

New Mexico State University College of Arts and Sciences

Communication Studies

Communication Studies

Communication Studies focuses on the complex role human communication plays in everyday life. Our courses provide students with the tools to make sense of and respond to human communication processes in interpersonal, organizational, political, intercultural, and mediated contexts. In today's increasingly global, mediated, and diverse workplace, studying communication and learning to communicate effectively are more important than ever.

Our undergraduate and graduate curriculum are designed to help prepare you for professional careers typically emphasizing expertise and skill in communication, such as careers in public relations, politics, law, advertising, sales, education, management, government service, mediation-arbitration, customer relations, human resources and civil service. Come see where a degree in Communication Studies can take you!

About Us

Our curriculum and faculty make up reflects a comprehensive approach to the field of Communication offering students opportunities to explore courses in interpersonal, organizational, intercultural, political communication, and social influence. Our award-winning faculty also teach classes and conduct research in political, health, environmental, family, and sport communication. We are dedicated to providing students with diverse learning opportunities grounded in experiential and active learning principles.

The Department of Communication Studies has five tenure/tenure-track professors with expertise in diverse areas of the field of Communication. The faculty maintain active and productive research programs while also showing a strong dedication to teaching excellence. Several of our faculty have received numerous teaching awards at institutional and/or national levels. The Department also has a vibrant graduate program with approximately 25 graduate students.

Undergraduate Curriculum

The goals of New Mexico State University's Department of Communication Studies are to equip our students with practical tools of communication that can be applied in organizational, intercultural and interpersonal contexts. These tools include persuasion, conflict management, impression management and self-presentation, and skills in leadership communication, teaching, small group communication, conversation and relational communication.



Graduate Curriculum

In NMSU's Communication Studies Masters of Art degree students explore how communication practices can be applied to help people improve their personal and professional lives, construct meaningful and effective messages for diverse audiences, and analyze cultural, mediated, and political problems. Graduate course work is based on methodological approaches and communication theory. A variety of courses are available including new technologies, social influence, as well as organizational, political, interpersonal, intercultural, and health communication, persuasion, and communication. Graduate Teaching Assistantships are also available to support your time with us.

"Communication creates and shapes our reality; if we address this aspect of life we can progress to a better understanding of societal problems and offer informed solutions."

– Gryffin Loya, MA, Communication Studies

Interested in more information?

(575) 646-2801 | Comm.NMSU.edu

COMMDept@nmsu.edu | 304 Communication Science

Scholarships

The Department of Communication Studies has three primary scholarships to support undergraduate and graduate students.

- **Isabel M Crouch Memorial Scholarship** is a general performance and need based scholarship for Communication Studies Undergraduate Majors.
- **Nylda Zakahi de Tijerina Endowed Scholarship** is a performance and need based scholarship for Communication Studies Graduate Students.
- **Gordon Owen Graduate Fellowship** supports one Graduate Student each year to work with a faculty member on a research project. This student typically will also maintain a part-time GTA position.

The department also maintains several small need and performance based funds. The three funds listed above are awarded each fall. To be considered for any of the department scholarships, please register in NMSU Scholar Dollar\$ (Scholarships.nmsu.edu). For more information please contact the Department Head, Dr. Greg Armfield.

Student Organizations

The Department of Communication Studies has two organizations focused on student involvement. The undergraduate club and the Communication Studies Graduate Student Association. Both clubs provide service opportunities for students and collaborate with faculty and staff.

For more information about clubs contact the main office or visit our website comm.nmsu.edu

Careers in Communication

Graduates with a degree in Communication Studies are employed in positions in:

- the financial world
- computer and high technology
- the entertainment industry
- government
- universities
- pharmaceutical firms
- social services
- management
- human resources

and other jobs where communication skills determine success. Many of our graduates also choose to work for nonprofit organizations.

Our curriculum is designed to help optimize your social and relational communication skills both inside and outside the organizational context. Persuasion, conversation, problem solving, and conflict management are tools you can apply not only when interacting with clients, your boss, and work colleagues but also when you meet new acquaintances or are communicating with friends, romantic partners, and/or family.

Current Research

Faculty are currently working on the following projects:

- Dr. Armfield: Framing of Media framing of sports magazine covers, and the NFL Draft.
- Dr. Flora: Family relationships, and relationship development and dating apps.
- Dr. Hubbell: Invisible disabilities, and mental health related accommodations.
- Dr. Lee: Media use and vaccine hesitancy, and social media use and COVID-19 vaccine misinformation.
- Dr. Morales: vaccine hesitancy, family gatherings during the pandemic, and veterinary communication.



"Communication Studies is a great path of education because communication as a whole is the basis of human life and you have the opportunity to focus in on a specific aspect of communication that can be tailored to your interests and applied towards your intended career path."

– Caroline, Graduate, MA, Communication Studies

Contact Us

For more information about a career in Communication or the undergraduate or graduate major email COMMStudies@nmsu.edu or contact:

Dr. Greg G. Armfield,
Department Head
Armfield@nmsu.edu
(575) 646-2801

Or, stop by the department office in 304 Communication Science.