

COMMUNICATION

Program of Study

The Department of Communication and Journalism offers a Master of Arts and an Interdisciplinary Doctorate of Philosophy. The M.A. emphasizes a liberal arts curriculum in one of two major areas of interest: Communication or Mass Communication. Both areas of interest provide students with a) a broad understanding of historical and contemporary theories; b) the research skills necessary to explore and contribute knowledge; and c) the ability to apply their knowledge in varied settings. The I.Ph.D. program is designed for the student who desires a doctorate with a strong focus in the theory and research areas of Communication or Mass Communication and a secondary concentration in a discipline such as Psychology, English, Disability Studies, History, Women's Studies, and more. Doctoral students are expected to synthesize their chosen fields through their coursework and dissertation. All students are expected to demonstrate a holistic understanding of theory and research and to be competent analysts of literature appropriate to their program of study. The M.A. degree provides students with a broad foundation for doctoral study and for employment as communication specialists and professionals. The Ph.D. degree trains students to be future faculty and research scholars.

Research Facilities and Students

Our graduate students and faculty are active scholars. Graduate publications, conference papers and thesis titles indicate the kind of work that students produce. Our faculty research programs cover a broad range of issues and feature articles in leading scholarly journals as well as single-authored and edited books. For more information visit: www.cmj.umaine/graduate/index.html.

The department offers many research resources to its students, including digital taping equipment, a communication laboratory with computers for statistical analysis and data processing, and small group interviewing and research rooms to facilitate data collection and work on research projects. Complementing department resources, the Raymond Fogler Library provides students access to the major books and periodicals in the field and to library collections around the world.

The program enrolls approximately 25 students. Students come from Maine, from across the United States and Canada, and from such countries as Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Japan, and Thailand. Applicants typically have backgrounds in communication or mass communication, but also may have backgrounds in the humanities or social sciences.

Financial Aid

The department offers sixteen graduate teaching assistantships. All assistantships include a stipend (currently \$12,500 over nine months) and a tuition waiver for nine credits per semester, three in the summer. Normally, applications for assistantships will not be considered until after the candidate has submitted all materials required for admission to graduate study and has been accepted into the program. Graduate assistants may teach in basic Interpersonal Communication, Public Communication, and Oral Communication of literature, Introduction to Mass Communication, Writing for the Mass Media, Radio News, Techniques of Video Production, or Advanced Electronic Reporting and Production courses. Teaching assistants are part of a carefully supervised program and receive continual instruction in pedagogical practice and theory, accumulating over 45 hours of teacher training and mentoring across two years.

Applying

Students who wish to receive first-round consideration for the coming academic year are advised to have a completed application arrive in the department before February 1.

Correspondence

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Graduate Faculty

John Sherblom, Ph.D. (Maine, 1986), Professor and Chair. Organizational communication, communication technologies, research methods

Paul Grosswiler, Ph.D. (Missouri, 1990), Associate Professor. International mass communication, culture and technology, media ecology

Sunny Hughes, Ph.D. (Florida State University), Assistant Professor. Media law, broadcast journalism

Kristin M. Langellier, Ph.D. (Southern Illinois, 1980), Professor. Aesthetic communication, women and communication, phenomenological methods

Eric E. Peterson, Ph.D. (Southern Illinois, 1980), Professor. Philosophy of communication, mass communication, semiotics, and cultural studies

Nathan E. Stormer, Ph.D. (Minnesota, 1997), Associate Professor. Rhetorical theory and criticism, medical rhetoric. Graduate Coordinator

Claire F. Sullivan, Ph.D. (Washington, 1991), Associate Professor. Interpersonal communication, health communication