

College of Arts and Humanities Mission and Goals
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

College Mission

The College of Arts and Humanities cultivates the appreciation and practice of forms of creative, intellectual, and cultural expression, the understanding of values and issues raised by those forms of expression, and the ability to think critically and to communicate effectively.

Reporting on College Goal Statements

Our achievements each year are related to our College Goal Statements. We are briefly reporting on progress made during this past year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).

1. To offer quality undergraduate and graduate programs that engage students in effective learning communities and prepare students for professional careers or advanced study.

The Speech Communication Department offers two tracks for undergraduate majors: a Bachelor of Science (BS) and a Bachelor of Arts (BA). The primary distinction between the BS and the BA is the modern language requirement for the BA. The Department also offers a comprehensive major in cooperation with the English Department. The joint major is the Communication Arts and Literature (CAL). The Department has approximately 75-100 majors in the BA/BS program and 35-50 in the CAL program.

The Speech Communication Department offers five tracks for graduate students: a Master of Science (internship), a Master of Arts (alternate plan paper), a Master of Arts (thesis), a Master of Fine Arts (thesis), and a Professional Communication graduate certificate (12 credits). The Department has under review a proposed additional graduate certificate in Communication Education (16 credits). The Department has approximately 30 students in the graduate program.

The Department initiated the NFL Project in 2008-2009. The purpose of the project is to provide continuing education units (CEUs) and graduate credits to high-school teachers with an interest in forensics. The program is entirely online and has attracted national interest.

2. To offer general education courses that encourage students to acquire disciplined habits of critical thinking and creative expression, thus enabling students to make and communicate enlightened judgments.

The Speech Communication Department offered approximately 125 sections (serving more than 3,000 students) of general education courses. The number of general education sections offered is comparable to previous years. All our general education courses involve preparing students to appropriately and effectively engage in strong communication practices in their personal, public, and professional lives.

3. To promote creative and scholarly expression through exhibitions, performances, lectures, and discussions that will engage the campus and the general public in the arts and humanities.

The Speech Communication Department sponsored more than 1,300 competitive speaking opportunities, sponsored public performances by the debate and individual-events teams, sponsored the Relay for Life, sponsored the annual Communication Day in February, and sponsored Andreas Visiting Scholars. A full list of activities is available online at <http://www.mnsu.edu/spcomm/news/>

4. To offer students opportunities to engage in meaningful practice within their disciplines.

The Speech Communication Department provided multiple opportunities for students to engage in meaningful practices. Approximately one-fourth of all majors have internships and/or teaching internships. The Department sponsored more than 1,300 competitive public speaking and debate presentations. The Department sponsored students to the Undergraduate Research Conference, the Graduate Research Conference, the *URC Journal*, state, regional, national and a campus-wide public performances. A full list of opportunities is available online at <http://www.mnsu.edu/spcomm/news/>

5. To engage in scholarship, research, and creative activity—using appropriate technologies—that will contribute to faculty development and to the professions and society.

The Speech Communication Department published 18 articles, has 18 manuscripts currently in review, participated in 41 conference presentations, participated in 44 public presentations, and received 10 grants to support research and creative activity in the Department. All faculty members in the department were involved in at least one scholarly activity during the academic year.

6. To provide advising and support services that will aid students in academic and career planning.

The Speech Communication Department provided regular advising of undergraduate and graduate students; provided advising and support for university, state, regional, and national research projects, presentations, and publications. The Speech Communication Department had a significant number of students involved in research presentations, projects, publications and master's-level capstone projects. The Speech Communication Department has developed a strong link with the MSU Career Development Center which now provides regular presentations in many of our classes. The Speech Communication Department hosted its annual Communication Day in February. The Department had numerous graduate students earn their master's degrees. The Department had graduate students admitted to doctoral programs, and undergraduates admitted to master's programs. A full list is available online at <http://www.mnsu.edu/spcomm/news/>

7. To encourage students to be lifelong learners who recognize the interrelatedness of all knowledge in a diverse, global society.

The Speech Communication has focused on recruitment of persons of diversity. The result is an increase of such students applying for and being admitted to our graduate programs. Forensics has been successful in recruiting and retaining students who meet both cultural diversity and affirmative action standards.

Any final or summary comment on accomplishments of the department during this past year regarding the mission statement at the beginning of this document:

Curriculum

Major curriculum overhaul – Department has spent considerable time reviewing the entire undergraduate and graduate curriculum with significant changes to be proposed in the 2009-2010 academic year.

MSU-NFL Project – Department has entered into an agreement with the National Forensic League to provide online continuing education units (CEUs) and online graduate credits to the 15,000 high-school teachers who belong to the NFL.

New Identity

The third time was the charm as the department proposed and was approved to change its name from Speech Communication to Communication Studies.