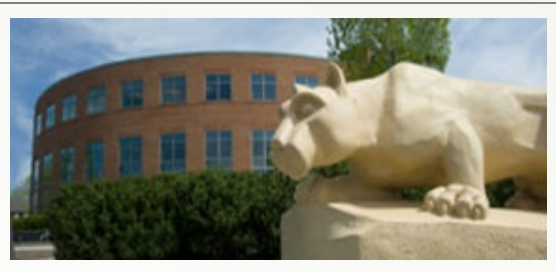


Master of Arts in Communications

The Master of Arts in Communications program seeks to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the communications discipline. The program emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach and is geared for professionals in a variety of fields, including government, private sector, non-profit, and community-based careers. Students in the program will be prepared for leadership positions in such fields as journalism, public relations, advertising, production, and media education, as well as for doctoral study.



Contact

Administrative Support Assistant

Amber Reichwein

anr244@psu.edu

+ 1 717 948 6201

Professor-in-Charge

Yonatan Tewelde, Ph.D

yxt5225@psu.edu

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PennState
Harrisburg

777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: 717-948-6189
Fax: 717-948-6724
harrisburg.psu.edu



PennState
Harrisburg

School of Humanities



**Master of Arts in
Communications**

Curriculum

Students admitted to the Master of Arts in Communications Program at Penn State Harrisburg must complete 36 credits, 21 of which must be at the 500 level in order to be granted the degree. Each student must complete and submit either a master's project or thesis. The master's project option (COMMS 580 Master's Project in Communications, 3-6 credits) consists of a creative production with an accompanying scholarly essay. The thesis option (COMMS 600 Thesis Research or COMMS 610 Thesis Research Off Campus, 6 credits) consists of an original research paper that follows the guidelines established by the Graduate School Thesis Office (see <http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/current/thesis.html>). The subject of the master's project or thesis must be defined in conjunction with a faculty member, and evaluated by a committee of at least two faculty members, supplemented by outside consultants where appropriate. To register for the master's thesis or project, a student must have completed COMMS 500 and COMMS 503 and must have earned at least 27 credits towards the Master of Arts in Communications.

Transfer of Credits

Transfer credits are limited to 9 equivalent graduate Communications credits with a grade of B or better taken within the last 5 years from an accredited institution. It must be the opinion of the reviewing faculty that these courses are equivalent in quality to those offered at Penn State Harrisburg. Credit will not be given for any course used to complete a previous degree.

Grade-Point Average and Time Limit

A 3.00 grade-point average will be required for successful completion of the degree.

A full-time student can expect to complete the program in four semesters, a part-time student in six or more semesters. All requirements for a master's degree for the M.A. in Communications (including acceptance of the master's thesis or project) must be met within eight years of admission to degree status. Extensions may be granted by the Graduate School in appropriate circumstances.

Courses

The 36-credit program is distributed over two groups of courses:

Prescribed Courses – 21-24 Credits

Take a minimum of 9-12 credits from the following :

COMMS 500 Seminar in Communications and Cultural Theory (3 cr.)
COMMS 503 Research Methods in Communications (3 cr.)
COMMS 580 Master's Project in Communications (3-6 cr.)
COMMS 600 or 610 Thesis Research (6 cr.)

[COMMS 500 and COMMS 503 to be taken within the first 12 credits after enrollment in the program. Students elect EITHER COMMS 580 or COMMS 600. **A minimum of 12 credits in prescribed courses are required if selecting the thesis option, COMMS 600**]

Choose 6 credits from ONE of the following:

COMMS 525 Advanced Writers' Seminar (3-9 cr.)
COMMS 568 Media Production Workshop (3-9 cr.)

Choose 6 credits from the following :

COMMS 519 Communications Technology and Culture in History (3 cr.)
COMMS 555 Media Discourse Analysis (3 cr.)
COMMS 560 Seminar in Global Culture and Communications (3 cr.)

Additional Courses – 15 Credits

Take 15 credits in additional courses at the 400- and 500-levels, which can come from either Communications or other fields, including:

American Studies, Business Administration, Community Psychology and Social Change, Criminal Justice, Education, Health Administration, Health Education, Humanities, Information Systems, Management, Marketing, Public Administration, Training and Development.

Visit for complete details.

Program Requirements for Admission

Requirements	More Information
GPA	A successful undergraduate record with a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
Supporting Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ A personal statement of 500 to 1000 words outlining educational goals and career objectives✓ Two letters of reference attesting to the applicant's suitability for the program, preferably from previous professors or others who are familiar with the applicant's intellectual/creative work or interests.✓ One of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ a writing sample✓ short film✓ photo essay✓ advertisement✓ PR campaign sample✓ multimedia art✓ etc ...

Exceptions may be made for those with special backgrounds or abilities who are committed to advanced interdisciplinary study in communications.

Application Deadline

Semester	Deadline
Fall	February 15
Spring	November 1