

Students receive a great deal of individual attention from faculty and have considerable flexibility in tailoring a course of studies to fit their individual needs. Part-time students are welcome and most classes are scheduled in the evening to accommodate those with daytime employment.

Students may concentrate either in Rhetorical Studies or in Performance Studies. In addition, students may choose a cognate area outside the School of Communication, such as political science, history, English or comparative literature.

Students may choose either a final project or a traditional thesis.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students must complete and return an application to the Dean of Graduate Admissions, 126 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549.

The application process includes:

1. Bachelor degree from an accredited institution.
2. Transcripts from all previous institutions of higher education.
3. Two letters of recommendations from faculty who can write in support of the applicants scholarship and potential ability to complete graduate level work.
4. An on-campus interview (or as arranged).
5. In order to be adequately prepared for graduate study, entering students should have taken at least 15 semester hours in the following undergraduate communication courses, earning at least a 3.0 GPA:
 - 3 s.h. in basic oral communication (theory and practice)
 - 3 s.h. in public speaking
 - 3 s.h. in performance studies
 - 3 s.h. in interpersonal communication
 - 3 s.h. in rhetorical studies (in addition to public speaking)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A limited number of partial scholarships are awarded for qualified students. Other student aid in the form of loans and work-study program may also be available.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. IN SPEECH COMMUNICATION AND RHETORICAL STUDIES

The M.A. in Speech Communication and Rhetorical Studies consists of the successful completion of 33 semester hours of course work:

Required Courses, 12 s.h.

SPCM 200	Introduction to Graduate Study, 3 s.h.
202	Research Methods in Communication, 3 s.h.
210	Performance Methods, 3 s.h.
226	Rhetorical Theory, 3 s.h.

Departmental Electives, 9 s.h.

SPCM 212	Performance History, 3 s.h.
214	Ethnography and Performance, 3 s.h.
216	Platform, Podium, and Performance, 3 s.h.
219	Advance Studies in Small Group Communication, 3 s.h.
220	Theories of Persuasion, 3 s.h.
221	Literature in Performance, 3 s.h.
222	Rhetoric and Popular Culture, 3 s.h.
224	Rhetorical Criticism, 3 s.h.

SPCM 230	Critical Approaches to Organizational Communication, 3 s.h.
232	Communication Rights and Ethics, 3 s.h.
250	Readings in Speech Communication, 3 s.h.
260	Advanced Seminar in Speech Comm. and Rhet. Studies, 3 s.h.

Elective Courses From Other Departments, 0-6 s.h.

To Be Chosen From:

ANTH 200	Fundamentals of Anthropology, 3 s.h.
250	Readings in Anthropology, 3 s.h.
288	Advanced Seminar in Anthropology, 3 s.h.
CLL 293	Analysis of Black Authors, 3 s.h.
DRAM 277, 278	Theater Methods in Educational Dramatics, 3 s.h. each
ELED 278	Writing and Children's Literature, 3 s.h.
ENGL 200	The Analysis of Prose, 3 s.h.
242	Playwriting Workshop, 3 s.h.
243	Personal Essay Writing Workshop, 3 s.h.
HIST 235	Studies in Long Island Regional History, 3 s.h.
HUM 203	Philosophy of Criticism, 3 s.h.
210	Studies in American Art and Culture Since 1900, 3 s.h.
LYST 209	Language, Culture, and Identity: Literacy Issues for Adolescents and Young Adults, 3 s.h.
223	Introduction to Critical Literary and Critical Media Studies, 3 s.h.
PSC 201	American Political Processes, 3 s.h.
251	Readings in Political Science, 3 s.h.

Non-Thesis Option, 3 s.h.

SPCM 302	Non-Thesis Project, 3 s.h.
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Thesis Option, 6 s.h.

SPCM 303	Thesis, 6 s.h.
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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Pass a written comprehensive examination.
2. Pass an oral defense of the thesis or non-thesis project.
3. Completion of all program requirements with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in overall graduate course work.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career paths open to students with graduate training in speech communication are many and varied. These include communication training and development, conflict management and resolution, law, corporate and public advocacy, industrial relations, personnel and human resources, advertising, management, sales, government service, community organization, education and public performance.

Employers consistently report that the number one quality they look for in new hires is the ability to communicate effectively, and that skilled communicators are very hard to find. Graduates of this program will be among the very best-trained communicators entering the job market in any of a very broad range of careers.

ADVISEMENT

Graduate students in the School of Communication should contact the Graduate Program Director to have an adviser/mentor assigned as soon as they arrive on campus. Students should meet with their adviser for scheduling of classes for each semester. Adviser/mentors are available throughout each semester.

SPCM 222 Periodically 3 s.h.
Rhetoric and Popular Culture
Seminar discussions link contemporary rhetorical theory with modern critical theory concerning the functions and analysis of popular culture. Readings examine rhetorical aspect of popular discourse, particularly as they define social relations and shape public perceptions of social reality.

SPCM 224 Periodically 3 s.h.
Rhetorical Criticism
This course introduces graduate students to a variety of perspectives and methods for critical analysis of rhetorical texts.

SPCM 226 Once a year 3 s.h.
Rhetorical Theory
This course explores traditional forms and function of rhetorical as persuasion in public address as well as contemporary theories of symbolic communication. A broad survey of rhetorical theory, from classical to 20th century, reviews rhetorical functions such as argumentative, critical inquiry, informative discourse, and epistemic formation. This course focuses primarily on the western rhetorical tradition, although attention is given to the contributions of nonwestern and nonpatriarchal cultures to contemporary theories. The course exposes students to significant theories for analyzing and constructing a variety of forms of public discourse.

SPCM 230 Periodically 3 s.h.
Critical Approaches to Organizational Communication
This course introduces students to critical theoretical, postmodern, and feminist approaches to the study of organizational communication. The course explicates the communicative dimensions of power, ideology, and hegemony to understand overt and subtle constraints on organizational behavior and dialogues.

SPCM 232 Periodically 3 s.h.
Communication Rights and Ethics
Communication in diverse contexts is shaped by the rights and constraints associated with expression. This course will introduce graduate students to legal and ethical considerations and precepts to explore the points at which legal and ethical issues of communication are in concert or conflict.

SPCM 250 Periodically 3 s.h.
Readings in Speech Communication
Designed to permit students to pursue an individualized plan of study in subject areas of interest under the guidance of a member of the speech communication faculty. Students must obtain the written approval of the faculty member with whom they will work in order to register.

SPCM 260 Periodically 3 s.h.
Advanced Seminar in Speech Communication and Rhetorical Studies
Presentation of an advanced topic that reflects broad understanding of communication theory and modes of analysis with relevance to the discipline. Through joint readings and individual research, students develop projects and papers relevant to the theme of the course. Topics vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

SPCM 302 3 s.h.
Non-Thesis Project
The non-thesis elective is a culminating independent article length research project or production conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. Students register with permission of their adviser.

SPCM 303 Fall, Spring 6 s.h.
Thesis
The thesis elective is a culminating independent research project conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. Students register with the permission of adviser.