The Department of Communication and Journalism has a rich history of preparing students to succeed in corporate, nonprofit, and academic environments. Students work closely with faculty mentors to develop skills needed to publish, teach, and advance in their chosen career fields.

Communication is a diverse discipline, affording students the opportunity to study the impact of messages across a variety of contexts. Communication students can choose to specialize in many different areas of study, ranging from political rhetoric, social justice, and intercultural to gender, media studies, and environment communication.

The M.A. in professional communication prepares graduates for careers in public and nonprofit organizations, business, healthcare, public relations, marketing, government, social services, law, consulting, and training and development. The ability to communicate effectively is the key to successful entry and upward mobility in any professional setting and is fundamental to enriching your personal life.

ABOUT US

WHY CHOOSE COMMUNICATION?

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
College of Liberal Arts

• Communication Theory
• Quantitative Research Methods
• Qualitative Research Methods
• Training & Development
• Communication & Diversity
• Interpersonal Communication
• Health Communication
• Organizational Communication

Small, interactive classes
A community of learners
Individualized plan of study
Internships
Research & publication
Study abroad
Coaching & mentoring
Northernmost M.A. in Communication program in the U.S.

Program Focus

The M.A. in professional communication program prepares students to handle the challenges of communicating effectively and ethically in a rapidly changing world characterized by diversity in gender, cultural background and belief. The M.A. in professional communication provides advanced education for individuals in or pursuing communication related careers in public/nonprofit organizations, media organizations, health care organizations or in higher education. Students take courses that focus on communication theory and practices. The program is both theoretically and pragmatically oriented to prepare students for the professional workplace or for doctoral study in organizations.

Program Requirements

The Master of Arts in Professional Communication requires a minimum of 30 credits, comprised of 15 credits in required general coursework, nine credits of elective graduate coursework, and six credits of thesis. The program is designed both to prepare students for the rigor of doctoral study and to prepare practitioners to apply communication knowledge in professional settings. Teaching assistantships are available and involve teaching two sections of the department’s service course per semester, or a combination of teaching plus coaching in the Speaking Center. Students must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Those with undergraduate degrees or strong coursework in communication will receive preference, but students from a variety of undergraduate majors have been successful in the program. Applications are reviewed twice yearly, during the first weeks of October and March.

Diversity

In studying communication we acknowledge both that communication occurs between persons who are diverse in gender, cultural background, belief and orientation, and that such diversity is increasingly apparent in an ever more complex and interdependent world. Study and coursework in communication provide the basis for making informed, critical analysis of one’s own and others’ communicative acts, and for applying such knowledge in creating effective and ethical communication in social situations characterized by diversity. Qualified persons from under-represented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Locale

Fairbanks is a contemporary city in Alaska’s Interior. The city and area offer rich cultural diversity, fantastic year-round outdoor recreation and a front-row seat for the aurora borealis. With an area population over 70,000, Fairbanks has excellent public schools and medical facilities and has been named one of the most livable small cities in America. Fairbanks is home to the Fairbanks Symphony and award-winning public radio and television stations, and is the center for graduate education and research in Alaska. UAF is located in a scenic hilltop area with a view of Denali (Mt. McKinley).

Application Process

1. Review the admission requirements at www.uaf.edu/admissions/.
2. Click the “apply now” link for directions on the application process or proceed directly to the online application for admission through http://uaonline.alaska.edu.
3. Once on the UAOnline, select “Future students” then “Apply for Admissions,” and follow the directions.

www.uaf.edu/cojo/