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.
- SPCM 202 Research Methods in Communication, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 210 Performance Methods, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 226 Rhetorical Theory, 3 s.h.

**Departmental Electives, 9 s.h.**
- SPCM 212 Performance History, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 214 Ethnography and Performance, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 216 Platform, Podium, and Performance, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 219 Advance Studies in Small Group Communication, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 220 Theories of Persuasion, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 221 Literature in Performance, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 222 Rhetoric and Popular Culture, 3 s.h.
- SPCM 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.

Thesis Option, 6 s.h.
  SPCM 303 Thesis, 6 s.h.

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 advisor/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.
WRHU-FM

Hofstra’s radio station, WRHU-FM, broadcasts on a federally-licensed frequency of 88.7 MHz to most of Long Island and parts of New York City. The station is on the air 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and reaches a target audience of almost four million people. It is mainly student operated and is a cornerstone of the School. Open to all Hofstra students, participation at WRHU is recommended as one of the most effective methods of learning the business of radio broadcasting and audio production since it offers a practicum which complements academic classroom learning. WRHU has an operating staff of approximately 110 people.

(SPCM) Courses

SPCM 200  Once a year  3 s.h.
Introduction to Graduate Study
This course provides a “road map” of the field of human communication studies and the graduate educational experience. Students will be introduced to the breadth of the field, major authors, and works in the discipline, and conventions of scholarly writing.

SPCM 202  Once a year  3 s.h.
Research Methods in Communication
This course is designed to improve the ability to understand, critique, and begin conducting communication research. Students are introduced to a variety of critical research techniques and tools.

SPCM 210  Once a year  3 s.h.
Performance Methods
This course introduces graduate students to a variety of methodological approaches to performance studies and the objects or sites of performance those methods presume, construct, and privilege.

SPCM 212  Periodically  3 s.h.
Performance History
This course examines the subject of performance history in the United States, introduces students to methods involved in conducting historical research in performance studies, and addresses current theoretical questions of historiography.

SPCM 214  Periodically  3 s.h.
Ethnography and Performance
This course explores the relationship of performance to the study and writing of cultures. The course begins with the influences of anthropology and theatre on ethnography and traces various methods, theories, and practices of ethnography that have emerged within performance studies.

SPCM 216  Periodically  3 s.h.
Platform, Podium, and Performance
This course explores the nineteenth-century as a significant moment in the development of women’s public voice. The course investigates the texts, rhetorical strategies, historical contexts, and perception of several significant nineteenth-century female orators and contrasts these public performances with those of actresses and platform readers whose public performances were designed to “entertain” or “educate” their audiences.

SPCM 219  Periodically  3 s.h.
Advance Studies in Small Group Communication
Study and practice in public address for educators, administrators and other school personnel. The course includes experiences in a variety of speaking situations, types and forms of discussion and parliamentary procedure. Problem-solving and decision-making conferences and meetings, conference leadership experiences are included. Prerequisite: undergraduate study in public speaking, debate or small group communication or permission of instructor.
(Formerly SPCH 211, Discussion, Conference Leadership and Public Address)

SPCM 220  Periodically  3 s.h.
Theories of Persuasion
This course examines diverse theories of the communication associated with the development, maintenance, and modification of beliefs, attitudes, opinion and action with particular emphasis on public address, advertising, and political campaigns.

SPCM 221  Periodically  3 s.h.
Literature in Performance
Provides an experience in the communication of literature to an audience. Oral and theatrical techniques are combined to project the work of the author to stimulate and excite the imagination of the audience. This course is particularly geared to teachers.
(Formerly SPCH 222, Interpreters Theater)
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.