GRADUATE STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

PFW.EDU/GRADUATE
Warm greetings on behalf of the graduate faculty in the Department of Communication at Purdue University Fort Wayne! Congratulations on taking the first steps in your journey towards graduate education. Our Master of Arts in Professional Communication will prepare you for the future you envision for yourself. Our dynamic program is centered on the research and practice of effective communication in relationships, organizations, and culture.

Our 36 credit hour program is flexible enough to accommodate students interested in advancing their current career, entering a new career field or working towards enrollment in a Ph.D. program. The program offers three emphases: interpersonal/organizational communication, media studies, and critical/cultural studies.

Our graduates work in diverse fields including the nonprofit sector, corporate training, education, consumer research, business management and beyond. We know our graduate program will be an asset to you whatever your future goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or to schedule an appointment to talk about the program!

Steven Carr, Ph.D
Professor
Professional Communication Graduate Program Director
carr@pfw.edu
BENEFITS

TAILOR YOUR EDUCATION TO YOUR GOALS

Designed to prepare students for professional and academic careers, the Professional Communication program is grounded in the theory and research of human communication. Students range from working professionals, those seeking employment or advancement within a professional field and students interested in advanced graduate work at the doctoral level. The diversity of courses in the department, and those available in other disciplines, enable students to craft a program of study tailored to their individual educational goals. Choose from three specializations: interpersonal and organizational communication theory, media studies, and critical/cultural studies.

LEARN FROM DEDICATED, EXPERT FACULTY

Our expert faculty are dedicated to serving and inspiring communication studies by sharing their expertise and scholarship. Faculty in the program work to develop and deliver high quality instruction, maintain and present exceptional programs of research and creative endeavor.

Faculty areas of research include:
- Film and media history
- Interpersonal, family, nonverbal, relational communication
- Media production, media criticism, and rhetoric
- Sex, gender, sexuality, and race
- Qualitative scholarship on family and health issues
- Gender, ethnicity, and class
- Organizational, instructional, and legal communication
- Global media issues in the Arab world
- Journalism and communication law

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

A limited number of teaching assistantships (TAs) are available from the Department of Communication. These are awarded on a competitive basis, thus acceptance into the program does not guarantee receipt of a TA position. Application deadlines differ for students interested in attaining these positions:

- Fall admission: February 15
- Spring admission: September 15

"Because the field of communication is so varied, students are encouraged to research topics that are relevant to their interests and careers. This means a more tailored program with key communication theories and concepts customized for more relevance and higher information retention. The versatile foundation of rich research concepts has proved invaluable in my marketing career."

Ashley Motia

"I had amazing professors and mentors who believed in and encouraged me, big time. I started to get a sense of who I was and what I could accomplish. I enjoyed my undergraduate studies, even with the challenges of being a "returning adult student" with a family, but graduate courses were a whole new world. I got to dive deeper into the field I really loved and was good at; I was able to study more of the areas for which I was really interested and expand upon what I previously learned. The program at Purdue Fort Wayne is like a little family - you really get to know your professors and fellow classmates and everyone was excited and encouraging about our work."

Molly Link
MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION
(36 CREDIT HOURS)

The professional communication program prepares students for professional and academic careers and is grounded in the theory and research of human communication. The diversity of courses in the department, and those available in other disciplines, enable students to craft a program of study tailored to their individual educational goals.

COURSE OF STUDY

The course of study requires completion of 36 credit hours with three components:

- Core requirements
- Specialization courses
- Plan of study application through one of the following:
  - Comprehensive Exams, Thesis, or Professional/Creative Project.

The M.A. in Professional Communication specialization courses (up to 21 credit hours) are designed to enable students to craft a program of study tailored to their individual educational goals.

There are three specializations in the program:

- Interpersonal and organizational communication theory
- Media studies
- Critical/cultural studies.

COGNATE STUDIES
(0-12 CREDIT HOURS)

Students are also encouraged to take 500-level courses in other graduate programs on campus (students often take classes in Organizational Leadership and/or English). To count cognate courses toward your Plan of Study, you must gain approval. If you have not put together your Advisory Committee, you must propose cognate coursework to the Graduate Program Director. If you have put together your Advisory Committee, you must get approval from your Committee, who will make a recommendation to the Graduate Program Director.

DIRECTED STUDY OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS
(COM 59000)

This course provides a valuable opportunity for students to pursue interests that are not addressed appropriately, or at all, in regularly scheduled courses. This course is not to be used as a substitute for a regularly scheduled, titled course. Students must present a plan of study approved by the COM faculty member[s] who will direct the study.
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION CORE REQUIREMENTS
(15 CREDIT HOURS)

COM 50000 Introduction to Grad Studies
One of the following (3 credit hours) in Research Methods:
  COM 58200 Descriptive/Experimental Research in Communication
  COM 58400 Historical/Critical Research in Communication
  COM 58500 Introduction to Qualitative Research
At least three of the following (9 credit hours) in Theories:
  COM 50700 Introduction to Semiotics
  COM 51200 Theories of Interpersonal Communication
  COM 51800 Theories of Persuasion
  COM 52100 Theories of Rhetoric
  COM 52700 Introduction to Cultural Studies
  COM 55900 Current Trends in Mass Communication Research
  COM 57400 Organizational Communication

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIZATION COURSES
(UP TO 21 CREDIT HOURS)

COM 50200 Classroom Communication
COM 50800 Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction
COM 51500 Persuasion in Social Movements
COM 51700 Communication in Politics
COM 52000 Small Group Communication
COM 52200 History and Criticism of Public Communication
COM 52300 Communication in Personal Relationships
COM 53100 Special Topics in Mass Communication
COM 55700 Legal Dimensions of Communication
COM 56000 Rhetorical Dimensions of Mass Media
COM 57600 Health Communication
COM 59000 Directed Study of Special Problems
COM 59700 Special Topics in Communication
**GRADUATE PROGRAM GOALS**

Students in the professional communication program gain knowledge of the history, theories, and research practices in communication studies. This foundation enables them to design projects that seek to solve communication problems through analytical and practical application of theories and methods.

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**PLAN OF STUDY OUTCOMES FOR EACH TRACK: COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS**

- Demonstrate an awareness of the breadth and/or depth of communication theories related to their stated research interests.
- Synthesize and critique literature related to their research interests.
- Demonstrate an understanding and ability to apply appropriate methods relevant to their research interests.

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**THESIS**

- Demonstrate an understanding of breadth and depth of research related to topic(s) of study including current theories and methods.
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research in crafting appropriate research questions/theses, designing and executing the appropriate method, analyzing data, discussing findings, and articulating the limitations of original research.
- Demonstrate ethical research and writing practices relevant to the area of study.
- Complete thesis project demonstrating a mastery of writing and presentation of original argument relevant to area of study.

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**PROFESSIONAL/CREATIVE PROJECT**

- Synthesize strengths of various theories, models, and principles to communication applications.
- Critically analyze ethical issues related to creative or professional project.
- Demonstrate awareness of and analyze diversity issues related to creative or professional project.
- Demonstrate medium specific skill sets in the appropriate platform(s).
- Complete projects that show mastery of writing, producing, and/or management.
## Steps to Apply

1. **Application:** To begin your application create an account through the portal at pfw.edu/grad-apply. Applicants can make and save changes before submitting by logging in with the username and password used to create the account.

2. **Application Fee:** The Graduate School application fee is $60 (U.S. dollars) for domestic applicants and $75 (U.S. dollars) for international applicants. Your application will not be processed until your nonrefundable application fee has been paid.

3. **Transcripts:** Through the application portal, you must upload transcript(s) and/or academic document(s) for every institution of higher education you attended regardless of whether or not a degree was received. If a degree was received then it must be printed on the transcripts. If no degree conferral is printed on the transcripts then a copy of the original diploma (degree certificate) is needed. If the documents are not in English, you must upload an English translation certified by the college or university that issued it. For those who have completed degrees in the People’s Republic of China, you will also be required to submit the Graduation Certificate.

4. **Statement of Purpose (Essay):** The statement of purpose should be no more than two pages concerning your purpose for undertaking or continuing graduate study, your reasons for wanting to study at Purdue Fort Wayne, and your research interests, professional plans, and career goals. You also may explain any special circumstances applicable to your background and elaborate on your scholarly publications, awards, achievements, abilities, and/or professional history.

5. **Recommendations:** Submit names of three individuals who are qualified to evaluate your academic or on-the-job performance who can attest to your ability to pursue a graduate degree. In the online application to the Purdue Graduate School, once you click “Send to Recommender,” each individual will receive an email with instructions for submitting their recommendation online. Once submitted, the graduate program to which you applied will have access to view your recommendation(s).

## Official Transcripts

You must provide official transcripts and/or academic records at the request of the graduate program or if you are admitted and choose to enroll. An official transcript bears the original signature of the registrar and/or the original seal of the issuing institution. An unofficial transcript printed from your current/previous institution(s) student system is not an acceptable document. Official documents should be submitted to:

**Purdue University Fort Wayne**  
Office of Graduate Studies  
2101 E Coliseum Blvd., KT 140  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Domestic transcripts must be mailed directly from a Registrar’s office to the Office of Graduate Admissions. (You can choose to send the transcripts yourself, but the transcripts must be in an envelope sealed by the Registrar).
All international applicants must also submit the following items to be considered for admission:

1. **English Proficiency Scores:**
   - **TOEFL for Non-Native English Speakers**
     - Minimum Paper-Delivered Test - no overall score reported with the following minimum section requirements:
       - Reading: 19
       - Writing: 18
       - Listening: 14
   - Minimum Internet-Based Test (IBT) Overall Score: 80 with the following minimum section requirements:
     - Reading: 19
     - Speaking: 18
     - Listening: 14
     - Writing: 18

   - **IELTS (Academic Module):** An alternative to the TOEFL, overall band score of 6.5 or higher with minimum section requirements:
     - Reading: 6.5
     - Listening: 6.0
     - Speaking: 6.0
     - Writing: 5.5

2. **Transcript Evaluation**
   - International Applicants must submit original and certified copies for every institution of higher education attended. All documents must be submitted in both English and in the original language. All candidates must hold a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent in any discipline from a recognized institution.

3. **Proof of Financial Support**
   - An official letter and financial statement from a bank, company, or government sponsor indicating the availability of sufficient funds to pay for your tuition and living expenses is required.

4. **Visa and/or Permanent Resident Card (PRC)**

**INTERNATIONAL TRANSCRIPTS SHOULD BE MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

Purdue University Fort Wayne
International Education
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