Welcome to the Maverick Forensic Program! By choosing to participate with this program you are joining a group of impressive Minnesota State University, Mankato students and alumni. Your involvement with competitive forensics has the potential to be one of the most defining experiences of your university career. This handbook is intended to help you familiarize yourself with the program’s history, policies and procedures.

**Program History**

The Minnesota State University, Mankato forensic program began in January 1931 when a group of students under the leadership of Selma E. Mellgren, head of the Speech Department, met to discuss procedures for the development of the school’s first debate team. Individual event competition was added to the program with the inception of this branch of forensic activity in the 1970s.

The history of the program is unique for two key reasons; the longevity of the program and the significant influence program leaders have had on forensic practice and education. First, Maverick forensics is not only one of the oldest student organizations on the MNSU campus, but also one of the original and most consistently active Individual Events teams in the nation. Minnesota State University, Mankato is one of less than 10 colleges or universities to have attended every American Forensic Association – National Individual Events Tournament since the event’s inception. The longevity of the program is a testament to the presence of strong institutional support as well as decades of influential program leadership.

The history of Maverick forensics is also unique due to the influence program participants have had on forensic practice and education. Most notably, Professor Larry Schnoor served as the Director of Forensics at Minnesota State University from 1964-1993. Larry Schnoor helped develop the concept for the National Individual Events Tournament, and was instrumental in creating many of the descriptions for our current competition events. He has been the recipient of the 2007 Wallace A. Bacon Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award, the AFA-NIET Distinguished Service Award, the AFA Distinguished Service Award, as well as the District IV Service Award. In his “retirement,” he currently serves as the Tournament Director for the AFA-NIET, is the President of the National Forensic Association, and Executive Secretary of the Interstate Oratorical Association. Dan Cronn-Mills followed Larry Schnoor as the Director of Forensics serving until 2003. Dr. Cronn-Mills has also been an outstanding leader in forensics. Most notably he conceived and developed the first Master of Fine Arts degree (MFA-Forensics) in communication studies in the nation, developed the computer processes used for scheduling and tabulating two of the major national tournaments, developed the Online Index of Forensic Research, and was elected as the first individual-events oriented scholar to the presidency of the American Forensic Association since the organization’s inception in 1949.

Members of the Maverick Forensic program should be exceptionally proud of being part of a forensic team that not only maintains a high level of national competitive success, but also has been one of the most influential programs on the development of forensic pedagogy and scholarship.
National Elimination Round Results (data prior to 1995 is still incomplete)

1978 – AFA-NIET
Rick Lamers 5th Poetry
Diane McBride 4th After Dinner
Rick Lamers SF Prose
Nancy Sutlief QF Prose
Nancy Sutlief QF Poetry
Kris Lindvall QF Poetry
Mary DeLeon and Nancy Sutlief QF Duo

1979 – AFA-NIET
Terry Keil 10th place Individual Sweepstakes
Don Parker 8th place Individual Sweepstakes
Terry Keil 1st place Dramatic
4th Place Team Sweepstakes

1979 – NFA
Terry Kiel/ Teri Subialka 5th Duo
Don Parker 6th 4th Persuasive
Don Parker SF Rhetorical Criticism

1981 – AFA-NIET
Jayne Dressen 2nd ADS

1982 – AFA-NIET
Jayne Dressen 5th After Dinner
Jayne Dressen QF Prose
Jayne Dressen QF Poetry

1982 – NFA
Jayne Dressen QF After Dinner
Jayne Dressen QF Poetry

1985 – AFA-NIET
Patty Klugherz 2nd place Prose
Kathleen Propp 2nd place Informative
8th Place Team Sweepstakes

1985 – NFA
Ruth Watry QF Informative
Scott Dickmeyer QF Poetry
Julie Beckman SF Informative
Julie Beckman 4th Poetry
Karen Susag SF Poetry
Lori VanOverbeke QF Persuasion
Diana Gering SF After Dinner
Patty Klugherz 4th Prose
Patty Klugherz 2nd Poetry
6th Place Open Team Sweepstakes

1986 – AFA-NIET
Dan Mills SF Dramatic

1986 – NFA
Lori VanOverbeke QF Persuasive

1987 – NFA
Ruth Watry QF Informative
Scott Dickmeyer QF Poetry
Julie Beckman SF Informative
Julie Beckman 4th Poetry
Karen Susag SF Poetry
Lori VanOverbeke QF Persuasion
Diana Gering SF After Dinner
Patty Klugherz 4th Prose
Patty Klugherz 2nd Poetry
6th Place Open Team Sweepstakes
1988 – AFA-NIET
John Perlich and Karen Susag 5th place Duo

1989 – AFA-NIET
Diana Gering 3rd After Dinner

1989 – NFA
10th Place Open Team Sweepstakes

1990 – NFA
8th Place Open Team Sweepstakes

1991 – AFA-NIET
13th Team Sweepstakes
Bill Hofius 4th Impromptu
Jeff Cook 2nd Poetry

1991 - NFA
Grace Gullette SF Impromptu
Nicole Owren QF Persuasive
Nicole Owren SF Poetry
Scott Voss SF Prose
Jeff Cook 3rd Poetry

1992 – NFA
Jeff Cook 4th Poetry
Gretchen Trende QF Informative

Note: Team did not attend
NFA 1993-2004

1995 – AFA-NIET
Dimitri Langston-Wiebe SF After Dinner
Naomi Marietta SF Communication Analysis
Al Golden – QF Prose

1996 – AFA-NIET
Dimitri Langston-Wiebe SF Impromptu
Laurel Waldoch QF Communication Analysis
Sara Lindberg QF Informative

1998 – AFA-NIET
Chelsea Dullard QF Dramatic
Seth Michael Smith SF Impromptu

1999 – AFA-NIET
Laurel Waldoch 5th Communication Analysis
Seth Michael Smith QF Persuasion

2000 – AFA-NIET
Anne Gerbensky QF Persuasion
2001 – AFA-NIET
Seth Michael Smith QF After Dinner
Seth Michael Smith QF Communication Analysis
Seth Michael Smith SF Impromptu
Seth Michael Smith SF Persuasive
Seth Michael Smith SF Extemporaneous
Seth Michael Smith 18th Place Individual Sweepstakes
Chad Kuyper QF After Dinner

2002 – AFA-NIET
Chad Kuyper QF After Dinner
Chad Kuyper QF Dramatic
Chad Kuyper QF Prose

2003 – AFA-NIET
Chad Kuyper SF Dramatic

2005 – AFA-NIET
Matthew Collie SF Impromptu
Matthew Collie QF Extemporaneous

2005 - NFA
Matthew Collie QF After Dinner
Matthew Collie SF Impromptu
Matthew Collie SF Extemporaneous
Matthew Collie 4th Informative
Matthew Collie 3rd Rhetorical Criticism
Matthew Collie 5th Individual Sweepstakes

2006 – AFA-NIET
Matthew Collie SF Extemporaneous
Matthew Collie QF Impromptu
Matthew Collie 5th Persuasive
Matthew Collie 19th Individual Sweepstakes
19th Team Sweepstakes

2006 - NFA
Matthew Collie 4th Extemporaneous
Matthew Collie 2nd Impromptu
Matthew Collie 3rd Rhetorical Criticism
Matthew Collie SF Persuasive
Matthew Collie 4th Individual Sweepstakes
8th Open Team Sweepstakes

2007 – NFA
Emily Kofoed QF Informative
Emily Kofoed SF Persuasive
Emily Kofoed QF Rhetorical Criticism
Jason Reisch SF After Dinner

2008 – NFA
Sarah Walker QF Persuasive

2009 – AFA-NIET
Jason Reisch QF Dramatic
Jason Reisch QF ADS

2009 - NFA
Jason Reisch SF Prose
Grant Anderson 2nd Persuasive
2010 – AFA-NIET
Jason Reisch QF Dramatic

2011 – AFA-NIET
Suzanne Lumberg QF Prose
Suzanne Lumberg QF POI

2012 – AFA-NIET
Skylar Carlson SF Persuasion

2013 – AFA-NIET
Rebekah Buege QF Persuasion
Cade Shelton QF POI

2014 – AFA-NIET
Rebekah Buege QF Persuasion

2010 - NFA
Suzanne Lumberg QF Persuasive
Justin Hathaway QF Persuasive
Jason Reisch QF Dramatic

2011 – NFA
Suzanne Lumberg QF Rhetorical Criticism
Suzanne Lumberg QF ADS
Suzanne Lumberg 2nd Informative
Skylar Carlson 6th Persuasive

2012 - NFA
Bradford Wakefield QF Dramatic
Bradford Wakefield 3rd ADS

2014 - NFA
Rebekah Buege – QF Prose
Rebekah Buege – QF Dramatic
Cade Shelton – QF ADS
Paige Russell – QF Prose

INTERSTATE ORATORY:
1972 = Jan Bjorklund – 3rd (women’s division)
1976 = Deadra Longworth – 3rd
1979 = Donald Parker – 1st
1986 = Lori Van Overbeke - Semi Finalist
1987 = Ruth Watry – 5th
1989 = Heidi Hinds - Semi Finalist
1993 = Kristi Probst - Semi Finalist
1999 = Seth Michael Smith - Semi Finalist
2001 = Seth Michael Smith – 6th
2009 = Grant Anderson - 5th
2011 = Suzanne Lumberg – 3rd
Program Philosophy and Policies

Participation with the Maverick Forensic Program involves an agreement to uphold the program’s philosophy and also adhere to the program’s policies.

Our program philosophy is built on the concept of respect.

Mission Statement:
Through the practice of competitive speaking, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Forensic Program strives to develop in all participants a sense of respect for self, team and community.

Respect for self is encouraged through the following values and policies:

1. Participants will value academic excellence.
   a. Participants are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0 in order to travel without restriction. Participants with a GPA below a 2.75 will not be allowed to travel.
   b. Participants are expected to be making timely progress toward the completion of a degree.
   c. Participants will adhere to the University “Make-Up Work and Missed Class Policy”
      http://www.mnsu.edu/policies/approved/makeupworkandmissedclasses.pdf
   d. Participants grant the DOF permission to review their academic records to verify satisfactory performance.
   e. Participants are encouraged to participate in activities which will prepare them for future employment or post-graduate studies.

2. Participants will value high tournament performance standards.
   a. Participants are expected to participate in weekly coaching sessions.
   b. Participants are required to compete in at least 2 events when attending an overnight tournament.
   c. Participants will not perform un-memorized events in competition. Students attending their first ever college tournament may be granted a one-time exemption.
   d. Participants are expected to always perform to the best of their ability when coaching and in competition.
   e. Participants are encouraged to challenge themselves and always be improving their skills.

3. Participants will value ethical standards in competition.
   a. Participants will adhere to the AFA Code of Standards.
      http://www.americanforensics.org/afacode.htm
   b. Participants are expected to be models of ethical practice.
4. Participants will value a healthy lifestyle
   a. Underage drinking is NEVER permitted at team functions or while traveling to tournaments. Additionally, no participants may bring alcohol into a team vehicle or lodging. Participants who are 21 years of age should never drink to excess (blood alcohol concentration above .08%). No participant should consume alcohol prior to departure to or from a tournament.
   b. Smoking is not allowed in team vehicles or lodgings.
   c. Participants will never use or possess illegal drugs of any kind.
   d. Any participant caught breaking a law while attending a team function will be immediately “dropped” from the event and responsible for his/her own legal fees and transportation home.
   e. When traveling, or at overnight team functions, participants will adhere to the curfew established by the coach in charge.
   f. Participants are expected to be committed to travel safety which includes wearing one’s seatbelt at all times, driving the posted speed limit, and not driving while sleepy. The person riding “shot-gun” should keep the driver alert.
   g. Participants are encouraged to develop effective time management skills through which to balance responsibilities.

Respect for team is encouraged through the following values and policies:

1. Participants will value the good of the team over the good of the individual.
   a. Participants are expected to defer to the decisions of the coaching staff regarding the well-being of the team.
   b. Participants will recognize their individual successes and failures are secondary to the overall health and success of the team.
   c. Participants are expected to attend weekly team meetings unless they have a class conflict.
   d. Participants are expected to willingly participate in team warm-ups and meetings while attending tournaments.
   e. Participants will be on time for all team departures. If you are late you will be left and responsible for getting yourself to the tournament or paying your drop fees.

2. Participants will value a harmonious social team dynamic.
   a. Participants are expected to adhere to the University Nondiscrimination Policy (http://www.mnscu.edu/board/policy/1b01.html).
   b. Participants are expected to treat other team members with kindness and civility. This involves an active effort to maintain a harmonious environment.
   c. Participants are expected to maintain a forgiving, rather than judging attitude when conflicts occur.
   d. Participants are encouraged to address their own idiosyncrasies and work to overlook the idiosyncrasies of others.
   e. Participants are not expected to socialize outside of formal team functions, and should not be pressured to do so.
3. Participants will value the educational aspects of the activity.
   a. Participants will familiarize themselves with the pedagogical goals of forensic events as explained in the NFA Pedagogy Report.
   b. Participants are expected to complete a yearly assessment survey.

Respect for community is encouraged through the following values and policies:

1. Participants will value the campus community
   a. Participants are expected to be gracious recipients of all program funding.
   b. Participants are expected to assist with all campus service projects.
   c. Participants are expected to always represent the university in a positive way.
   d. The squad room is a public space to be used by any active forensic program member. Use of the room includes maintaining a clean and uncluttered environment, as well as appropriate use of technology resources. Smoking and the use of alcohol are not permitted in the squad room.
   e. Participants should respect faculty and staff working in AH 206B and the surrounding areas. Participants may not print in 206B without permission from the DOF, ADOF or Department Chair, and should vacate the computers if needed by graduate students, faculty or staff.

2. Participants will value the forensic community
   a. Participants will appreciate the interdependence and worth of all forensic programs.
   b. Participants are expected to treat members of other teams with kindness and civility.
   c. Participants are expected to assist with all tournaments and workshops we host on campus.
   d. Participants are encouraged to be ambassadors for forensics in other areas of their lives.

3. Participants will value their local, national and global communities
   a. Participants are expected to participate in all community service projects organized and sponsored by the team.
   b. Participants are encouraged to stay informed regarding local, national and international current events.
   c. Participants are encouraged to use their performance skills to improve the lives of others.

Note: Should they choose to do so, participants may pay for their own room at the hotel in which the team is staying. Participants may also drive personal vehicles at their own expense with prior approval from the DOF.
Program Coaching Procedures

Work Load Expectations for Graduate Students with a General Forensic Assistantship

Attend 4 weekend tournaments per semester (2 TCFL = 1 Weekend)
5 hours of individual coaching sessions per week*
Attend weekly forensic team evening practice session
Attend weekly team and coach meetings
Assist with tournament hosting and other events
Attend one national tournament in April

Work Load Expectations for Graduate Students with an Administrative Forensic Assistantship

Attend 2 weekend tournaments per semester
Attend weekly forensic team evening practice session
5 hours per week in pursuit of their assigned project
Attend weekly team and coach meetings
Assist with tournament hosting and other events
Attend one national tournament in April
Submit a formal progress report at end of semester

Coaching schedules should be posted two weeks at a time (current and following week)

*All formal coaching should happen on campus. Should you choose to work with students at your home, those hours will not be counted toward your weekly expectation. Coaches are encouraged to set limits regarding how much of their personal time they will give to outside coaching requests.

Program Policies Unique to Graduate Coaches

1. Coaches must complete a “vehicle use consent form” and observe the driver training video prior to driving a school vehicle.
   http://www.mnsu.edu/vehicles/vehicleconsentform.html

2. Academic commitments are your primary reason for being in graduate school.
   a. Do not use forensics as an excuse for late assignments.
   b. Coaches must maintain a 3.0 GPA

3. Effective teaching should be your second priority. Always arrange to have your classes covered when you must miss a teaching day for forensic travel. Complete absence form as determined by TA Director.

4. Manage the traffic of forensic students who come to AH 206B. Undergraduates in 206B should be working under the supervision of a coach. Please be aware of excessive noise.

5. Always treat the Departmental support staff with respect.
6. Coaches should NEVER be present or aware if program participants are engaging in illegal behavior. Even if of legal drinking age, coaches and students should never be intoxicated together. *Students and coaches are equally responsible for maintaining this policy.*

7. Coaches should not develop intimate relationships with students on the MNSU team. Relationships with students on other teams are highly discouraged and should they develop the DOF should be made aware of the relationship prior to subsequent tournament travel.

8. Coaches are responsible for monitoring “van talk” and should change topics if a potentially harassing environment is developing.

9. Coaches are expected to show program allegiance to MNSU.
   a. If MNSU is attending a tournament and a coach is not assigned to travel, he/she may choose to attend as a hired judge by the host school but may not be hired to represent another program.
   b. Coaches are discouraged from providing coaching assistance to competitors from other teams, beyond providing more detailed explanation of ballot comments.

**Guidelines for Effective and Educationally Sound Coach/Student Interactions**

1. Coaches should never write a student’s speech, interp introduction, or completely cut and program an interp piece.

2. Coaches should avoid communicating any sense of ownership over a student’s event(s)

3. Coaches should always explain to students why they have made each change, suggestion or edit. These explanations should be grounded in solid pedagogical reasoning. “It wins” is not sufficient.

4. Students are expected to communicate to a coach if they are uncomfortable with the coaching advice being given. Students should not tell a coach they will do something if they do not intend to follow-through. If a student agrees to a certain direction with an event, and later change his/her mind, the coach who offered the coaching direction should be told (by the student) of the change.

5. Students should not have multiple coaches simultaneously work on the same speech draft or interpretation cutting. This is a poor use of coaches’ time and also leads to conflicts and confusion.

6. When students are given conflicting advice by different coaches, the student should be allowed to decide which advice to follow. Coaches are encouraged to explain the reasons behind their coaching advice, but never discredit the validity of other coaches’ input. A student should never feel pressured or threatened into following a specific coach’s advice.
7. Only the DOF and ADOF have the power to officially “Veto” a performance decision.

8. Discussions during formal and informal coaches’ meetings are private. Coaches should not share this information without permission from the DOF or ADOF and students should not pressure coaches to reveal information from these discussions.

9. All participants, including other coaches, attending a tournament should defer to the decisions of the “Coach in Charge” unless there is a serious safety concern.

**Talent Grant Requirements**

1) Grant recipients must attend a minimum of 4 tournaments each semester.

2) Grant recipients must compete in a minimum of 2 events during the fall semester and 3 events during the spring semester.

3) Grant recipients are expected to attend weekly team meetings unless excused by the DOF.

4) Grant recipients are expected to attend at least one hour of weekly individual coaching appointments.

5) Grant recipients are expected to attend weekly forensic team evening practice session.

6) Grant recipients are expected to help at speech tournaments and workshops held on campus at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

7) Grant recipients are expected to register for 3 credits of Forensics, CMST 220, Fall Semester unless excused by the DOF.

8) Grant recipients are expected to register for Public Speaking, CMST 102 (reserved section for Grant recipients) in Fall Semester unless excused by the DOF.
CMST 220 Requirements
Program participants are encouraged to enroll for CMST 220 as often as their schedule will allow.

Refer to the following tables to determine how grades will be assigned for this course.

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<td>1-2 absences from team meetings. Attend all scheduled work days</td>
<td>3 absences from team meetings. Attend a portion of scheduled work days</td>
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Release Form

Maverick Forensics
Minnesota State University, Mankato

This form grants the coaching staff of the Maverick Forensic program access to my personal information including, but not limited to:

1. tech ID number
2. parents’ names
3. school address and phone number
4. home address and phone number
5. medical information as provided by student
6. ballots/critiques from tournaments attended
7. tab sheets indicating ranks/rates from tournaments attended**

Information related to results at tournaments may be used for promotional purposes by the program, Communication Studies Department and university.

Additionally, as a condition of participation with the Minnesota State University - Mankato Forensic Program, students are required to maintain a 3.00 cumulative GPA. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 will have their travel with the team restricted. Students whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.75 will have their travel with the team suspended. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure program participants are not neglecting their academic responsibilities while participating in Forensics. A student who does not maintain the GPA requirements will be unable to resume unrestricted travel to tournaments until his/her academic standing has improved.

All personal information will be kept secure.

I grant the Director of Forensics permission to examine my academic records to verify that I am in good academic standing and able to travel with the team. I understand this information may be shared with the Departmental Administrative Assistant and the Assistant Director of Forensics.

_____________________________  _______________________
Name (print)                          Tech ID
____________________________________  _______________________
Signature                                      Date

Parental signature required for students under the age of 18.

____________________________________
parental/guardian signature
By signing this document I ______________________________, acknowledge that I have received, read and agreed to adhere to the policies outlined in the 2012 Team Handbook and Policies. I understand that should I violate these policies my participation with the MSU-Mankato Forensic program may be temporarily or permanently suspended. Additionally, I understand that if I violate any of the policies while attending a tournament I may be immediately dropped from the tournament and responsible for paying the resulting drop fees as well as funding my own transportation back to campus.

______________________________________________                          ________________
Signature                          Date