Communication

Department Information

• **Department Chair:**
  Stephenson Beck, Ph.D.

• **Graduate Coordinator:**
  Zoltan Majdik, Ph.D.

• **Department Location:**
  Minard Hall 338

• **Department Phone:**
  (701) 231-7705

• **Department Web Site:**
  www.ndsu.edu/communication/

• **Application Deadline:**
  Ph.D - March 1; M.S. and M.A. - March 15, October 15

• **Degrees Offered:**
  Ph.D., M.A., M.S.

• **Test Requirement:**
  GRE

• **English Proficiency Requirements:**
  TOEFL iBT 100, IELTS 7 for admission; TOEFL iBT 100, IELTS 7 for teaching assistantship

Program Description

The graduate program in communication offers graduate study leading to the M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. The program prepares students for academic and management positions, as well as advancement within current career fields.

The department tailors student research projects and academic programs to individual needs and interests. Students may take interdisciplinary graduate course work to enhance their program of study. Information is available on the department’s website, www.ndsu.edu/communication.

Admission Requirements

Programs are open to students holding baccalaureate degrees from accredited universities or colleges.

**Master of Science or Arts**

To be admitted with full status to the program, the applicant must meet the Graduate School requirements; have adequate study in communication, journalism or a related area; and provide a score for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

**Doctor of Philosophy**

To be admitted with full status to the program, the applicant must meet the Graduate School requirements. In addition to materials required by the Graduate School applicants must submit:

- A CV or resume which clearly identifies your current position, including your responsibilities; your professional publications and papers; your service and professional activity; and your teaching and training experiences
- A scholarly writing sample where the candidate is first author (single authorship preferred), such as a master’s thesis, proposal, or chapter; conference paper, final course paper
- Evidence of effective teaching potential (please include one or more of the following): teaching evaluations, teaching philosophy statement, recommendation letter(s) may speak to experience or potential of applicant, peer evaluations/observations, sample syllabi, sample lesson plan/assignment, etc.
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores
- TOEFL test results (required for international students)

Financial Assistance

Students admitted at full or conditional status may apply for teaching assistantships at the master’s or doctoral degree level. Initially, teaching assistants conduct lab sessions for the Comm 110 class. Teaching assistants may have opportunities to teach other classes during their program. The teaching assistantship deadline is March 15 for the following fall semester.
Graduate assistants receive a stipend and tuition waiver. Applications are available from the department office or online from the department’s website, www.ndsu.edu/communication.

**Master's program**

The Master of Arts program is designed for students who are interested in conducting qualitative or rhetorical research, while the Master of Science program is designed for those interested in quantitative research. Both programs require completion of 30 credit hours of graduate coursework with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better. The student can elect to complete a research-based thesis, for which six of the 30 credits are awarded, or a written exam, for which three credits are awarded. A prospectus meeting and final defense of the thesis/written exam is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 700</td>
<td>Research Methods in Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 711</td>
<td>Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Tools**

Select at least two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 704</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods in Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 707</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods in Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 767</td>
<td>Rhetorical Criticism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 700</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 701</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 725</td>
<td>Applied Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students pursuing the M.A. degree must take at least one qualitative methods course (COMM 704, COMM 708, COMM 767, or SOC 700).

Students pursuing the M.S. degree must complete at least one quantitative methods course (COMM 707, COMM 710, SOC 701, or STAT 725).

**Elective Specialization**

12-15 credits of additional coursework, depending on whether the thesis or exam option is selected. Students can select from a wide range of specializations, pending approval from their adviser. Students may also choose graduate-level electives from other departments that may enhance specialized communication study goals.

**Thesis or Exam**

The thesis option requires six credits of COMM 798. The exam option requires three credits of COMM 799.

**Doctor of Philosophy**

The Ph.D. program is designed to be completed in 4 years, and requires at least 60 credit hours beyond the master's degree. These hours will be in a planned course of study approved and overseen by the student's adviser and advisory committee.

The department currently offers two areas of concentration:

- Media and Society
- Organizational Communication

Students with a master’s degree in another discipline may be required to complete additional graduate coursework in specific areas of communication deemed necessary by the student’s adviser and advisory committee. Graduate work taken beyond the master’s degree may be judged applicable by the advisory committee, but post-master's graduate credits beyond 9 semester hours will not count toward the 60 credit minimum required for the Ph.D.

Students are strongly encouraged to take all of the Summer Scholar courses.

**Course Requirements**

Minimum of 30 credit hours in core or content concentration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 701</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods in Communication I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 702</td>
<td>Introduction to College Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 711</td>
<td>Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 735 or 783</td>
<td>Media and Society or Org Comm Theory Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Content Concentration**
Minimum of 12 credit hours in the department’s 700-level courses in the student’s major concentration area

Minimum of 9 credit hours in the department’s 700-level courses in the student’s minor concentration area

**Research Courses**

Exclusive of COMM 701, maximum of 6 credit hours of independent study

**Dissertation**

Dissertation

15

---

**Comprehensive Exam**

When coursework is nearly completed, the DGS will consider the program of study and student’s professional presentations and publications to determine readiness for the comprehensive exam process. Doctoral students will meet with their advisers to prepare for the comprehensive examination.

After completion of the written examination, the doctoral committee will evaluate the written work. If the committee deems the work to be acceptable, the advisor will schedule an oral examination in which the student will defend his or her exam.

**Dissertation**

Under the guidance of an adviser and advisory committee, doctoral candidates will submit and defend a dissertation prospectus and ultimately a completed dissertation.

---

**Peter Bergholz, Ph.D.**  
Michigan State University, 2007  
Research Interests: Population Genomics and Evolutionary Ecology

**Teresa Bergholz, Ph.D.**  
Michigan State University, 2007  
Research Interests: Functional Genomics of Foodborne Pathogens

**Eugene S. Berry, Ph.D.**  
Northeastern University, 1983  
Research Interests: Animal Virology, Molecular Pathogenesis of ss(+) RNA Viruses

**Glenn Dorsam, Ph.D.**  
Virginia Commonwealth University, 1998  
Research Interests: Molecular Pathogenesis

**Neil W. Dyer, D.V.M., M.S.**  
Iowa State University, 1991  
Research Interests: Studies with *Bacillus anthracis*, Porcine Pneumonia, New Malignant Catarrhal Fever Herpesvirus

**Penelope S. Gibbs, Ph.D.**  
University of Georgia, 2001  
Research Interests: *Avian E. coli*, Bacterial Molecular Pathogenesis, Antimicrobial Resistance, Food Safety

**John M. McEvoy, Ph.D.**  
University of Ulster, 2002  
Research Interests: *Cryptosporidium* Ecology, Evolution and Host-Parasite Interactions; Environmental Microbiology

**Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.**  
Ruhr-Universitat Bochum, 1991  
Research Interests: Global Gene Regulation in Enteric Bacteria, Complex Regulatory Networks

**Sheela Ramamoorthy, Ph.D.**  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2006  
Research Interests: Virology and Vaccinology

**Jane M. Schuh, Ph.D.**  
North Dakota State University, 2000  
Research Interests: Immunology; Biomedical Significance of the Initiation and Maintenance of Allergic Asthma; The Innate Immune Response in Health and Disease; Murine Models of Human Asthma; *Aspergillus fumigatus*-Induced Immune Response