

The School of Communication and the Arts at Marist College has long been committed to the blending of scholarship and professional development. Faculty and students work together to bring theory and research to life, developing projects to benefit organizations of all kinds. The successful combination of liberal arts perspectives and professional training allows Marist alumni to compete in many work environments.

Marist's MA in Communication focuses on Organizational Communication & Leadership. This program attracts students who wish to advance their careers by moving into leadership positions in their organizations. Our students come from many professional backgrounds – Finance, Environmental Research, Politics, Education, Media Relations – all with the goal of improving their understanding of the communication skills necessary to create a strong and productive work environment.

DISTINCTIVENESS

Marist's MA in Communication is designed for diverse backgrounds. Where most other comparable programs narrowly focus on the media professions, Marist's program examines communication in any organizational setting. Students bring their expertise and experience to the discussions and apply the theories they encounter to the contexts that matter to them.

Our program is 100% online, with no residency requirement. Courses are designed in an accelerated 8-week format, allowing part-time students to take one course at a time, and still complete two courses in a semester.

The MA in Communication is one of the few online programs offering a thesis option for students who intend to continue for a Ph.D. This option helps support our commitment to combining scholarly and professional perspectives.

PROGRAM FORMAT

The MA in Communication is offered in part- and full-time formats. All courses are taken online.

Part-time students take five courses per year, completing their degree in just two years. Students enroll in two courses in the fall and spring semesters and one over the summer. All courses can be completed by the end of the second summer with comprehensive exams in the third week in August.

Full-time students will complete all 10 courses in one academic year. Our 8-week course model means students will take two courses at a time. Full-time students will take four courses in the fall and spring semesters and two in the summer, with comprehensive exams in the third week in August.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to the MA in Communication Program must submit:

- a completed application for graduate admission
- a \$50 non-refundable application fee
- official transcripts from all undergraduate (including two-year colleges) and graduate institutions including evidence of an earned BA or BS degree in communication or closely related field from an accredited college or university with a cumulative GPA of 3.0
- an official score report showing an acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- a current résumé
- a written statement of purpose
- three letters of recommendation

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Full-Time Program May 1
Part-Time Program August 1

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION

Director of Graduate Admissions
School of Graduate & Continuing Education
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 – 1387

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MA IN COMMUNICATION COURSES

COMG 500 Communication Theory
COMG 501 Communication Research
COMG 502 Persuasion
COMG 503 Media Relations
COMG 600 Organizational Communication
COMG 601 Interpersonal Communication
COMG 620 The Role of Communication in
Conflict & Negotiation
COMG 621 Leadership Communication
COMG 602 Seminar in Communication
MPA 530 Managing Organizational Change
COMG 700 Thesis

COMMUNICATION FOUNDATIONS

Given the diverse backgrounds of our students, the first three courses in this program are meant to provide a foundation in the field of Communication. These courses provide an overview of essential communication concepts & research techniques, help students develop their academic writing skills, and introduce students to the kinds of analysis expected in graduate school.

COMG 500 Communication Theory

This course provides students with a foundation in the wide range of theories used in the field of Communication. Theories are examined and critiqued with reference to their theoretical traditions (e.g., inductive, deductive, phenomenological), and their respective orientations (e.g., epistemological, ontological, axiological). Connections between theory and research methods are explored, as well as the need for consistency across theoretical and methodological approaches.

COMG 501 Communication Research

This course provides a solid foundation in the process of fact-finding and knowledge creation. Students are introduced to various data collection methods (qualitative and quantitative) and data analysis techniques commonly used by communication researchers.

COMG 502 Persuasion

This course examines theories of persuasion and reviews persuasion's role in society. Students will gain increased familiarity with persuasion concepts and theories, increased ability to compare and evaluate persuasive approaches, and increased sensitivity to problems of ethics in persuasion.

DEGREE COMPLETION

The MA in Communication is a 30-credit program, which can be completed in 1 or 2 years. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and pass Comprehensive Exams or successfully defend a Thesis in order to complete their degree.

COMG 700 Thesis

Students accepted for the thesis option will work very closely with his or her thesis director to develop an original piece of research. Students interested in the Thesis Option must apply for this track by October 1 of their first semester at Marist. The thesis option is competitive. A limited number of students will be approved for the thesis option each year.

Students not pursuing a thesis will enroll in COMG602 Seminar in Communication and sit for Comprehensive Exams. Comprehensive Exams are given online the third week in August.

BEYOND THE ONLINE CLASSROOM

Although it is convenient and exciting to pursue an entire degree online, students often wish there were opportunities to meet their peers and faculty face-to-face. To support this, graduate students are invited to an annual reception at Marist during Alumni weekend in the fall. In addition, students are invited to regional and national conferences, where many Marist faculty and students present their research.