

MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION – ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION & LEADERSHIP

DIRECTOR, M.A. IN COMMUNICATION

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Communication – Organizational Communication & Leadership is a 30-credit graduate degree designed to serve those just emerging from baccalaureate studies in communication as well as seasoned professionals already in the workplace. This unique program focuses on the management of communication within and between organizations. It shows students how to become effective communicators and leaders with improved conflict-resolution and negotiation skills.

Those who aspire to careers in corporate communication, human resources, business management, consulting, professional coaching, public relations, or related fields would benefit fully from Marist's M.A. in Communication.

Effective communication is the key to the success of any company or organization. The communication theory, research strategies, conflict and negotiation, and interpersonal communication concepts and skills threaded throughout this degree assure that it is cutting-edge in today's climate of continuous change.

The strong leadership content in this degree sets it apart from many other graduate degrees in Communication. It infuses the values and skill sets needed to build relationships and act as a catalyst for change, enabling graduates to transform their environments. The balance of theory and application coupled with Marist's thesis/non-thesis option provides the educational flexibility for students seeking professional advancement as well as those continuing on to doctoral work in Communication.

FORMAT

Part-Time Option – The part-time option is offered fully online, with 8-week intensive courses, allowing students to complete their M.A. in two years.

Full-Time Option – The full-time option is offered fully online, allowing students to complete their M.A. in one year.

The application deadline for the full-time option is May 1.

The application deadline for the part-time option is August 1.

Assistantships – A limited number of assistantships are available for full-time students.

THESIS/NON-THESIS OPTION

The Master's thesis represents a guided research effort by a graduate student seeking to demonstrate mastery of the theoretical and applied knowledge he or she has gained in the Master's program. The thesis option at Marist is highly competitive and requires a formal approval by the Graduate Committee. Students who wish to apply for this option must notify the graduate director of their intent to apply by October 1 of the Fall of their first year. Students will submit a formal proposal for a thesis and must be granted permission to proceed by the Graduate Committee. Upon approval of the proposal, research will be conducted and once completed, will be approved, presented, and defended before a thesis committee. A limited number of students will be accepted into the thesis track each year.

For those not seeking research opportunities or transition to a Ph.D., the non-thesis option requires a final seminar course and comprehensive examination.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Comprehensive Exams will cover three areas: Communication Theory, Research Methods, and an Applied Area in Communication. The Graduate Committee will grade the exams. Full- and part-time students will take exams in the 3rd week of August after completing all coursework. If a student fails, he/she can petition the Graduate Committee to retake the exam during the first week of February.

ADMISSION

Admission to the M.A. in Communication is competitive and based on undergraduate performance, a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and a candidate's professional credentials or demonstrated interest in the Communication field. The Admissions Committee is committed to looking at the whole student and will evaluate professional and academic qualifications holistically.

Applicants to the Master of Arts in Communication must submit:

- a completed application for graduate admission;
- a \$30 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 resumé;
- a written statement of purpose;
- three letters of recommendation.

NOTE: All Marist graduate programs require a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university.

DEGREE CONFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Master of Arts in Communication, a student must:

- complete a total of 30 credits as described in the curriculum requirements with a passing grade on the comprehensive exams or a successful defense of the thesis;
- maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average.

STUDENT ADVISEMENT

The Director of the Graduate Program in Communication will assign an advisor to students in the M.A. program. Students are encouraged to contact their advisor to discuss academic progress and planning.

ACADEMIC STANDING

The maintenance of a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 is required for good academic standing. Students must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA after completion of one semester of full-time study or its equivalent. Any student whose index falls below that required for good standing, or who receives a letter grade of F, will be subject to academic review and may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program. Students placed on probation will receive a statement of requirements necessary to achieve good standing and will be given a limited time period in which to meet these requirements. Failure to achieve probationary requirements will result in dismissal.

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

Curriculum Summary

COMG 500	Communication Theory	3 credits
COMG 501	Research Strategies & Methods	3 credits
COMG 502	Persuasion	3 credits
COMG 503	Media Relations	3 credits
COMG 600	Organizational Communication	3 credits
COMG 601	Interpersonal Communication	3 credits
COMG 620	The Role of Communication in Conflict and Negotiation	3 credits
COMG 621	Leadership Communication	3 credits
MPA 530	Managing Organizational Change	<u>3 credits</u>
		27 credits

Choose one from:

COMG 602	Seminar in Communication OR	3 credits
COMG 700	Thesis*	<u>3 credits</u>
		3 credits

*The thesis option is very competitive. Students must submit a formal proposal and be accepted into the thesis track by the Graduate Committee. All others will take COMG 602 and will be required to take comprehensive exams.

Program Options and Class Schedules

The Full-Time Option is a fully online program allowing students to complete their MA in one year. Full-time students enroll in 4 courses in the Fall and Spring semesters, with the final two courses scheduled during the Summer session. All courses are offered in 8-week formats with students participating in two courses at a time. All coursework, comprehensive exams, or thesis writing and defense will be completed during the Summer.

Fall

COMG 500	Communication Theory	3 credits
COMG 501	Research Strategies & Methods	3 credits
COMG 600	Organizational Communication	3 credits
COMG 601	Interpersonal Communication	3 credits

Spring

COMG 502	Persuasion	3 credits
COMG 503	Media Relations	3 credits
COMG 620	The Role of Communication in Conflict and Negotiation	3 credits
MPA 530	Managing Organizational Change	3 credits

Summer

COMG 621	Leadership Communication	3 credits
COMG 602	Seminar in Communication OR	
COMG 700	Thesis*	3 credits

*Students wishing to pursue a thesis must notify the M.A. program director of their intent to apply for this option by October 1.

The Part-Time Option is entirely online, enabling students to complete the degree in two years. Part-time students enroll in two intensive eight-week courses in the Fall & Spring semesters, and one course during the Summer sessions. Comprehensive exams are scheduled for the third week in August after the completion of the final seminar. Those writing a thesis will complete and defend their work during the second Summer.

Fall I

COMG 500 Communication Theory
 COMG 501 Research Strategies & Methods

Spring I

COMG 502 Persuasion
 COMG 503 Media Relations

Summer I

COMG 621 Leadership Communication

Spring II

COMG 620 The Role of
 Communication in
 Conflict & Negotiation
 MPA 530 Managing Organizational
 Change

Fall II

COMG 600 Organizational Communication
 COMG 601 Interpersonal Communication

Summer II

COMG 602 Seminar in Communication & Comprehensive Exams OR
 COMG 700 Thesis*

*Students wishing to pursue a thesis must notify the M.A. program director of their intent to apply for this option by October 1 of their first year.

Graduate Courses in Communication

COMG 500

Communication Theory

This course examines a variety of communication theories, how they are constructed, tested, and revised. Several theories are examined and critiqued (e.g., systems, discourse analysis, critical) with reference to their theoretical traditions (e.g., hypoductive, phenomenological) and their respective orientations (e.g., epistemological, axiological). Connections between theory and research methods are explored, as well as the need for consistencies across theoretical and methodological approaches.

COMG 501

Research Strategies and Methods

This course provides a solid foundation for students to understand the process of fact-finding as well as knowledge creation. Students are provided with an in-depth understanding of data analysis and data collection methods (qualitative and quantitative) commonly used by communications researchers as well as ways of synthesizing and analyzing scholarly literature.

COMG 502

Persuasion

This course examines theories of persuasion and reviews persuasion's role in society. Students will gain increased familiarity with persuasion concepts, theories, methods, and research findings; increased ability to apply theories and research generalizations to cases; increased ability to compare and evaluate approaches; increased sensitivity to problems of ethics in persuasion; and increased sophistication as persuader and persuadee.

COMG 503

Media Relations

This course will provide students with an understanding of how organizational relationships with news media influence management of issues and public relations, and how these communication functions are

essential to effective strategic management and leadership of organizations. The course will focus on analysis of advanced cases in media relations.

COMG 600

Organizational Communication

This course will provide students an historical and thematic overview of organizational communication theory and research. It will provide a systematic but critical basis on which to discuss communication in complex organizations and will analyze assumptions and pragmatic solutions associated with these theories. It will also enhance students' research, analysis, writing, and presentation skills.

COMG 601

Interpersonal Communication

This course will introduce students to basic patterns of human communication in order that they may develop a better understanding of the interpersonal-communication process. Through exploration of theories of communication, perception, self-perception, language, and nonverbal interaction, students will develop their theoretical and practical understanding of how interpersonal relationships are achieved through communication in a variety of settings, including family, friendship, romantic, workplace, and intercultural encounters.

COMG 602

Seminar in Communication (Rotating course)

This course is intended to provide students with an advanced understanding of a specific communication dynamic, context, or other aspect deemed worthy of focus by the faculty of the School of Communication and the Arts.

COMG 620**The Role of Communication in Conflict and Negotiation**

This course examines the role of communication in managing conflict in various relationships: interpersonal, inter-organizational, and international. Special emphasis is given to how the application of communication processes like negotiation can influence outcomes. Current cases are studied to reveal how organizational leaders incorporate ethical decisions and strategic communication in conflict and change management.

COMG 621**Leadership Communication**

This course examines both the theoretical and applied dimensions of leadership, focusing on the communicative aspects of leaders and leadership. Course content covers: managing group members and tasks, models of leadership, situational dynamics of leadership, charismatic-versus-emergent leadership, team theory, trait-versus-situation orientations toward leadership, leadership ethics, cultural differences in leadership style and identification, and leadership in different contexts (e.g., educational, corporate, nonprofit, governmental, media, etc.).

COMG 700**Thesis**

Students accepted for the thesis option will work very closely with his/her thesis director. The student will have to examine a theoretical model related to communication, supported by an in-depth review of the relevant literature; the student should come up with research hypotheses or research questions. These hypotheses or questions will be examined/tested through primary quantitative or qualitative research methods. The final draft of the thesis will be read and approved by a thesis committee. After the thesis is approved, it will have to be orally defended. All Marist faculty will be invited to attend the thesis defense. The final submitted thesis must be written in accordance with the style guidelines for APA publication.

MPA 530**Managing Organizational Change**

Managing Organizational Change covers the theory and practice of improving organizational effectiveness through planned, systematic interventions and change. Typical topics include analyzing organizational cultures, structures, processes, and capabilities; designing needed interventions; and assessing the motivational, educational, and other tools needed for successful implementation.

Communication Faculty

MARY S. ALEXANDER Assistant Professor, 2001. *Degrees:* B.A., Hunter College; M.A., Hunter College; Ph.D., New York University

G. MODELE CLARK Professional Lecturer, 1993. *Degrees:* B.A., English/Elementary Education, SUNY New Paltz; M.S., Journalism, Columbia University; M. Div./D. Min. Pastoral Ministry, Trinity College & Seminary

DANIEL COCHECE DAVIS Assistant Professor, 1998. *Degrees:* B.A., San Francisco State University; M.A., San Diego State University; M.A., University of Southern California; Ph.D., University of Southern California

JOHN JAMES FAHEY Associate Professor, 1990. *Degrees:* B.S., University of Arizona; M.B.A., University of Arizona

BRADLEY FREEMAN Assistant Professor, 2002. *Degrees:* B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.A., Syracuse University, Ph.D., Syracuse University

JEANNETTE KINDRED Assistant Professor, 2000. *Degrees:* B.A., Central Michigan University; M.A., Eastern Michigan University; Ph.D., Wayne State University

SUE LAWRENCE Assistant Professor, 1979. *Degrees:* B.J., University of Missouri-Columbia; M.A., University of Missouri-Columbia; Ph.D., University of Missouri-Columbia

LAURA LINDER Associate Professor, 2003. *Degrees:* B.A., University of North Carolina at Greensboro; M.A., University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

TERRI MALEK-MADANI Assistant Professor, 2004. *Degrees:* B.A., University of Michigan; M.S., Purdue University; Ph.D., Purdue University

SHAHEED MOHAMMED Associate Professor, 2000. *Degrees:* B.A., University of the West Indies, Jamaica; M.A., University of Windsor, Canada; Ph.D., University of New Mexico, USA.

CAROL PAULI Assistant Professor, 1994. *Degrees:* B.A., University of Evansville; M.S., Columbia University

SHANNON ROPER Assistant Professor, 2001. *Degrees:* B.A., Marist College; M.A., William Paterson University; Ph.D., Rutgers University

SUBIR SENGUPTA Associate Professor, 1998. *Degrees:* B.A., Jadavpur University; M.A., University of Georgia; Ph.D., University of Georgia

KEITH STRUDLER Assistant Professor, 2000. *Degrees:* B.A., Cornell University; M. Ed., University of St. Thomas; Ph.D., University of Florida

MARK VAN DYKE Associate Professor, 2004. *Degrees:* B.S., U.S. Naval Academy; M.S., Syracuse University, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Maryland

PAULA WILLOQUET-MARICONDI Associate Professor, 2001. *Degrees:* B.A., University of Hawaii; M.A., University of California, Santa Barbara; Ph.D., Indiana University