



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
CORPUS CHRISTI

**Master of Arts**  
**Department of Communication and Media**

**Graduate Student Handbook**  
**Fall 2017-Spring 2018**

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## **Master of Arts in Communication Program Description & Outcomes**

### **Program Description**

The Master of Arts degree in Communication at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is designed for individuals who seek career advancement in communication positions, or who aspire to enroll in a doctoral program. Students in the Master of Arts in Communication program can specialize in Organizational Leadership, Strategic Communication, or Interpersonal Communication. All three tracks consist of courses designed to enhance students' knowledge of communication principles, theories, and research in the track topic area and develop proficiency as writers, researchers, and critical decision makers. The program is designed to provide students with a quality experience that will help them grow as individuals, scholars, professionals, and citizens.

### **Mission/Purpose**

The Master's degree in Communication at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi offers a wide range of options for students who seek career advancement in communication and media positions in South Texas and beyond, or who aspire to enroll in a doctoral program. This program is designed to provide students with a quality experience that will help them grow as scholars, professionals, and citizens.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Graduates from this program will be able to

- apply knowledge and understanding of the history, underlying concepts, principles, and theories in the field of communication;
- demonstrate proficiency in advanced writing and critical thinking at the Master's level;
- show proficiency in scholarly methods of inquiry; and
- demonstrate the ability to gather, interpret, evaluate, and present data for the purposes of addressing communication problems and/or advancing knowledge in the field of communication.

## **MA in Communication Curriculum**

The curriculum for the MA in communication is comprised of three parts: required core courses that all graduate students must take; track courses, which include both required and elective course tied to a selected content area; and an exit requirement, in which students complete either comprehensive exams or a thesis.

Admitted students will choose one of three degree tracks for the MA program in Communication: Organizational Leadership, Strategic Communication, or Interpersonal Communication. The tracks share core coursework designed to enhance student knowledge of communication principles and theories and develop their proficiency as writers and researchers. Each track is a minimum of 36 hours and includes both required and elective courses. With prior approval from the Communication Graduate Advisor, up to 6 hours of non-communication graduate level coursework can count as part of this 36-hour requirement.

### **Required Core Courses:**

Students in all three tracks will complete the following four required core courses:

Offered in the Fall semester:

- COMM 5301 - Introduction to Communication Scholarship 3 sem. hrs.
- COMM 5302 - Seminar in Communication Theory 3 sem. hrs.

Offered in the Spring semester:

- COMM 5303 - Research Methodology 3 sem. hrs.
- COMM 5304 - Cultural Studies 3 sem. hrs.

### **Tracks (choose one):**

Students will choose one of three tracks to pursue: Organizational Leadership, Strategic Communication, or Interpersonal Communication. Each track has its own set of required courses and possible elective courses from which to choose.

#### **1. Organizational Leadership Track**

The Organizational Leadership track focuses on principles, theories, and research of organizational communication and leadership. It is appropriate for individuals who are interested in working in leadership or management positions within a variety of organizations or who want to pursue a Ph.D. in organizational communication or a related area.

Students in the Organizational Leadership track must complete the four required core courses described above, four required Organizational Leadership track courses, two to three elective courses, and either the comprehensive exams or thesis exit requirement.

#### **Required Courses (in addition to the 5301, 5302, 5303, and 5304)**

Take these (12 hours):

- COMM 5306 - Instructing and Consulting 3 sem. hrs.
- COMM 5307 - Communication and Organizations 3 sem. hrs.

COMM 5308 - Communicating Leadership 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5314 - Small Group Decision Making 3 sem. hrs.

### **Electives**

In addition to the 12 hours of core courses and 12 hours of required Organization Leadership Track courses, students must complete 12 hours of electives (Comprehensive Exam Option) or 6 hours of electives (Thesis Option). Any of the courses listed below may be taken for elective credit hours.

COMM 5309 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5310 - Seminar in Intercultural Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5311 - Seminar in Persuasion Theory 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5312 - Seminar in Gender Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5330 - International Leadership 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5331 - Seminar in Nonverbal Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5335 - Advanced Crisis Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5340 - Public Relations Theory 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5346 - Seminar in New Media 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5390 - Special Topics in Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5399 - Internship 3 sem. hrs.

## **2. Strategic Communication Track**

The Strategic Communication track focuses on principles, theories, and research of goal-oriented communication, particularly as it relates to communicating with the public. It is appropriate for individuals who are interested in working in public relations or marketing positions within a variety of organizations or who want to pursue a Ph.D. in public relations, persuasion, or a related area.

Students in the Strategic Communication track must complete the four required core courses described above, four required Strategic Communication track courses, two to three elective courses, and either the comprehensive exams or thesis exit requirement.

### **Required Courses**

Take these (12 hours):

COMM 5311 - Seminar in Persuasion Theory 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5335 - Advanced Crisis Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5340 - Public Relations Theory 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5346 - Seminar in New Media 3 sem. hrs.

### **Electives**

In addition to the 12 hours of core courses and 12 hours of required Strategic Communication Track courses, students must complete 12 hours of electives (Comprehensive Exam Option) or 6 hours of electives (Thesis Option). Any of the courses listed below may be taken for elective credit hours.

COMM 5306 - Instructing and Consulting 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5307 - Communication and Organizations 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5308 - Communicating Leadership 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5309 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5310 - Seminar in Intercultural Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5312 - Seminar in Gender Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5314 - Small Group Decision Making 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5330 - International Leadership 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5331 - Seminar in Nonverbal Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5390 - Special Topics in Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5399 - Internship 3 sem. hrs.

### **3. Interpersonal Communication Track**

The Interpersonal Communication track provides courses that focus on principles, theories, and research surrounding communication that functions to initiate, maintain, deepen, and sometimes terminate relationships. The track is especially geared toward individuals who wish to work in positions or professions that emphasize interaction with others; it is also appropriate for students who wish to pursue doctoral study in interpersonal communication or related areas.

Students in the Interpersonal Communication track must complete the four required core courses described above, four required Interpersonal Communication track courses, two to three elective courses, and either the comprehensive exams or thesis exit requirement.

#### **Required Courses**

Take these (12 hours):

COMM 5309 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5310 - Seminar in Intercultural Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5315 - Family Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5331 - Seminar in Nonverbal Communication 3 sem. hrs.

#### **Electives**

In addition to the 12 hours of core courses and 12 hours of required Interpersonal Communication Track courses, students must complete 12 hours of electives (Comprehensive Exam Option) or 6 hours of electives (Thesis Option). Any of the courses listed below may be taken for elective credit hours.

COMM 5306 - Instructing and Consulting 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5307 - Communication and Organizations 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5308 - Communicating Leadership 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5311 - Seminar in Persuasion Theory 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5312 - Seminar in Gender Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5314 - Small Group Decision Making 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5330 - International Leadership 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5390 - Special Topics in Communication 3 sem. hrs.  
 COMM 5399 - Internship 3 sem. hrs.

**Exit Requirement Options (choose one):**

Students must complete 36 graduate hours in Communication with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher. All students admitted to the program will automatically be registered for the Comprehensive Exam exit requirement.

1. **Comprehensive Exam.** Students will take 12 hours of core coursework, 12 hours of required track coursework, and 12 hours of pre-approved electives. Students will also successfully complete examinations that cut across completed courses allowing students to demonstrate their abilities to analyze and synthesize material. The exams will be given during the semester of expected graduation and will be graded as “pass” (for credit), or “fail” (for no credit). If the student fails one area of the examinations, the student may be able to retake the failed area a second time that semester. If the student fails more than one area or fails the retake area a second time, the student will need to attempt the exams in a subsequent semester. The student must achieve a passing grade on all exam questions in order to graduate.
2. **Thesis.** Students may apply to complete a thesis instead of comprehensive exams. This is an appropriate option for individuals who are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or who want to work in an area that involves research. To apply to complete the thesis, students must develop a thesis pre-proposal that the faculty will evaluate. Students who are approved to complete the thesis will take 12 hours of core coursework, 12 hours of required track coursework, 6 hours of pre-approved electives, and at least 6 hours of thesis work culminating in the thesis document. Thesis students will also defend a thesis in an oral examination to the appropriate graduate faculty. A majority of the faculty on the thesis committee must grade the thesis and defense as “credit” for it to be accepted to meet graduation requirements. If the student does not receive a “credit” score, the student has one year from the time of the first defense to complete the thesis satisfactorily and fulfill this requirement. Students must use the required College of Graduate Studies forms and meet the deadlines for thesis committee formation and scheduling of the thesis defense. The thesis must meet the College of Graduate Studies thesis formatting requirements in addition to those of their discipline. For CGS deadlines and forms, refer to the CGS website and/or CGS Masters Handbook.

## **Communication Graduate Courses and Descriptions**

### **COMM 5301 – Introduction to Communication Scholarship**

This is a practical introduction to scholarship in the Communication discipline with emphasis in: reading and understanding academic source material; finding source material in scholarly literatures; writing academic research papers; editing and revising your own work; and presenting scholarship. Completing this course will prepare you to think, write, and present ideas as an advanced scholar in the Communication discipline.

### **COMM 5302 – Seminar in Communication Theory**

This course represents an advanced treatment of theory in the Communication discipline. Theoretical traditions and theories discussed in this course are used by scholars to explain and/or interpret communication processes in such areas as interpersonal, intercultural, organizational, and media settings.

### **COMM 5303 – Research Methodology**

This course is designed as an intellectual and practical introduction to communication research at the graduate level, including epistemological, intellectual, and practical issues associated with qualitative, quantitative, and critical methods research.

### **COMM 5304 - Cultural Studies**

This course examines theoretical approaches to cultural studies; focus on interdisciplinary research of media audiences and covering a range of methods and theoretical frameworks; concentration varies.

### **COMM 5306 - Instructing and Consulting**

This course will draw upon academic research in instructional communication to provide a foundation for aligning the instructional skills and knowledge necessary for achieving organizational strategic goals and objectives.

### **COMM 5307 - Communication and Organizations**

This course surveys traditional and contemporary readings in organizational communication. Readings cover such topics as the relationship of communication and organizational structure, process, stakeholders, leadership, decision making, culture, and identity. [Credit may not be given for both this course and PADM 5307.]

### **COMM 5308 - Communicating Leadership**

This course focuses on the process of influence that takes place through communication to achieve goals or to produce change from a collective of people. This course will include instruction on the various approaches to leadership, process of leadership, and the role that leadership plays in a variety of contexts.

### **COMM 5309 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication**

This seminar focuses on terminology, key theories, and functions of interpersonal communication as it pertains to the formation and maintenance of relationships.



**COMM 5310 - Seminar in Intercultural Communication**

This course explores the relationship between communication and culture through scholarly readings, discussions, and critiques in three subfields of Intercultural Communication: cultural communication, cross-cultural communication, and intercultural communication.

**COMM 5311 - Seminar in Persuasion Theory**

This course investigates traditional and contemporary theories of persuasion and is an in-depth study of the major concepts of persuasive communication.

**COMM 5312 - Seminar in Gender Communication**

This seminar focuses on terminology, key theories, and cutting-edge research within the study of gender communication.

**COMM 5314 – Small Group Decision Making**

This course will focus on the theory and practice of small group decision making, by considering both effective work groups and small groups that have made faulty decisions.

**COMM 5315 - Family Communication**

Overview of theory and research on communication in the family. Content focuses on definitions, frameworks, perspectives, theories, and outcomes tied to the study of communication processes within the family.

**COMM 5330 – International Leadership**

Introduces graduate and advanced students to the study of leadership in international and intercultural settings with the emphasis on the context of mediated communication.

**COMM 5331 – Seminar in Nonverbal Communication**

This seminar will educate students about the history, key theories, types and functions of nonverbal communication, or message with words.

**COMM 5335 – Advanced Crisis Communication**

Examines crisis communication from the perspective of academic researchers and practitioners. Includes the analysis of crisis communication research, reviews the elements of an effective crisis communication plan, and centers on case study analysis of best and worst practices in crisis planning, prevention, and response.

**COMM 5340 - Public Relations Theory**

A discussion of theories of excellence in public relations and crisis communication through the exploration of models, roles, communication, media, ethics, and culture to serve as a foundation for professional practice.

**COMM 5346 - Seminar in New Media**

Explores contemporary instances of new and emerging media platforms, especially as facilitated through digital media technologies, as they continue to disseminate more widely as portals of communication. Students will engage with specific issues in new media through the lenses of

various cultural theories in order to gain a greater understanding of the scope of new media, its culture, and the relationships that exist between machines and humans, as well as those between society and technology.

**COMM 5390 - Special Topics in Communication**

This course is an intensive exploration of selected topics in communication study. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the following: ethnography, language and social interaction, critical and rhetorical methods, and interviewing. May be repeated when topics vary.

**COMM 5395 – Thesis**

The thesis is independent research under the direction of a student's graduate committee, and to result in a completed thesis project, it should be taken in two separate semesters for a total of 6 credit hours dependent upon thesis proposal. Prerequisite: Approval of a student's Faculty Mentor. Grade assigned will be "credit" (CR) or "no credit" (NC).

**COMM 5396 – Individual Study**

This Individual Study course is designed to provide inquiry and research opportunities in an area of special interest otherwise not available in course offerings. Two individual study courses may be applied toward the degree with the approval of the student's Faculty Mentor.

**COMM 5396 – Internship**

Practical experience in the communication field through placement in an organization. By application only and approval of the internship coordinator. Prerequisites: Completion of at least 18 graduate hours in communication. Only 3 hours of internship may apply for the major and with internship credit, the hours outside the program that can be counted toward the major decreases to 3 hours.

## COMM Graduate Course Rotation

### Proposed Communication Course Rotation Schedule

	<b>COURSE</b>	<b>ROTATION</b>
5301	Introduction to Communication Scholarship	Fall
5302	Communication Theory	Fall
5303	Research Methods	Spring
5304	Cultural Studies	Spring
5306	Instructing & Consulting	Spring Even Years
5307	Comm & Organizations	Fall even
5308	Communicating Leadership	Summer Even years
5309	Interpersonal Communication	Spring Even Years
5310	Intercultural Communication	Summer Odd Years
5311	Persuasion Theory	Fall Even Years
5312	Gender Communication	Fall Even Years
5314	Small Group Decision Making	Spring Odd Years
5315	Family Communication	Spring Odd Years
5330	International Leadership	Fall Odd Years
5331	Nonverbal	Fall Odd Years
5335	Advanced Crisis Communication	Summer Even Years
5340	Public Relations Theory	Spring Odd Years
5346	New Media	Summer Odd years
5390	Special Topics	Spring Even Years
5394	Seminar in Communication	Varies
5395	Thesis	As needed
5396	Individual Study	By request
5399	Internship	Fall, Spring, Summer

## **Curriculum Processes and Policies**

### **Selecting a Track**

During the student's first full-term semester (fall/spring), students will select their track. To do so, students will work with their assigned advisor to complete the Track Selection Form, which will be provided by the graduate coordinator. Students should also complete a draft of their degree plan. This will help students identify which courses they will need to take each semester. This is particularly important since most courses are offered once every two years.

Students are encouraged to stay with their selected track for the duration of the degree. However, in the event that a student chooses to switch tracks, he or she will need to complete a new Track Selection Form. Students are expected to complete the requirements of the newly selected track, which may mean adding additional time in the program. Students should consult with their advisor before switching tracks.

### **Selecting and Registering for Courses**

Each required core course is offered once a year. Track courses and elective courses are offered every other year. Review the course rotation to determine when the courses you need will be offered. It is important to plan ahead. Be sure to take the required track courses during the semester they are offered, even if it means delaying a required core course or changing an elective.

Students are encouraged to consult with their advisor or the graduate coordinator if they have questions or concerns about selecting a course. None of the courses have prerequisites, however, students should take Introduction to Communication Scholarship during their first fall semester. COMM 5396- Individual Course Study, COMM 5395 Thesis, and COMM 5399 Internship all require permission to register for them. Talk to your advisor if you need to register for one of these courses.

### **Exceptions for Track Requirements**

Students must demonstrate that they have made every effort to register for and complete all required core and track courses. In the event that a required track course is not offered during the time frame that the student is completing his or her degree, the student will need to work with their advisor and graduate coordinator to complete an exceptions form. This will allow a substitution of an elective course for the required track course. Exceptions cannot be made for required core courses.

### **Transfer of Credit**

In addition to the University's general policy on transfer of credit, the following regulations will apply to the MA in Communication program: Up to 9 semester hours may be transferred from a recognized institution of higher education if appropriate to the degree. However, only 6 hours of non-communication coursework will be accepted as part of this 9 semester hours. No course with a grade less than a "B," and no course that has counted toward the earning of another graduate degree, will be accepted as transfer credit. Credit that is more than seven years old at the time of

graduation will not be counted toward the MA degree. Acceptance of transfer credit will be determined by the Communication Graduate Coordinator.

### **Completing a Degree Plan**

Students complete a formal degree plan during the semester in which they complete their 18th credit hour. For full-time students, this occurs during the second semester. It may be in the third to fifth semester for part-time students. The degree plan requires students to indicate the courses they have taken, courses they plan to take, and the exit requirement they intend to complete.

Students are automatically assigned to complete comprehensive exams. (See the section on comprehensive exams for more information about this process). Students who plan to pursue a Ph.D., who plan to work in professions that involve research, or who want to complete a research project for personal development may apply to complete a thesis. This involves submitting a pre-proposal for graduate faculty review. (See the section on theses for more information about this process). Students should work talk with their advisors to complete the degree plan form and to select an exit requirement

### **General Academic Policies and Regulations**

Please consult the Graduate Catalog located on the College of Graduate Studies website for additional information about policies and regulations affecting all graduate students including information about adding or dropping a course, grades, and applying for graduation.

## Comprehensive Exam Process

Comprehensive exams are designed for students to demonstrate that they have mastery in communication principles, concepts, theories, and research. Comprehensive exams should be taken during the student's last semester of coursework. Because students must be registered for a course during the semester they intend to graduate, students will need to complete a course during the semester that they complete comprehensive their exams. Comprehensive exams are offered during fall and spring semesters.

**Content.** Exam content is based on both core and track courses. All students will answer questions tied to the four required core classes which include: COMM 5301 Introduction to Communication Scholarship, COMM 5302 Seminar in Communication Theory, COMM 5303 Research Methodology, and COMM 5304 Seminar in Cultural Theory. Additionally, students will answer questions over the courses associated with their chosen track (organizational leadership, strategic communication, or interpersonal communication). Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the central theories, concepts, research methods, and outcomes covered in these classes.

**Process.** Comprehensive exams take place in two steps. The first portion of the exam is a written exam. The second part of the exam is an oral defense of the written exam. For the written portion, students are given 48 hours to answer a set of questions covering the required core classes and courses from the student's track. Written exams occur over a pre-determined weekend toward the end of fall and spring semesters. The exam dates are set at the beginning of the academic year. It is the student's responsibility to clear their schedule for the weekend to be able to complete the exam. The exam will not be offered on an alternative weekend. Students may complete the exam at a location of their choosing, e.g., at home, a work office, library, or other location. Students are encouraged to select a location with minimal distractions.

Students will receive a word document with their exam questions from the graduate coordinator via email at 7 PM on Friday of the exam weekend. At the end of the 48 hours (7 PM Sunday), students will email their exam answers to the graduate coordinator who will then forward the answers on to the appropriate faculty for evaluation. Students may access their course notes and readings during the exam.

Approximately two weeks after completing the written exam, students will meet with relevant faculty to discuss their answers. Faculty will review the written answers and will use the oral exam period to gain clarification and ask follow-up questions. This is also an opportunity for students to provide additional information regarding exam questions. Oral defenses are scheduled for 60 minutes.

**Evaluation.** Once the oral defense is complete, faculty will discuss both parts of the exam and determine whether the student has passed or failed the exam. Faculty will share the result with students immediately after the oral defense. If faculty determine that a student has failed the exam, the student must take the exam again the following semester. Evaluation of comprehensive exams is tied to the student learning outcomes for the program.

**Preparing for the exam.** The graduate coordinator will schedule a meeting at the beginning of the semester to discuss the comprehensive exam process and how to prepare for the exam. However, students are strongly encouraged to prepare for the exam throughout their time in the program. This means keeping up with course readings, taking good notes, organizing notes and readings, and reflecting on content central to the course. Students should pay attention to course objectives, how the syllabus is organized, and how the course overlaps and intersects with other courses in the program.

## Thesis Process

All students are automatically assigned to complete comprehensive exams as the exit requirement for the program. Students who are interesting in pursuing a Ph.D., who plan to work in jobs in which they work with research, or who are interested in completing a thesis for personal development may apply to conduct a thesis. Like comprehensive exams, the thesis process is designed for students to demonstrate that they have mastery in communication principles, concepts, theories, and research in line with the student learning outcomes for the program.

**Applying to complete a thesis.** Students indicate their interest in conducting a thesis when they complete their degree plan during the semester of their 18th credit hour. Students will also complete the Thesis Pre-Proposal form, which requires them to describe their thesis topic and potential research plan. Graduate faculty review each student's thesis pre-proposal and academic performance in the program to determine whether the student will be accepted to complete a thesis. Not all students who apply to complete a thesis are accepted to do so. If faculty determine that it is not a good fit for a student or that there is insufficient faculty availability to advise the thesis, the student will continue with comprehensive exams. Students who are considering completing a thesis are encouraged to start thinking about potential thesis topic early. It is also a good idea to talk with faculty about potential topic and identify a graduate faculty mem

**Completing the thesis.** Students need to complete at least six credit hours of COMM 5395. To do so students will need to work with their advisor to complete the College of Liberal Arts Graduate Thesis Request form, which will ask students to describe study objectives, student learning outcomes, and specific tasks to be accomplished that semester. Students need to complete the form for each semester they register for COMM 5395. It is important that students complete this form prior to the first week of the semester as it requires several signatures and takes time to process.

During the first semester, students are typically expected to read about and finalize the thesis topic, set up the committee, write the thesis proposal and have it approved by the committee, apply for IRB approval (for those conducting human subjects research), and complete drafts of the introduction and literature review chapters of the thesis. During the second semester, students need to collect and/or analyze data, write the remaining chapters of the thesis, defend the thesis, and submit a copy of the thesis to the dean. Advisors may differ in what they want students to include, how they want the thesis organized, and their expectations about what should be completed each semester. It is important that students talk with their thesis advisor frequently to make sure they are on the same page.

Although it is not uncommon for students to take three semesters to complete the thesis, it is important that students work to stay on track in terms of meeting goals and expectations for each semester in order to continue work on the thesis. If students are not making adequate progress on the thesis given the outcomes set out for the semester, graduate faculty can choose to remove a student from the thesis and have them complete comprehensive exams instead.





**Department of Communication and Media Faculty**  
**Fall 2017**

<u>Graduate Faculty</u> (Terminal Degree Institution)	<u>Graduate Teaching Areas</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<b>Mrs. Ruth Aipperspach</b> <i>Instructor</i> MS, University of North Texas- Denton	Teaches in the undergraduate program	BH 222B	361-825-2586	ruth.aipperspach@tamucc.edu
<b>*Dr. Anantha Babbili</b> <i>Professor</i> PhD, University of Iowa	Global Communication, International Communication, Media Ethics	BH 330	361-825-2678	anantha.babbili@tamucc.edu
<b>*Dr. Brooke Friley</b> <b>Basic Course Director</b> <i>Assistant Professor</i> Ph.D, Purdue University	Teaches primarily in the undergraduate program	BH 372	361-825-2179	brooke.friley@tamucc.edu
<b>*Dr. David Gurney</b> <b>Department Chair</b> <i>Associate Professor</i> PhD, Northwestern University	New Media, Cultural Studies	BH 331	361-825-5991	david.gurney@tamucc.edu
<b>*Dr. Diana Ivy</b> <i>Professor</i> PhD, University of Oklahoma	Interpersonal, Gender, Nonverbal, Instructional Communication	BH 325	361-825-5986	diana.ivy@tamucc.edu
<b>Mr. Nick Manley</b> <i>Assistant Professor</i> MFA, Emerson College	Teaches in the undergraduate program	BH 222C	361-825-2502	nicholas.manley@tamucc.edu
<b>*Dr. Michelle Maresh- Fuehrer</b> <i>Associate Professor</i> PhD, University of Nebraska	Instructional Communication, Public Relations, Research Methods Crisis Communication	BH 329	361-825-2273	michelle.maresh- fuehrer@tamucc.edu
<b>Ms. Wendy Moore</b> <i>Professional Assistant Professor</i>	Teaches in the undergraduate program	BH 222A	361-825-2464	wendy.moore@tamucc.edu

MS, University of North Texas				
<b>*Dr. Stephanie Rollie Rodriguez</b> PhD, University of Iowa	Theory, Family Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, Introduction to Communication Scholarship	BH 335	361-825-5753	stephanie.rodriquez@tamucc.edu
<b>Ms. Kellie Smith</b> <i>Professional Assistant Professor</i> ABD, Texas A&M	Teaches primarily in the undergraduate program, Persuasion	BH 223C	361-825-2443	kellie.smith@tamucc.edu
<b>*Dr. Michael Sollitto</b> <i>Assistant Professor</i> PhD, West Virginia University	Organizational Communication, Persuasion	BH 222C	361-825-5750	michael.sollitto@tamucc.edu
<b>*Dr. Ethan Thompson</b> <i>Professor</i> PhD, University of Southern California	Media and Cultural Studies Communication Program Coordinator	BH 326	361-825-5993	ethan.thompson@tamucc.edu
<b>Mr. Edward Tyndall</b> <i>Associate Professor</i> MFA, North Carolina State University-Greensboro	Teaches in the undergraduate program	BH 223B	361-825-2296	edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu
<b>Mr. Shad Tyra</b> <i>Professional Assistant Professor</i> MA, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Teaches in the undergraduate program	CE 216B	NA	shad.tyra@tamucc.edu

\* Denotes graduate faculty status

## Advising

When new graduate students enter the program, each is assigned a graduate faculty advisor/mentor. Students are encouraged to consult with their faculty advisor in choosing their track, courses, and exit requirement. Students are also encouraged to talk with their advisor about student development opportunities and career paths.

When students complete a thesis, the thesis advisor will replace the assigned advisor. Students who wish to change their advisor to another graduate faculty member need to consult with the graduate coordinator. It is not always possible to change advisors. However, students are always welcome to talk with faculty in their track area about courses and personal and professional development.

Rachelle Stanley is the academic graduate advisor for all graduate students for the College of Liberal Arts. Students should consult with her about questions about their the mechanics of registration, credit transfers, applying for graduation, etc. Her office is located at 203 Driftwood. You can reach her at 361-825-3466 or [rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu](mailto:rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu).

## Student Development Opportunities

### Graduate Teaching Assistantships

**Assistantship Description.** The Department of Communication and Media offers competitive teaching assistantships. The number and availability of assistantships available each semester is dependent on funding and course demand.

Unless otherwise noted, all Graduate Teaching Assistants will assist with COMM 1311– Foundations of Communication. GTAs will discuss course content with students using mini-lecture and quiz strategies, as well as in-class activities. Additionally, GTAs facilitate writing and speaking assignments, grade student work, and maintain all student records for the assigned sections. Each GTA is responsible for two sections that include approximately 20 students each. This enrollment may fluctuate.

Outside of the classroom Graduate Teaching Assistants maintain contact with students through Blackboard and/or face-to-face meetings, which usually occur in the GTA’s cubicle on the third floor of Bay Hall. They assist students with all course components, to include content mastery and assignment completion.

Finally, GTAs are required to attend training workshops that are held prior to the beginning of the semester and then regular, weekly meetings (1 hour, 3 times per week) with the Basic Course Director. Occasionally, additional, supplemental training meetings will be scheduled during the required on-campus hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or outside of this time frame with advance notice and consideration of GTA schedules. The workload for a GTA is 20 hours per week.

Duties include:

- Following the rules in the *Graduate Teaching Manual* and other university rules that apply to teaching.
- Completing all training required by the A&M System prior to beginning the semester.
- Demonstrating thorough knowledge about the material in the text for COMM 1311 and other related material necessary to create effective learning in the classroom.
- Managing course assignments and requirements in Blackboard. (Training is provided.)
- Checking and responding to all email and bulletin board posts in Blackboard – from students and the Basic Course Director – within 24 hours (except on holidays and weekends).
- Monitoring and utilizing all educational technology, as needed, while in the classroom with students.
- Ensuring any department equipment issued for instructional use is kept in good working order and in a secure location, and returned as instructed at the end of each semester.
- Grading student assignments and conducting discussions and activities while in the classroom with students.
- Assisting with the creation of activities and assignments for the course when requested.
- Holding 3 office hours each week from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on MWF and communicating with students enrolled in their assigned sections (including via Blackboard) as needed.

- Attending all classes and regular meetings and completing tasks by deadlines as assigned by the Basic Course Director.
- Keeping and maintaining records for students enrolled in the assigned sections and providing records to the Basic Course Director upon request.
- Issuing and submitting grades at mid-term and end of semester as instructed by the Basic Course Director.
- Mentoring new GTAs.
- Working cooperatively with all faculty, staff, and students at TAMU-CC.
- Representing the Communication program and university through professional attitudes and behaviors.

**Application Requirements & Process.** All application materials are submitted electronically to the Basic Course Director and will include an essay component, a resume/CV, and contact information for three eligible references. When GTA positions become available, a call for applications will be sent out to all current and admitted students informing them of these openings and application deadlines.

Persons considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) position must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Have completed a bachelor's in communication or related field;
- 2) Be admitted on regular status to a graduate program at TAMU-CC, communication program preferred;
- 3) Enroll for 9 graduate hours at TAMU-CC for the semester in which a GTA application is being submitted, by the deadline set by the Basic Course Director and as approved by a graduate advisor;
- 4) Be available every MWF from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. to meet with students, attend class, and attend training. Class times are MWF 11:00-11:50 and 1:00-1:50.
- 5) Have no other obligations or interests that may conflict with the teaching responsibilities and/or university policy.

**Conditions of employment.** A selection committee, chaired by the Basic Course Director, will review applications, interview selected candidates and make final hiring decisions, based on funding and university needs. Initial employment is contingent upon accuracy of information provided in the application, regular admission to a graduate program at TAMU-CC, and enrollment in 9 hours of graduate work. Per university policy, a background check must be run on all applicants and the results could impact final selections.

**Continued employment.** In addition to the authorization from the graduate school to fund GTAs, continued employment will depend on the following: satisfactory fulfillment of program duties and activities, including attendance at all meetings and classes; a GPA of 3.0 or above; satisfactory progress toward completing your degree; satisfactory class observations by faculty; satisfactory student evaluations at the end of the semester; evidence of professional presentation of self in and outside the classroom. Excessive absences at meetings and/or classes may mean loss of the assistantship. Please note that the graduate school permits a student to work as a GTA for a maximum of 4 semesters. Summer employment is never guaranteed and is not part of the regular GTA funding program. **Students who wish to continue employment as an assistant**

**must send an email of intent to the Basic Course Director by the designated deadline for the following semester, unless otherwise instructed.**

### **Internships**

Students may earn up to 3 hours of course credit toward their graduate degree in Communication Studies through placement in a communication or media internship position. To apply for this opportunity, students must have completed at least 6 hours of graduate coursework in communication and have a minimum GPA of 3.5. Only 3 hours of internship may be counted toward the graduate program and, with internship credit, the hours outside of the program that can be counted toward the degree decreases to 3 hours.

To apply to complete an internship:

1. Contact the Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Communication and Media to seek approval for applying to the internship course.
2. Contact the Internship Coordinator for the Department of Communication and Media to inquire about internship opportunities and/or apply for the internship course.
3. Meet with your internship supervisor to complete and sign the required forms, and to provide your supervisor with a Fact Sheet (all documents provided by the Internship Coordinator).
4. Submit the completed forms to the Internship Coordinator, who will then permit you to register for the course.

### **Conference Participation and Attendance**

Students are encouraged to submit their graduate work to local, state, regional, or national communication conferences. Regional conferences like Southern States Communication Association and Central States Communication Association have submission deadlines in the fall and hold their conferences in the spring. The National Communication Association submission deadline is in the spring and the conference is held in November. Conferences are a great place to build presentation skills, network with graduate students and difficulty from around the country, and learn about the wide array of topics being discussed and researched in the discipline. It is a great learning opportunity for all types of graduate students, regardless of their career goals. Students can often get some financial support from TAMU-CC Parent's Council.

### **Graduate Student Representative**

At the beginning of each fall semester the current graduate students will elect a graduate student to act as Graduate Student Representative for the academic year. This student will help organize graduate student-faculty mixers and academic events, inform faculty of graduate student questions and concerns, help disseminate information to graduate students, and aid in fostering a positive graduate culture. To be eligible, students need to have completed at least one full semester in the program.

### **Lambda Pi Eta**

Lambda Pi Eta is the official honor society of the National Communication Association, which lays out the following six goals of the organization:

1. Recognize, foster, and reward outstanding scholastic achievement in Communication Studies

2. Stimulate interest in the field of Communication
3. Promote and encourage professional development among Communication majors
4. Provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in the field of Communication
5. Establish and maintain closer relationships between faculty and students
6. Explore options for graduate education in Communication Studies.

Graduate students who were inducted into Lambda Pi Eta as undergraduate students and who meet the criteria are invited to join. To be eligible, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours in Communication at TAMU-CC (not counting courses graded as “CR,” such as internships), have a GPA of 3.25 or higher, and be in good standing with the university. Lambda Pi Eta Induction Ceremony takes place near the conclusion of each Spring semester.

### **COMM Club**

COMM Club is a great way to get involved on campus and in the community, learn about professional opportunities for Communication graduates, recruit other majors and minors to our discipline, and network with other students and professionals who have similar interests.

To become a member of the club, you must be an undergraduate or graduate student at TAMUCC; willing to attend at least one meeting per month; and be interested in networking, event planning, community service, fundraising, and serving in recruitment efforts for the Department of Communication and Media.



### **Additional Resources**

Students should be sure to consult the 2017-2018 graduate catalogue for information about college-level and university-level rules and policies for graduate students. Students can access this information on the College of Graduate Studies website. Here students can access the following:

- Admissions
- General Academic Policies and Regulations
- Graduate Academic Requirements
- Tuition, Fees, & Financial Assistance
- Academic and Student Services
- Research Resources
- Master's Student Handbook
- Master's Forms
- Thesis Checklist, Guidelines, & Templates

Students are encouraged to pay attention to and access GROW (Graduate Resource and Opportunity Workspace) resources and events. GROW offers graduate students exclusive space and resources tailored specifically to academic needs and professional development. GROW is responsible for a variety of graduate activities. The physical space is located in the Mary & Jeff Bell Library, Room 220. Here students can access computers, social and work space, limited free printing, and free coffee. It is a good space to meet with graduate students from other programs.