on communication theory and practice. Specifically, we offer concentrations grounded in a rigorous theoretical base that inform communication practices, therefore preparing students to enter into academic and workplace environments. The Option in Communication Pedagogy prepares students for teaching communication courses. A combination of theoretical and applied courses, instructional practicums and supervised student-teaching provide students with a strong background in communication and pedagogical theory and the opportunity to put the theory into practice.

**Admission Requirements:** A limited number of students are accepted each year; admission to the program is competitive. To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (See “Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs”). A minimum of 18 hours in communication studies with a grade of C or better is required in order to be admitted to the program. An applicant must [submit to the department a personal/goals statement](#) ~~complete a written statement of goals, submit~~ an [academic writing sample, a CV or resume](#) and three letters of recommendation attesting to the potential for successful completion of graduate work. [Admission into the Communication Pedagogy option is contingent upon the candidate maintaining a graduate GPA of 3.6 after the completion of 18 semester hours of graduate communication coursework, which must include CMN 5020, CMN 5040 and CMN 5240. If a student does not achieve the required GPA after 18 semester hours they cannot complete the Communication Pedagogy Option but will instead complete the MA in Communication Studies.](#)

International applicants whose native language is not English must [achieve](#) ~~obtain a score of 600 or higher on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a score of 250 or higher on the computer-based TOEFL~~ a score [consistent with the requirements of the Graduate School on a test of English language](#). While students may be admitted to the Graduate School with fewer than 18 hours in communication studies, any deficiency in undergraduate ~~speech~~ communication hours must be made up before the student will be admitted to degree candidacy in Communication Studies.



**Degree Audit:** The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the “Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates” section of the Graduate Catalog. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

## Degree Requirements

The approved plan of study is the guiding document for each student’s course of study. A student, in consultation with an advisor, develops a course of study with a minimum of 39 semester hours reflecting educational development and areas of specialization. The study plan should reflect the following guidelines.

- ~~All~~ Students are ~~expected~~ required to complete the four-course department core. ~~take a core of 12 hours composed of CMN 5000, CMN 5005, CMN 5030, CMN 5240.~~
- Students must complete the coursework associated with their chosen concentration area.
- ~~The total program (including the core but excluding CMN 5500) is a minimum of 39 hours.~~
- Semester hours generated from CMN 5500: Techniques for Teaching Assistants in Speech Communication cannot be applied to graduation.

## Department Core Courses

Students will complete a core of 12 semester hours composed of the following courses:

- ~~CMN 5000 – Quantitative Research Methods Credits: 3~~
- ~~CMN 5005 – Qualitative Research Methods Credits: 3~~
- ~~CMN 5030 – Methods of Critical Inquiry Credits: 3~~
- CMN 5020 – Communication Theory. Credits: 3
- CMN 5040 – Communication Research Methods. Credits: 3
- CMN 5240 - Communication Pedagogy. ~~Seminar in Teaching Speech.~~ Credits: 3
- CMN 5550 – Topics in Communication Studies. Credits: 3

## Concentration Area

Students will complete one of three concentration areas of 12 semester hours composed of the following courses:

- **Human Communication Processes**
  - CMN 5510 - Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5530 - Intercultural Communication. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5520 - Social Interaction. ~~(5620)~~ Credits: 3
  - CMN 5150 - Seminar Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
- **Strategic Communication**
  - CMN 5700 - Public Relations. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5710 - Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5720 - Seminar in Public Relations. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5170 - Seminar in Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
- **Critical/Cultural Studies**
  - CMN 5610 - Media Criticism. ~~(5330)~~ Credits: 3
  - CMN 5010 - Rhetorical Theory. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5180 - Seminar in Rhetoric. Credits: 3
  - CMN 5160 - Seminar in Mass Media. Credits: 3

### Electives

Students will take a minimum of 9 hours of elective courses from the following:

- CMN 5900 - Instructional Practicum Credits: 3
- CMN 5901 - Advanced Instructional Practicum Credits: 3
- OR
- CMN 5980 – Internship. Credits: 3
- CSD 5770 – The Community College. Credits: 3
- CSD 5780 - Supervised Experience in College Student Affairs. Credits: 3
- EDF 5500 – Theory into Practice: Curriculum Development. Credits: 3

### Capstone Experience

~~Students must demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the discipline in order to complete their degree. To do so all students must take and successfully pass comprehensive exams covering the core classes. All students must complete a capstone project of 6 semester hours in order to graduate. may then~~ Students may choose between an academic thesis (CMN 5950) or a creative thesis (CMN 5940) as a capstone experience. Students considering doctoral work are encouraged to complete an academic thesis.

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## Proposed catalogue language (without change indicators):

### Communication Studies

**Program Mission:** The Master of Arts in Communication Studies offers a program in advanced scholarship that reflects the development of historical and contemporary influences on communication theory and practice. Specifically, we offer concentrations grounded in a rigorous theoretical base that inform communication practices, therefore preparing students to enter into academic and workplace environments.

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- Students are required to complete the four-course department core.
- Students must complete the coursework associated with their chosen concentration area.
- Semester hours generated from CMN 5500: Techniques for Teaching Assistants in Communication cannot be applied to graduation.

### **Department Core Courses**

Students will complete a core of 12 semester hours composed of the following courses:

- CMN 5020 – Communication Theory. Credits: 3
- CMN 5040 – Communication Research Methods. Credits: 3
- CMN 5240 – Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
- CMN 5550 – Topics in Communication Studies. Credits: 3

### **Concentration Area**

Students will complete one of three concentration areas of 12 semester hours composed of the following courses:

- **Human Communication Processes**
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- **Critical/Cultural Studies**
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### **Electives**

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- CMN 5990 - Independent Study Credits: 1 to 6

### **Capstone Experience**

All students must complete a capstone project of 6 semester hours in order to graduate. Students may choose between an academic thesis (CMN 5950) or a creative thesis (CMN 5940) as a capstone experience. Students considering doctoral work are encouraged to complete an academic thesis.

### **Financial Assistance**

To be considered for a Graduate Assistantship in the Department of Communication Studies, students must provide evidence of proficiency in oral English. One form of evidence for international students is the attainment of a high score on the Test of Spoken English (TSE). Such evidence is required in addition to the test of English language score, which is required for admission.

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- CMN 5160 - Seminar in Mass Media. Credits: 3

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Students will take a minimum of 9 hours of elective courses from the following:

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- OR
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- CSD 5770 – The Community College. Credits: 3
- CSD 5780 - Supervised Experience in College Student Affairs. Credits: 3
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**Date approved by the department or school: January 25, 2016**

**Date approved by the college curriculum committee:**

**Date approved by CAA: CGS:**