GRADUATE STUDIES IN COMMUNICATION

M.A. in Communication Studies
M.A. in Communication Studies, Deliberative Practices Specialization
Ph.D. in Communication
WELCOME

The Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University attracts graduate students from around the world who deeply value teaching, scholarship, community, and excellence.

Our faculty is second to none in their commitment to collegiality and rigor. They provide graduate students unmatched mentoring in both teaching and scholarship across three areas of specialized study.

You will partner with faculty, develop close bonds with your cohort, and earn a degree that will advance your career, whether inside or outside academe.

Our program affords graduate students the space to explore new ideas, the resources to shape their future, and the environment in which to thrive.

“The mentoring I received at CSU has exposed and led me to many great opportunities within and outside academia, and became an invaluable asset for life.” - Min Kim

FACULTY AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Faculty research and teaching contributes to one of the following areas. You may take courses from any specialization and develop a program of study tailored to your professional goals.

Film and Media Studies
- Film and television theory and criticism, media history, media industries, media texts, global media, and international film and television

Rhetoric and Civic Engagement
- Rhetorical criticism and theory, public address, feminist and queer theory, public memory, place and space, and public deliberation

Relational and Organizational Communication
- Communication theory, interpersonal, organizational, international, and intercultural communication, listening, and qualitative and quantitative research methods
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREES

M.A. in Communication Studies
Awarded program of distinction by the National Communication Association’s Master’s Education Section, our terminal M.A. in Communication Studies provides a foundational advanced degree that prepares you equally well for work inside and outside academe. We develop thoughtful scholars, innovative teachers, and skilled professionals.

Curriculum includes: Core courses in theory, criticism, and critical and social science research methods, elective coursework, and a thesis.

M.A. in Communication Studies, Deliberative Practices Specialization
This specialization allows students to work with the nationally recognized Center for Public Deliberation. The standard M.A. curriculum is augmented with public deliberation coursework and training to work as an impartial facilitator who can design and run deliberative events in our local community.

Curriculum includes: Core M.A. and elective coursework plus the deliberative practices core and an applied research project that supports the mission of the Center for Public Deliberation and/or contributes to public deliberation scholarship.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships
The M.A. funding package includes a 9-month Graduate Teaching Assistantship stipend and tuition waiver (for two years). We provide M.A. students with extensive pedagogical training and support. You will be the instructor of record in your own section of SPCM 200: Public Speaking. See Program Benefits & Perks for additional teaching opportunities.
PH.D. IN COMMUNICATION

Our doctoral program creates a cadre of scholars and practitioners capable of engaging with academic and professional communities to meet the challenges of our increasingly interdependent and globally diverse social worlds. You leave prepared for a variety of careers: academic jobs at research institutions, academic jobs at teaching institutions and community colleges, and practitioner/consulting jobs in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

For graduate students seeking a rigorous scholarly experience with maximum flexibility, look no further.

- The caliber of faculty is second to none in terms of publication track record, teaching expertise, and honors and awards received.
- Ph.D. students receive one-on-one mentoring by acclaimed scholars engaged in leading-edge research.
- Candidates develop programs of study tailored to their unique professional goals, choosing courses from across our three departmental areas of specialization.
- We train students as scholars, practitioners, and professionals who are well-prepared for the academic job market and skilled at translating their research for diverse civic and professional audiences.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

The Ph.D. funding package includes a 9-month Graduate Teaching Assistantship stipend and tuition waiver (for four years). Ph.D. students teach a variety of their own sections of core and upper-division undergraduate courses to enhance their competitiveness on the academic job market. See Program Benefits & Perks for additional teaching opportunities.
Diverse Teaching Assignments
- MA and PhD: Support undergraduate courses taught by tenure track faculty and large lecture recitations
- PhD: Teach a variety of upper-division classes

Research Experience
- Support tenure track faculty with grant-funded projects and summer research assignments

Scholarships & Funding
- Apply for annual Department and College of Liberal Arts endowed scholarships
- Grants to support thesis and dissertation research, including research site visits, travel to archives, survey and experiment costs, transcription fees, and compensating research participants

COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Communication Research Lab
Dedicated space to conduct interviews, focus groups, and experimental research, including VR and biomarker testing.

Center for Public Deliberation
Design and run deliberative processes on campus and in the community in partnership with nationally-recognized deliberation scholars.

ACT Human Rights Film Festival
Attend and help execute Colorado’s only weeklong film festival dedicated to human rights.

Graduate Certificates
Pursue certificates in gender studies, teaching, and other subjects.

DEPARTMENT RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS
Funding duration: M.A. 2 years  |  P.h.D. 4 years
Tuition covered. Student pays fees.
9-month stipend
Extensive training and professional mentoring, including graduate seminars in pedagogy and professional development, and one-on-one faculty mentoring.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL SUPPORT
Reimbursable expenses.
Amount varies by year and destination.
M.A. : 1 conference
P.h.D. : 2 conferences

COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAM BENEFITS & PERKS
We support graduate students earning advanced degrees in Communication from Colorado State University with comprehensive funding, competitive opportunities, and transformative resources.
Located on Colorado’s Front Range, Fort Collins has a population of 165,000 and is regularly listed as one of the top places to live in the United States. Old Town Fort Collins boasts a thriving cultural scene featuring music, art, theater, independent film, local cuisine, and some of the best microbreweries in the nation. More than 315 miles of bike routes and multi-use trails make navigating the city a breeze, while outdoor enthusiasts have limitless opportunity in the nearby Rocky Mountains for biking, hiking, skiing, fishing, rock climbing and much more. With the Poudre Canyon right next door and Denver an hour’s drive away, you will never be lacking for ways to unwind.

Selecting the right graduate program can be overwhelming. We invite you to talk with faculty and current M.A. or Ph.D. students to evaluate program fit. Start the conversation with an email to Dr. Anderson or our graduate studies coordinator. Better yet, come visit us in person.

Director of Graduate Studies: Dr. Karrin Anderson – karrin.anderson@colostate.edu
Graduate Studies Coordinator – Cla-commstudies_grad@mail.colostate.edu

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