

Memo

CGS Agenda Item: 17-97
Effective Fall 2018

TO: College of Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee

FROM: Department of Communication Studies

RE: Proposed Program Changes

DATE: November 14, 2017

The Department of Communication Studies requests approval to make a number of program changes to our current MA in Communication Studies program in order to accommodate a proposed online option and to diversify our current course offerings. Given limited teaching resources, these revisions allow us to effectively offer both on-campus and online options in the MA in Communication Studies program without requiring additional faculty resources or increasing faculty CUs.

Program Changes:

First, the graduate faculty wishes to add a comprehensive exam option for students as their capstone experience. Student will now be able to choose between taking comprehensive exams or writing an academic or creative thesis. This change offers more flexibility and choice for students so that they can better align their capstone experience with their academic and/or career goals.

Second, the graduate faculty request changes to the required department core. The current core requires four classes (12 semester hours). We would like to reduce the number of core classes to two core classes (6 semester hours) and move the remaining two classes to selected concentration areas. This change will allow students to take more classes in their concentration areas. We will continue to offer CMN5020 Communication Theory and CMN5040 Communication Research as core classes as we feel these courses provide foundational knowledge of the field of communication. The remaining two courses CMN5240 Communication Pedagogy and CMN5550 Special Topics in Communication will be added as course offerings in each of the concentration areas.

Currently students complete the core as follows:

CMN5020 Communication Theory
CMN5040 Communication Research
CMN5240 Communication Pedagogy
CMN5550 Special Topics in Communication

The updated core will be completed as follows:

CMN5020 Communication Theory
CMN5040 Communication Research

Third, the graduate faculty requests an increase in the number of semester hours students take in their concentration area. Students currently take four classes (12 semester hours) in their concentration area. We

would like to change that number to six classes (18 semester hours). Increasing the number of concentration hours helps students gain more content knowledge in their chosen area.

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

Executive Actions required as part of the revised MA in Communication Studies program are being submitted in a separate document.

Proposed changes to catalog language (with change indicators)

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 36 semester hours reflecting educational development and areas of specialization. **No more than 12 hours can be taken from online classes.** The plan should reflect the following guidelines:

- Students are required to complete the ~~four-course~~ **two-course** department core
- Students must complete the coursework associated with their chosen concentration area
- Semester hours generated from CMN5500: Techniques for Teaching Assistants in Communication cannot be applied to graduation.

Department Core Courses

Students will complete a core of ~~12~~ **6** semester hours composed of the following courses:

- CMN5020- Communication Theory. Credits: 3
- CMN5040- Communication Research Methods. Credits: 3
- ~~CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3~~
- ~~CMN5550- Special Topics in Communication Studies. Credits: 3~~

Concentration Area

Students will complete **18** ~~12~~ hours in one of three concentration areas composed of the following courses:

- ~~Human-~~ **Interpersonal** Communication Processes
 - CMN5155- Communication in Aging. Credits: 3
 - CMN5510- Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5530- Intercultural Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5520- Social Interaction. Credits: 3
 - CMN5150- Seminar in Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
 - CMN5550- Special Topics in Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5740- Small Group and Team Communication. Credits: 3
 - HST5700- Health Behavior: Theory and Application. Credits: 3
 - HST5770- Leadership and Ethics for Health Professionals. Credits: 3
- **Strategic Communication**
 - CMN5015- Communication Ethics. Credits: 3
 - CMN5700- Public Relations. Credits: 3
 - CMN5710- Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5720- Seminar in Public Relations. Credits: 3
 - CMN5170- Seminar in Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5190- Leadership Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
 - CMN5260- Communication in Science and Technology. Credits: 3
 - CMN5530- Intercultural Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5740- Small Group and Team Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5550- Special Topics in Communication. Credits: 3

- **Media and Critical/Cultural Studies**
 - CMN4770- Television Criticism. Credits: 3
 - CMN4820- Political Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5015- Communication Ethic. Credits: 3
 - CMN5030- Critical Inquiry. Credits: 3
 - CMN5610- Media Criticism. Credits: 3
 - CMN5010 Rhetorical Theory. Credits: 3
 - CMN5180- Seminar in Rhetoric. Credits: 3
 - CMN5160 Seminar in Mass Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5240 Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
 - CMN5550 Special Topics in Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5650 Digital Communication. Credits: 3

Electives

Students will take ~~a minimum of~~ 6 to 12 semester hours of elective coursework, six semester hours of which must come from an area outside of the students' chosen concentration area. Students in the Thesis/Creative Thesis option will take 6 hours of elective credit; Students in the Comprehensive Exam option will take 12 hours of elective credit. Elective hours may be comprised of the following courses:

- CMN5010- Rhetorical Theory. Credits: 3
- CMN5015- Communication Ethics. Credits: 3
- CMN5030- Critical Inquiry. Credits: 3
- CMN5150- Seminar in Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5155- Communication in Aging. Credits: 3
- CMN5160- Seminar in Mass Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5170- Seminar in Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5180- Seminar in Rhetoric. Credits: 3
- CMN5190- Leadership Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
- CMN5260- Communication in Science and Technology. Credits: 3
- CMN5510- Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5520- Social Interaction. Credits: 3
- CMN5530- Intercultural Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5550- Special Topics in Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5610- Media Criticism. Credits: 3
- CMN5650- Digital Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5700- Public Relations. Credits: 3
- CMN5710- Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5720-- Seminar in Public Relations. Credits: 3
- CMN5740- Small Group and Team Communication. Credits: 3
- HST5700- Health Behavior: Theory and Application. Credits: 3
- HST5770- Leadership and Ethics for Health Professionals. Credits: 3
- CMN5980- Internship. Credits: 3
- CMN5900- Instructional Practicum. Credits: 3

- CMN5901- Advanced Instructional Practicum. Credits: 3
- CMN5990- Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

Capstone Experience

Students must demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the discipline in order to complete their degree. Students may choose between comprehensive exams or ~~all students must complete~~ completion of a capstone project of 6 semester hours in order to graduate. For the capstone project, students may choose between an academic thesis (CMN5950) or a creative thesis (CMN5940) ~~as a capstone experience~~. Students considering doctoral work are encouraged to complete an academic thesis.

CMN 59501- Thesis I. Credits: 3 to 6

OR

CMN59401- Creative Thesis I. Credits: 3 to 6

Communication Pedagogy Option

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, 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 CMN5020, CMN5040 and CMN5240~~. 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.

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.

- Students are required to complete the ~~four~~-two-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 Speech Communication cannot be applied to graduation.

Department Core Courses

Students will complete a core of ~~12~~ 6 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 ~~18~~ **12** hours in one of three concentration areas composed of the following courses:

- **~~Human-~~ Interpersonal Communication Processes**
 - CMN5155- Communication in Aging. Credits: 3
 - CMN5510- Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5530- Intercultural Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5520- Social Interaction. Credits: 3
 - CMN5150- Seminar in Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
 - CMN5550- Special Topics in Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5740- Small Group and Team Communication. Credits: 3
 - HST5700- Health Behavior: Theory and Application. Credits: 3
 - HST5770- Leadership and Ethics for Health Professionals. Credits: 3
- **Strategic Communication**
 - CMN5015- Communication Ethics. Credits: 3
 - CMN5700- Public Relations. Credits: 3
 - CMN5710- Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5720- Seminar in Public Relations. Credits: 3
 - CMN5170- Seminar in Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5190- Leadership Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
 - CMN5260- Communication in Science and Technology. Credits: 3
 - CMN5530- Intercultural Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5740- Small Group and Team Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5550- Special Topics in Communication. Credits: 3
- **Media and Critical/~~Cultural~~ Studies**
 - CMN4770- Television Criticism. Credits: 3
 - CMN4820- Political Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5015- Communication Ethics. Credits: 3
 - CMN5030- Critical Inquiry. Credits: 3
 - CMN5610- Media Criticism. Credits: 3
 - CMN5010- Rhetorical Theory. Credits: 3
 - CMN5180- Seminar in Rhetoric. Credits: 3
 - CMN5160- Seminar in Mass Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
 - CMN5550- Special Topics in Communication. Credits: 3
 - CMN5650- Digital Communication. Credits: 3

Electives

Students will take ~~a minimum of~~ **6 to 12** semester hours of elective coursework, six semester hours of which must come from an area outside of the students' chosen concentration area. Students in the Thesis/Creative Thesis option will take 6 hours of elective credit; Students in the Comprehensive Exam option will take 12 hours of elective credit. Elective hours may be comprised of the following courses:

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- CMN5015- Communication Ethics. Credits: 3
- CMN5030- Critical Inquiry. Credits: 3
- CMN5150- Seminar in Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5155- Communication in Aging. Credits: 3
- CMN5160- Seminar in Mass Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5170- Seminar in Organizational Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5180- Seminar in Rhetoric. Credits: 3
- CMN5190- Leadership Communication. Credits: 3
- CMN5240- Communication Pedagogy. Credits: 3
- CMN5260- Communication in Science and Technology. Credits: 3
- CMN5510- Interpersonal Communication. Credits: 3
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- HST5770- Leadership and Ethics for Health Professionals. Credits: 3
- CMN5980- Internship. Credits: 3
- CMN5900- Instructional Practicum. Credits: 3
- CMN5901- Advanced Instructional Practicum. Credits: 3
- CMN5990- Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

Capstone Experience

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Students will complete a core of 6 semester hours composed of the following courses:

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Concentration Area

Students will complete 18 hours in one of three concentration areas composed of the following courses:

- **Interpersonal Communication Processes**
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- **Media and Critical Studies**

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- CMN5990- Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

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- CMN5990- Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

Capstone Experience

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CMN 59501- Thesis I. Credits: 3 to 6

OR

CMN59401- Creative Thesis I. Credits: 3 to 6

Date approved by the department or school: November 13, 2017

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: November 29, 2017

Date approved by CAA: CGS: 01/16/2018