Department Mission

Communication studies examines the creation, expression and analysis of messages in the personal, professional and public spheres. Students learn to manage message processes within and among individuals, groups, organizations and societies. They explore verbal and nonverbal communication, organizational and business communication, rhetoric and criticism, argumentation and persuasion and communication technology.

Communication studies majors learn principles and practical skills useful for careers in business, industry, government, nonprofit organizations, social services and education. Graduates enter such professions as law, business, public relations, event planning, public service, teaching, management, human resources, training and development, marketing, sales, public administration, politics and ministry.

Related Programs:
Texas State Certificate in Corporate Communication and Training

It was great to have a support system of students and faculty who would listen and respond to my ideas, questions and concerns. I liked that my professors were so willing to provide suggestions and guidance for my assignments.

– Grace Hildenbrand, M.A. ’14, Consultant at Cerner Corporation, Kansas City, Missouri

Scholars in communication studies investigate communication processes as they occur among individuals, groups, organizations and societies.

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Why choose Texas State?
The program offers a comprehensive degree incorporating empirical and rhetorical research methods. Students also may customize their programs by concentrating on specialized areas. The program receives consistently high rankings in surveys of master’s programs in communication studies. Some alumni pursue doctoral education at the country’s top Ph.D. programs.

Students who are graduate instructional assistants earn financial support during school while taking part in a world-class teacher training program through the department’s Teaching & Learning Academy.

Course Work
Enrollment in most graduate courses is limited to 18 students. This seminar format allows students to receive individual attention and to explore research programs unique to their own interests. Most classes are offered in the evenings to accommodate working students.

Students may pursue a 36-hour master of arts degree culminating in comprehensive exams or a 30-hour degree that includes a thesis. After completion of two required communication research methods courses, students can design their own customized programs from one or more of the following program areas:

- organizational communication
- rhetorical studies
- communication training and development
- interpersonal communication
- instructional communication
- health communication

Faculty
Faculty members engage in research partnerships with students and community members to embrace and pursue bold, interdisciplinary solutions to common communication challenges. Findings from their work are published in national and international peer-reviewed journals and books, and many of our faculty members are cited as communication research experts in media outlets worldwide. Faculty members have received grants and other extramural funding for their work, and the department is home to recipients of the most prestigious university-level research award at Texas State.

Career Options
- elected official
- author
- advertising manager
- press secretary
- fund raiser
- health services manager
- government administrator
- account executive
- event planner
- performer
- instructional program designer
- consultant
- speech writer
- editor
- teacher
- leadership professional
- legislative assistant
- campaign director
- foreign service officer
- sales director
- executive director

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Priority Fall: March 1
Fall: May 15
Priority Spring: October 15
Spring: November 15
Summer and summer midterm: March 1
Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/intl_home

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/comm_studies

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This information is available in alternate format upon request from the Office of Disability Services. Texas State University is a tobacco-free campus. 18-323