

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Master of Fine Arts—Forensics

(48-credit program)

The Master of Fine Arts Forensics degree is a terminal degree for forensic professionals. Persons who wish to teach and direct forensics programs at the college level will find the MFA an appropriate, tenurable degree at many four-year institutions. The degree certifies intense study of the theory and practice of public performance for students whose career aspirations are outside of collegiate forensics and teaching.

Major Core Courses – 21-24 credits

CMST 509 Performance Studies (3 cr)
CMST 535 Forensics Pedagogy (3 cr)
CMST 560 Advanced Argumentation and Debate (3cr)
CMST 600 Seminar in Communication Theory (3 cr)
CMST 601 Communication Research Methods (3 cr)
CMST 602 Communication Pedagogy (3 cr)
CMST 603 Strategies: Basic (0 cr)

Note: 603 only required of graduate teaching assistants

CMST 630 Forensics Practicum (3 cr)

CMST 650 Capstone Prospectus (0 cr)

Note: 601 is a prerequisite for Capstone Prospectus

CMST 651 Comprehensive Exams (0 cr)

Note: 601 is a prerequisite for Comprehensive Exam

Major Restricted Electives – 12 creditsOrganization/Conflict - Choose 3 credits

CMST 512 Organizational Communication (3 cr)

CMST 545 Conflict Management (3 cr)

Intercultural/Interpersonal - Choose 3 credits

CMST 613 Advanced Intercultural Communication (3 cr)

CMST 621 Advanced Interpersonal Communication (3 cr)

Rhetoric - Choose 3 credits

CMST 515 Topics in Rhetoric and Culture (3 cr)

CMST 620 Modern Rhetorical Criticism (3 cr)

Research Methods Course – 3 credits

CMST 611 Qualitative Research Methods (3 cr)

Unrestricted ElectivesRequired Communication Studies Electives

Choose 9 credits from 5/600-level courses in Communication Studies in consultation with an advisor.

Required Supporting Field Electives

Choose 6 credits from 5/600-level courses in a supporting field in consultation with an advisor.

Capstone: Thesis - 6 credits

CMST 699 (6 cr)

Fifty percent (50%) of all coursework must be at the 600 level, not including thesis or alternate plan credits.

A maximum of six (6) graduate credits from "NFL" courses

may be applied toward satisfactory completion of the MFA-Forensics. The limit may be waived with consent of a student's graduate advisor. **Admission to the MFA-Forensics Program**
A GPA of 3.0 or better in undergraduate courses and a 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate work. GRE scores not required.

Send the following to the College of Graduate Studies:

1. Completed Application for Graduate Study online at <https://secure.mnsu.edu/graduate/>
2. Two official transcripts from undergraduate degree-granting institution(s)
3. Completed immunization form online at <http://grad.mnsu.edu/forms/immunization.pdf>
4. A \$40 fee is required of applicants.
College of Graduate Studies and Research, 115 Alumni Foundation Center, Mankato, MN 56001

Send to the Communication Studies Department:

1. Three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to assess competence as a Communication Studies scholar.
2. Writing sample demonstrating research, sound analysis, organization and evidence (e.g., term paper, convention paper, professional report).
3. Statement of personal, educational and professional goals.
*Beth Teigen, Office Administrator
Department of Communication Studies
Armstrong Hall 230
Mankato, MN 56001*

If an applicant does not meet the requirements, admission may be granted on a provisional basis.

Additional Requirements for Admission to the Online Program

Admission is contingent on approval from the Graduate Coordinator, Director of Forensics, and the Assistant Director of Forensics in the Department of Communication Studies.

Criteria used when granting admission:

1. Significant experience as a forensic competitor and/or coach.
2. Documented need to complete program online rather than on-campus.
3. Documentation the student can complete the practicum course (CMST 630) with a forensic program the Director of Forensics approves as providing the necessary experiential components.
4. Documentation of an "on-site supervisor" who can verify required hours for CMST 630.