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## SPEECH COMMUNICATION

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### SPEECH COMMUNICATION MA, MS

### SPEECH COMMUNICATION MFA

College of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Speech Communication  
230 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2213

Chair: Daniel Cronn-Mills, Ph.D.  
Graduate Coordinator: Daniel Cronn-Mills, Ph.D.

Kathryn Cady, Ph.D.; Daniel Cronn-Mills, Ph.D.; Fernando Delgado, Ph.D.; David Engen, Ph.D.; Martine Harvey, Ph.D.; Nanette Johnson-Curiskis, Ph.D.; Scott Olson, Ph.D.; Warren Sandmann, Ph.D.; Kristen Treinen, Ph.D.; Leah White, Ph.D.

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Speech Communication offers programs leading to the Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and the Master of Science degrees. Programs are available for all students who have a bachelor's degree. Students must complete graduate courses in communication theory and research methods and may design the remainder of their program with the approval of the Graduate Coordinator in Speech Communication.

Admission. In addition to completing the minimum requirements for the College of Graduate Studies and Research, students must also have a GPA of 2.75 or better in overall undergraduate studies and a 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate work. In one packet, students should submit the following items: three completed Recommendation for Master's Program forms from individuals qualified to judge competence in speech communication scholarship; (e.g., a writing sample demonstrating research, sound analysis, organization and evidence such as a term paper, convention paper, professional report), and a statement of personal, educational and professional goals.

The Graduate Coordinator examines applications and determines if requirements have been met. If an applicant does not meet the requirements, admission may be provisional. Probationary status will be provided for applicants with an undergraduate degree whose GPA is below admission standards under the following conditions: Acceptable performance on the GRE of 1380 and at least one subtest of 500 OR acceptance of a student petition and contingency of adherence to contract terms formulated by graduate faculty. Completion of the contract requirements will result in a change to a regular admission status.

SPEECH COMMUNICATION MA  
(Thesis Plan 33 credits)  
(Alternate Paper Plan 35 credits)

Required Speech Communication Core (6-9 credits)  
SPEE 600 Seminar in Communication Theory (3)  
SPEE 601 Communication Research Methods (3)  
SPEE 602 Communication Pedagogy (3)  
SPEE 603 Strategies: Basic (0)\*  
\*required only of Graduate Teaching Assistants

Required Speech Communication Electives  
(12-15 credits)  
Choose 5/600 level electives in consultation with an advisor

Required Supporting Field Electives (6-9 credits)  
Choose any 5/600 level related elective in consultation with an advisor

Required Thesis or Alternate Plan Paper (2-6 credits)  
SPEE 694 Alternate Plan Paper (2 credits)  
SPEE 699 Thesis (3-6 credits)

Appropriate research tools such as ethnography, critical analysis, language, statistics or others may be required by the department. No P/N credit is acceptable in fulfilling major requirements except in the case of theses, practicums, internships, in-service courses and individual study, and then only by special permission of the department. Fifty percent (50 percent) of all coursework must be at the 600 level, not including thesis or alternate plan.

SPEECH COMMUNICATION MFA-FORENSICS

(Thesis Option - 48 credits)

The Master of Fine Arts Forensics degree is a terminal degree for forensic professionals. Students who wish to teach and direct forensics programs at the college level will find the MFA is appropriate, tenurable degree at many four-year institutions around the country. The degree additionally certifies intense study of the theory and practice of communicative public performance for those students whose career aspirations are outside of collegiate forensics and teaching. Those students will find the degree as appropriate training for careers as a communication consultant, a motivational speaker and a communication trainer.

Required Speech Communication Core (30 credits)  
SPEE 509 Performance Studies (3)  
SPEE 530 Directing Forensic Activities (3)  
SPEE 600 Seminar in Communication Theory (3)  
SPEE 601 Communication Research Methods (3)  
SPEE 602 Communication Pedagogy (3)  
SPEE 603 Strategies: Basic\* (0)  
SPEE 630 Forensics Practicum (3)  
SPEE 699 Thesis (3-6; max of three applied to program)  
\*required only of Graduate Teaching Assistants

Choose one course from:  
SPEE 512 Organizational Communication (3)  
SPEE 545 Conflict Management (3)

Choose one course from:  
SPEE 513 Advanced Intercultural Communication (3)  
SPEE 621 Advanced Interpersonal Communication (3)

Choose one course from:  
SPEE 500 American Public Address (3)  
SPEE 501 Rhetoric of Western Thought (3)  
SPEE 620 Modern Rhetorical Criticism (3)

Choose one course from:  
SPEE 504 Teaching Speech Communication (3)  
SPEE 633 Communication for Professionals (3)

Required Speech Communication Electives (9 credits)  
Choose 5/600 level electives in consultation with an advisor.

Required Supporting Field Electives (6 credits)  
Choose any 5/600 level related electives in consultation with an advisor.

Appropriate research tools such as ethnography, critical analysis, language, statistics or others may be required by the department. No P/N credit is acceptable in fulfilling major requirements except in the case of thesis, practicums, internships, in-service courses and individual study, and then only by special permission of the department. Fifty percent (50 %) of all coursework must be at the 600 level, not including thesis or alternate plan.

SPEECH COMMUNICATION MS  
(Project Option - 36 credits)

Required Speech Communication Core (15-18 credits)  
SPEE 600 Seminar in Communication Theory (3)  
SPEE 601 Communication Research Methods (3)  
SPEE 602 Communication Pedagogy (3)  
SPEE 603 Strategies: Basic (0)\*  
SPEE 697 Internship (6-9)  
\*required only of Teaching Assistants

Required Speech Communication Electives (12-15 credits)  
Choose 5/600 level electives in consultation with an advisor

Required Supporting Field Electives (6 credits)  
Choose any 5/600 level related elective courses

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPEE 500 (3) American Public Address: A Tradition

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Survey of significant American speakers and their speeches from the colonial period to the Twentieth Century.

**SPEE 501 (3) Rhetoric of Western Thought**

The course explores the history of rhetoric and communication from the ancient Greeks to the present day. The course is designed for students interested in expanding their understanding of rhetoric as a force in contemporary intellectual, political, and academic fields.

**SPEE 503 (3) Gender and Communication**

**SPEE 504 (3) Teaching of Speech Communication**

This course is designed to fulfill the Secondary Licensure requirement. The course covers teaching methods and materials needed to develop speech communication units for the secondary speech communication courses.

**SPEE 509 (3) Performance Studies**

This course is an overview of key performance studies concepts, including cultural performance, performance of everyday life, theories of play, social influence, and identity performance. Students will develop and present performances as a means to understand theoretical concepts.

**SPEE 512 (3) Organizational Communication**

This course is designed to develop an understanding of speech communication in the organizational context. The course will aid each individual in working more effectively within any type of organization through exposure to major theories and works in the area of organizational communication.

**SPEE 513 (3) Advanced Intercultural Communication**

This course explores the reasons we have difficulty communicating with people from other cultures, why misunderstandings occur, and how to build clearer and more productive cross-cultural relationships.

**SPEE 530 (3) Directing Forensic Activity**

Methods and techniques in the development of competitive speech programs.

**SPEE 540 (1-3) Special Topics**

A course designed for students who have a general interest in speech communication. Content of each special topics course will be different. May be retaken for credit.

**SPEE 545 (3) Conflict Management**

**SPEE 600 (3) Seminar in Communication Theory**

An introduction to the communication field focusing on theory construction and the function of communication theory/models in the human experience. Contemporary theories of communication will be reviewed.

**SPEE 601 (3) Communication Research Methods**

Graduate students will gain a basic understanding of the Social Science research process as it applies to the field of communication. Quantitative and qualitative research designs, methods, and data analysis procedures will be reviewed. Students will research and prepare a research proposal document.

**SPEE 602 (3) Communication Pedagogy**

Required of all graduate students in the Department of Speech Communication. Surveys traditional pedagogical theories as well as critical pedagogical theories as they pertain to teaching communication courses.

**SPEE 603 (0) Strategies: Basic**

Open only to teaching assistants of basic course in Speech Communication. Covers course design, course evaluation, methodologies for skill development, and related topics.

**SPEE 619 (3) Rhetorical Criticism**

**SPEE 620 (3) Modern Rhetorical Criticism**

This course includes the skills in the analysis, application, and evaluation of argumentative communication.

**SPEE 621 (3) Advanced Interpersonal Communication**

This course explores and critically examines interpersonal communication theory development, current research and leading theoretical perspectives, and potential applications in contemporary interpersonal communication contexts and relationships.

**SPEE 630 (3) Forensics Practicum**

This course is designed to help prepare students for their professional roles as directors or assistant directors of collegiate or high school forensics programs.

**SPEE 633 (3) Communication for Professionals**

This course is designed to enhance the communication skills of professionals. Students will learn theory and techniques of presentation for academic conferences, professional meetings, business and industry presentations, interviews, and group meetings. The use of technology in professional communication will be highlighted.

**SPEE 640 (1-3) Special Topics**

This course provides both graduate students and faculty the opportunity to work together with a specific theme that is timely and relevant to the field. May be repeated for credit.

**SPEE 677 (1-6) Individual Study**

Advanced independent study.

**SPEE 690 (1-4) Workshop**

Topics vary as announced in class schedules.

**SPEE 694 (1-2) Alternate Plan Paper**

Review and interpretation of a body of research.

**SPEE 697 (1-12) Internship**

Provides first-hand experience in applying communication theories in the workplace under the direction of an on-site supervisor.

**SPEE 699 (3-6) Thesis**

Original research which meets accepted research standards.