

# ACCELERATED MA PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION

The Accelerated MA Program (AMP) in Communication is designed to enable outstanding University of Arizona undergraduates to complete both the B.A. and M.A. in Communication in five years of study. This program is intended for students interested in enhancing their skill set and competitiveness on the job market and/or in admission to professional graduate programs (law school, etc.). The accelerated program is not ideal for students wanting to pursue research careers, entry into research-based PhD programs, or seeking experience teaching. For those students we recommend our two-year MA degree program.

Students with a minimum overall GPA of 3.3 are eligible to apply for admission in the spring of their junior year. Completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credit hours will be required at the time of application; a minimum of 90 credit hours will be required at the time of entry into the AMP. If accepted into the program, students take 12 graduate credits in their fourth (senior) year (which apply toward both the BA and MA). In the fifth (graduate) year students complete the remaining graduate coursework (see below for AMP Timeline, Unit Distribution, and potential course offerings).

To apply, students must email the Graduate Program Coordinator, Marissa Diaz ([marissadiaz23@arizona.edu](mailto:marissadiaz23@arizona.edu)) for an application code. Then, they must complete the online application at [www.grad.arizona.edu](http://www.grad.arizona.edu), submit required paperwork and pay application fees with the Graduate College. Once admitted, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in graduate coursework and a 3.3 undergraduate GPA. Additional eligibility and degree policies are also available on the Department of Communication website.

### Accelerated MA Timeline

	Accelerated MA
<b>Semester 1</b> (undergraduate senior year)	<u>6 credits</u> : 500, 561
<b>Semester 2</b> (undergraduate senior year)	<u>6 credits</u> : 571, 500-level elective
<b>Semester 3</b> (graduate year)	<u>12 credits</u> : electives and first theory class
<b>Semester 4</b> (graduate year)	<u>9 credits</u> : electives and second theory class  <u>1 credit</u> : Comprehensive Exams (Comm 599)
<b>Total</b>	<b>34 credits</b>

These courses also count toward the undergraduate degree and are taken during the undergraduate senior year



## Communication Accelerated MA Unit Distribution

<b>A</b>	<p><b><i>Required Core Courses</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500: Introduction to Graduate Studies in Communication</li> <li>• 561: Research Methods I</li> <li>• 571: Research Methods II</li> </ul>	9 credits	<p style="text-align: center;">Total of 34 credits required</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minimum overall graduate level GPA 3.0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minimum overall undergraduate level GPA 3.3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 graduate course outside of Communication can count toward degree</p>
<b>B</b>	<p><b><i>Theory Courses</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected from COMM 609, 610, 620, and 669</li> <li>• One course is offered per semester, and students must take both courses offered in the second year of their program</li> <li>• One in Fall and one in Spring</li> </ul>	6 credits	
<b>C</b>	<p><b><i>Communication Electives</i></b> (see page 3 for all course options)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 3 credit hours of elective can be graduate level courses from outside of the Communication department</li> <li>• Courses must be pre-approved by the graduate director</li> </ul>	18 credits	
<b>E</b>	<p><b><i>Comprehensive Exam Prep</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comm 599</li> </ul>	1 credit	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34 credits</b>	



## Course Number, Name, and Credits Below

COMPLETE UPDATED LIST AVAILABLE AT [CATALOG.ARIZONA.EDU](http://CATALOG.ARIZONA.EDU)

**500 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Communication (3)** Familiarize students with the structure of the discipline, prominent theorists and historical developments, as well as beginning to understand more about the process of research and writing in the discipline of Communication.

**501 Life-Span Communication (3)** This course is aimed at providing a broad overview of the ways in which communication affects, and is affected by, the aging process from birth to death.

**502 Communication and Music (3)** This course focuses on connections between music and Communication from a social scientific perspective. The course includes three sections: 1. Music as communication discusses the definition of music as a form of communication, and its connections to verbal and nonverbal communication 2. Music as mass communication examines social scientific research on motivations for producing and consuming music, as well as music's content and effects 3. Music as intergroup communication considers music as a communication phenomenon in the context of intergroup relations, focusing on music's role in exacerbating and ameliorating intergroup conflict.

**505 Mass Communication and Children (3)** This course employs a developmental perspective to examining the relationship between the mass media and young audience members. Major topics covered include issues related to children and adolescents as a unique audience (e.g., media use habits, attention and comprehension of media content), media and their content (e.g., media violence, advertising, educational programming), media effects (e.g., fear reactions, construction of role and reality perceptions), and intervention issues (e.g., parental mediation of media exposure, media literacy, and relevant public policy).

**507 Family Communication (3)** Focus on issues related to family interaction, functioning, and communication. We will examine research and theories from communication, sociological, and psychological perspectives. Readings and discussions will include coverage of marital, parent-child, sibling, and intergenerational interactions in the family. Research on topics such as marital satisfaction, divorce, courtship, and the impact of the family on its children (and vice versa) will be examined. We will also focus on the nature of family interaction as it is associated with family dysfunction.

**515 Nonverbal Communication (3)** Theory and research on nonverbal communication codes (kinesics, touch, voice, appearance, use of space, time and artifacts) and social functions (impression formation and management, relational communication, emotional expressions, regulation of interaction, social influence).

**524 Media and Politics in America (3)** Survey of field; media in political campaigns; media coverage of leaders, issues, and institutions; leadership strategies to influence media.

**550 Communication and Cognition (3)** Interrelations between human communication and cognitive processes; emphasis on theory and research in social cognition.



**561 Research Methodologies I (3)** An introduction to research methods and designs used in contemporary communication research.

**571 Research Methodologies II (3)** An introduction to statistical analysis in contemporary communication research.

**599 Independent Study (1-3)** Qualified students working on an individual basis with professors who have agreed to supervise such work. Also used for AMP comprehensive exam prep.

**609 Advanced Mass Communication Theory (3)** A theory seminar addressing theoretical perspectives and topics related to media research. \*\* Theory class

**610 Interpersonal (3)** A theory seminar addressing theoretical perspectives on the role of verbal and nonverbal communication in the process of generating and understanding development of interpersonal relationships. \*\* Theory class

**620 Social Influence (3)** A theory seminar of historical and theoretical perspectives on communication strategies used in social influence attempts from interpersonal to mass media contexts. \*\* Theory class

**669 Health (3)** A theory seminar addressing theoretical perspectives and topics related to health communication research. \*\* Theory class

**693 Internship (1-6)** Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of training and practice in actual service in a technical, business, or governmental establishment.

**696 Seminar:** a. Nonverbal Communication (3) d. Social Influence (3) e. Mass Media (3) f. Linguistics Investigations and Applications (3) (Identical with Psych 696f and Ling. 696f, which is home.) g. Message Analysis (3) h. Organizational Communication (3) i. Interpersonal Communication (3) j. Information Processing and Management (3) k. Research Methods (3)

**699 Independent Study (1-3)** Qualified students working on an individual basis with professors who have agreed to supervise such work.

**900 Research (1-4)** Individual research, not related to thesis or dissertation preparation, by graduate students.

**909 Master's Report (2)** Individual study or special project or formal report thereof submitted in lieu of thesis for certain master's degrees.

