


# Master of Arts - Communication Studies

2 Graduate Program Change 2021-22

## I. General Information

The faculty member originating this proposal is to complete sections I and II.

TURN ON help text before starting this proposal by clicking  in the top right corner of the heading. You will need to turn on help text again after any actions that refresh the page including after saving proposals, importing information, or running impact reports.

IMPORT curriculum data from the Catalog by clicking  in the top left corner.

Do not make any changes to any information until the proposal has been launched in Step 4.

Department (s) (if Dual or Interdisciplinary please add all departments)\*

Communication Studies

Degree/ Certificate Name\*

Master of Arts - Communication Studies

Plan Code

Degree Type\*

Master of Arts

Program Type\*

Master's

## II. Program Changes

FILL IN ONLY fields required marked with an \* after importing data. You will not be able to launch the proposal without completing required fields. Do not make proposed changes to the information that was imported until after the proposal has been launched in Step 4. Changes will only be tracked after the proposal is launched

Are you changing admission

Yes  No

requirements?\*

Are you changing course requirements?  Yes  No

Are you changing degree completion requirements?  Yes  No

Are you changing the primary instructional mode?  Yes  No

Are you changing program learning objectives?  Yes  No

Are you changing the culminating experience?  Yes  No

If not a Dual itself, is this program also available as part of a Dual-Degree offering?  Yes  No

Other (e.g. subplan titles,...)  Yes  No

If yes, describe changes to learning objectives: N/A

**Provide a Brief Summary of Proposed Changes**

There are several changes being made to better support students and make the program competitive, these include:

1. Removal of the GRE as a required application material
2. Removal of the exam track option
3. Decrease of the required credits to graduate to 32 from 36 (removes 2 electives)
4. The creation of a new 1-credit professional development seminar I (COM 700) that students are required to take in their first semester to acclimate them to the program
5. The creation of a new 1-credit professional development seminar II (COM 701) that students are required to take in their last semester to assist them in progression and completion of the program and opportunities after graduate
6. Changes to the professional/scholar project to clarify expectations, clear removal of the exam track (currently on hold, not formally removed yet), has not been offered informally in several years, this also includes retitling the Scholarly Research Project track to Professional Project Track.
7. Some language in the graduate requirements were inconsistent with policy, and have been cleared up to clarify (e.g., 725 is not required of students, prospectuses do not have to be defended by Sept 15).
8. The creation of a new 3-credit culminating experience course for students completing the professional project track (COM 798).




**Provide a rationale for each proposed change**

For each change an explanation is offered below.

1. Removal of the GRE as a required application material; evidence increasingly shows that the GRE is not a clear measure of student learning or success. Instead, there will be a reliance on the remaining materials for submission (e.g., writing sample, personal statement).
2. Removal of the exam track option; almost no students apply to complete the exam track, removal of this line allows the two remaining options to align with the two tracks offered in the program.
3. Decrease of the required credits to graduate to 32 from 36 (removes 2 electives); this allows the department to remain competitive with M.A. COM programs around the country, and more immediately, in Nevada (UNR is 32 credits) and California (mostly 30-32 credit programs).
- 4 and 5. The creation of the two 1-credit professional development seminars (COM 700 and 701) that students are required to take both (first semester, last semester), required of all students; these two 1 credit courses formalize professional development opportunities for the students in the program and allow for clear guidance of all students as they start and end the program.
6. Changes to the professional/scholar project to clarify expectations; additional information outlining three approaches to the project are outlined in the handbook to help students in degree completion, removal of the exam option. Finally, retitling the Scholarly Project track to Professional Project better aligns with expected outcomes; students who complete this track are geared towards professional positions, and the new options help to facilitate success for students in these areas.
7. As norms and expectations change it is important to review and update the guide to reflect the best practices for students, COM 725 is no longer a required course, for example, and additional language was adjusted to clarify expectations for completion in line with university policies.
8. COM 798/Professional Project has been added so that students completing this track are completing the proper culminating experience course with hours assigned (3). Currently, we had no course designated for these students.

**Do not make any changes to any information until the proposal has been launched in Step 4.**

Follow these steps to change the program curriculum:

1. Click on  "View Curriculum Schema." Edit existing cores or click 'Add Core' and name your core (please use a comparable degree program in the current graduate catalog as a template). Edit or add any descriptive text (do not add courses until Step 2). Descriptive text is generally used in the following cores: Plan Description, Plan Admission Requirements, Plan Requirements, Plan Graduation Requirements.
2. There are two options for adding courses (see Step 3 to remove courses): "Add Course" and "Import Course." For courses already in the catalog, click on "Import Course" and find the courses needed. For new classes going through a Curriculog Approval Process click on "Add Course"-- a box will open asking you for the Prefix, Course Number and Course Title.
3. Click on  "View Curriculum Schema." Click on the area/header of the program where you would like to add courses. When you click on "Add Courses" it will bring up the list of courses available from Step 2. Select the courses you wish to add. For removing courses click on the  and proceed.

After you have launched proposal, update prospective curriculum here\*

## Plan Description

The Master of Arts program in the Department of Communication Studies brings together scholars interested in the various aspects of relational and public communication studies. The program prepares you for careers in the private sector, government agencies, or further educational opportunities. Our recent graduates are regularly accepted into top doctoral programs throughout the country. For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

## Plan Admission Requirements

**Application deadlines** Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website. Students complete a program of coursework that leads to them completing either a thesis or a professional project. Programs of study are designed to meet the student's individual, professional and/or personal objectives. Although an undergraduate degree in communication is not required for admission to the program, a student without a background in communication may be required to complete course work in addition to the minimum requirements. The Department of Communication Studies accepts applicants only in the fall semester of each year. Please see the application deadlines page for information regarding review of applications. All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements. Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

## Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below. Subplan 1: Thesis Track Subplan 2: Professional Project Track

## Subplan 1 Requirements: Thesis Track

Total Credits Required: 32

## Course Requirements

All students enrolled in the program are required to complete core courses in their first year.

### **Core Courses – Credits: 14**

Complete 14 credits by completing all of the following courses:

<b>COM 700 Professional Development Seminar I</b>	
<b>COM 710 Survey of Communication Studies</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 711 Rhetorical-Critical Research Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 712 Empirical Research Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 730 Theories of Communication</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 701 Professional Development Seminar II</b>	

### **Elective Courses – Credits: 12**

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved electives. A maximum of 6 credits can be taken outside the Department of Communication Studies.

### **Culminating Experience – Credits: 6**

Complete 6 credits of 797 (repeatable).

<b>COM 797 Thesis</b>	<b>3</b>
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### **Degree Requirements**

A student must complete a minimum of 26 credits of approved course work plus 6 credits of thesis credits. The classes may include six credits outside the Department of Communication Studies. An oral examination on the thesis is required. The Graduate Studies Coordinator will be the advisor for all entering students. Before completing 16 credits, the student should select a permanent advisor. The permanent advisor will work with the student through the completion of the program. The student's advisor must approve all course work. Acceptable course work is defined as any class in which a student receives a grade of B- or higher. Any required course graded C+ or below will not be included in the candidate's degree program. In consultation with their advisor, a student will organize a thesis committee of at least three departmental members. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and

department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines. The defense of the thesis may result in any of three decisions: pass, pass with further edits, no pass. The most common of these three results is the pass with further edits decision. These edits may range from simple editing of style, grammatical errors, and so forth, to extensive rewrites of entire sections of the thesis. The committee may decide to either "sign off" on the thesis or not at the time of this decision depending on the extent of the edits. The committee may also want to see the final edits or not. Signing off on the thesis means that the committee agrees to sign the appropriate forms for the completion of the thesis. Again, they may do that at the time of the defense, or at a later time after edits are completed. a. If the thesis passes outright, then the student will have no further edits except those that the Graduate College may request. The committee signs off on the thesis at the time of the defense. b. In the event that the student's thesis is not passed, the student will, at that time be severed from the program and will not be granted a Master of Arts degree.

## **Graduation Requirements**

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College as well as apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements. The student must submit and successfully defend their thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public. After the thesis defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their thesis to the Graduate College for format check. Once the thesis format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for thesis defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

## **Subplan 2 Requirements: Professional Project Track**

**Total Credits Required: 32**

## **Course Requirements**

All students enrolled in the program are required to complete core courses in their first year.

## **Core Courses – Credits: 14**

Complete 14 credits by completing all of the following courses:

<b>COM 700 Professional Development Seminar I</b>	
<b>COM 710 Survey of Communication Studies</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 711 Rhetorical-Critical Research Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 712 Empirical Research Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 730 Theories of Communication</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COM 701 Professional Development Seminar II</b>	

## **Elective Courses – Credits: 15**

Complete 15 credits of advisor-approved electives. A maximum of 6 credits can be taken outside the Department of Communication Studies.

## **Culminating Experience -- Credits: 3**

Complete one course:

**COM 798 Professional Project**

## **Degree Requirements**

The Professional Project Track entails the completion of 29 credits of course work and 3 credits toward a culminating experience which may be one of three projects: theoretical application project, resource guide project, or curriculum project. The classes may include six credits outside the Department of Communication Studies. An oral examination on the professional project is required. Students select a four-person committee: three departmental faculty, one of whom serves as chair, and one Graduate College representative. Students prepare and defend a prospectus by end of the third semester in the program, work primarily with the committee chair through development of the paper, and meet with the full committee in their final semester for a formal presentation and defense of the project. The Graduate Studies Coordinator will be the advisor for all entering students. Before completing 16 credits, the student should select a permanent advisor. The permanent advisor will work with the student through the completion of the program. The student's advisor must approve all course work. Acceptable course work is defined as any class in which a student receives a grade of B- or higher. Any required course graded C+ or below will not be included in the candidate's degree program. Professional Projects may be assessed as Pass, Pass with revisions, or Not Pass. Revisions may include—but are not limited to—minor stylistic changes, investigating Committee members' questions about substantive claims, revising sections of the argument, and so on. In some cases Committee members may want to see the final revisions; in other instances they may

members may want to see the final revisions; in other instances they may entrust the Chair to act on the Committee's behalf. In both cases, and when the initial judgment is Pass, Committee members will sign the required Graduate College documents the day of the Presentation. In cases that require more elaborate revision, or when a performance is assessed as Not Pass, the Committee will delineate the necessary course/s of action before the student leaves the Defense.

## Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College as well as apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements. The student must successfully complete and defend their professional project.

## Plan Graduation Requirements

Refer to your subplan for Graduation Requirements. Subplan 1: Thesis Track  
Subplan 2: Professional Project Track

The [Degrees Directory](#) provides current and consistent degree information. Submission of this form indicates acknowledgment and understanding that every department is responsible creating and maintaining accurate and updated program information on the UNLV Degrees Directory.

If the changes included on this form impact the program handbook attach the updated handbook before submitting this form. If you need a Word version of the most recent handbook please email [GradCurriculum@unlv.edu](mailto:GradCurriculum@unlv.edu).

If new courses are added as placeholders within this proposal, new courses must be created using a Course Create form simultaneously to the process of this proposal.

**Degrees Directory  
Program Entry\***

Check this box to acknowledge the above statement.

**Changes will be  
applicable to\***

- Current Students  
 New Students  
 Both Current and New Students

**If applicable to  
current students,  
changes are**

Mandatory  Optional


**Effective Date\***

Fall 2021



4. LAUNCH proposal by clicking  in the top left corner.

5. After launching the proposal, make all changes and fill in all additional fields.

6. Finish the launch of your proposal by clicking the icon  located in the Proposal Toolbox on left side at top. Make your decision, comment is optional, and click on "Make decision".

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.


### III. Department Vote Information

Note: This section is to be filled out by the Department Chair on behalf of the committee.

(The role has been assigned to the corresponding person on this step. If incorrect, please notify GradCurriculum@unlv.edu)

1. Review the proposal. Discuss and make appropriate revisions.

2. Fill in vote information.

3. Then go to the proposal toolbox at the top right side. Click on  and select the corresponding decision for the committee. This will enable the proposal to go to the next person on the workflow.

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.

If Dual or Interdisciplinary: add votes from all departments/colleges involved

(e.g. "Dpt A: .... / Dpt. B ....")

**Date faculty voted on proposal** 1/29/2021


**Result of vote** 7-0

**Manner of vote** online

### IV. Unit Vote Information

Note: This section is to be filled out by the College Committee Chair on behalf of the committee.

(The role has been assigned to the corresponding person on this step. If incorrect, please notify GradCurriculum@unlv.edu)

1. Review the proposal. Discuss and make appropriate revisions.
2. Fill in vote information.
3. Then go to the proposal toolbox at the top right side. Click on  and select the corresponding decision for the committee. This will enable the proposal to go to the next person on the workflow.

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.

If Dual or Interdisciplinary: add votes from all departments/colleges involved

(e.g. "College A: .... / College B ....")

**Date faculty voted on proposal** 3/5/2021

**Result of vote** 5-0 "Yes"

**Manner of vote** online

## V. Processing Notes (Graduate College/Registrar Use Only)

**Program Alerts (E.g. This program is no longer accepting applications)**

**PS Processing Notes**

**PS Processing Date**

**Initials**

**Aalog Processing Notes**

**Aalog Processing Date**

**Initials**

## Comments for Master of Arts - Communication Studies

<b>Curriculog</b>	4/7/2021 5:19 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Emily Lin has approved this proposal on Graduate College Dean.	
<b>Gregory Moody</b>	4/7/2021 11:51 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Vote in approval, WebEx meeting. 16-0	
<b>Curriculog</b>	4/7/2021 11:51 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Gregory Moody has approved this proposal on Graduate Programs Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	4/7/2021 10:19 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Graduate Curriculum has approved this proposal on Graduate Programs Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	3/8/2021 7:41 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Tara Emmers-Sommer has approved this proposal on School/College Associate Dean/Dean.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	3/8/2021 7:40 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Tara Emmers-Sommer has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	2/26/2021 3:28 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Communication Studies Chair has approved this proposal on Department Chair.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	2/11/2021 3:02 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Communication Studies Graduate Coordinator has approved this proposal on Graduate Coordinator.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	2/11/2021 1:21 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Graduate Curriculum has approved this proposal on Technical Review.	
<b>Natalierose Pennington</b>	2/8/2021 8:49 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Adjusted to add COM 798/updated handbook. Thanks!	
<b>Curriculog</b>	2/8/2021 8:49 am <a href="#">Reply</a>

Natalierose Pennington has approved this proposal on Originator.

**Graduate Curriculum**

2/8/2021 8:38 am [Reply](#)

moving back for editing together with originator.

**Curriculog**

2/8/2021 8:38 am [Reply](#)

Graduate Curriculum has rejected this proposal on Technical Review.

**Curriculog**

2/5/2021 2:24 pm [Reply](#)

Natalierose Pennington has approved this proposal on Originator.

**Graduate Curriculum**

2/5/2021 2:08 pm [Reply](#)

moving back for editing together with originator.

**Curriculog**

2/5/2021 2:08 pm [Reply](#)

Graduate Curriculum has rejected this proposal on Technical Review.

**Curriculog**

2/3/2021 9:38 am [Reply](#)

Natalierose Pennington has approved this proposal on Originator.

**Curriculog**

2/3/2021 9:12 am [Reply](#)

Natalierose Pennington has launched this proposal.

**Curriculog**

2/3/2021 9:05 am [Reply](#)

Natalierose Pennington imported from the map 2021-2022 Working Graduate Catalog into the following proposal fields: I. General Information: Degree/ Certificate Name, I. General Information: Degree Type, I. General Information: Program Type, II. Program Changes: After you have launched proposal, update prospective curriculum here.