

Undergraduate Preparatory Courses

The Master's of Arts in Communication Studies provides advanced study of human communication. Graduate students are expected to have a solid grasp of the fundamentals of communication studies before beginning the program. Students who come to the program with an undergraduate degree in communication are generally assumed to have received a basic understanding of these fundamentals from their undergraduate program, and may be eligible to enroll in the Core Communication Seminar (COMS 600) in the Fall semester during which they enter the program.

Students entering the program with an undergraduate degree in another field may be required to take undergraduate preparatory coursework in order to demonstrate competence in the basic fundamentals of Communication Studies as we approach them at CSUN. In some cases, students with a communication degree may also be required to take one or more of these courses. The necessity of undergraduate preparatory work will be determined in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator, but in general, students without a degree in Communication Studies can expect to be required to complete the following courses **prior to** being eligible for enrollment in COMS 600:

COMS 301. PERFORMANCE, LANGUAGE, & CULTURAL STUDIES

Study of the complex relationships among culture, language, and performance in communication. Examination of theory, behavior, practice and criticism from aesthetic and sociocultural perspectives, with emphasis on contemporary research in language, culture, and performance studies.

COMS 327. RHETORICAL THEORY

Theories of rhetoric from classical Greece and Rome to the present. Critical methodologies inherent in rhetorical theories of each period are applied to typical examples of public discourse of that period.

COMS 351. COMMUNICATION THEORY

Survey of multiple theoretical perspectives on the study of human communication. Examination of the relationships among communication theory and other areas of study within the field of Communication Studies.

In addition, students who enter the program without adequate preparation for graduate-level writing demands can expect to be required to complete the following course:

COMS 321. RHETORICAL DISCOURSE

Study of the language and principles of human communication through the production, analysis, and evaluation of rhetorical messages.

Undergraduate preparatory coursework must be completed **before** a student is eligible to enroll in graduate seminars or be fully classified as a graduate student. Students may apply to the program before finishing these requirements, but they must be finished in order to qualify for full classification in the program.