COMMUNICATION, PHD: Rhetorical Leadership

Interested students may complete a concentration in rhetorical leadership that will be designated on their transcripts.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines
Applicants may review the application deadline chart (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines) and for specific programs. Important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines).

Admission
An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission), hold a master's degree in communication or a related field, and meet these departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program in regular status:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.33 (B+) in course work for the master's degree.
- Submit letters of recommendation from at least three (3) communication professionals attesting to the student's capability to perform satisfactorily at the doctoral level (academic references preferred).
- Submit a writing sample that demonstrates the applicant's analytical and critical thinking skills.

Applicants lacking the requisite GPA, and those without the Master of Arts/Science in Communication (or an equivalent degree) may be considered for admission on probation, and may be required to complete preparatory coursework.

Reaplication/Readmission
Applicants who receive a graduate degree in Communication from UWM must reapply to be considered for admission to the PhD program.

Credits and Courses
To fulfill the credit requirement for the PhD in Communication, a student must complete at least 54 credits beyond the master's degree, of which at least 48 credits must be in courses numbered 700 or above. Thirty-three (33) credits must be taken from the Communication Department. Students may complete 6 credit hours in courses below 700 offered outside the Department of Communication. Courses taken toward the master's degree will not apply to the doctoral program of studies. The 54 credits must be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUN 900</td>
<td>Philosophy and Practice of Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select a minimum of 6 credits from communication research tools in courses numbered 900 or above ¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUN 722</td>
<td>Rhetorical Leadership and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUN 762</td>
<td>Argumentation in Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or COMMUN 872</td>
<td>Rhetorics of Constituting Community and Social Controversy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select a minimum of 18 credits reflecting the student designing a thematic program of study combining theory and praxis in the study of communication processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select a minimum of 24 additional elective credits</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 54

¹ Students will determine additional research-tool credits in consultation with their advisor, so as to demonstrate methodological competence in their chosen area of study.

Program Requirements

Major Professor as Advisor
Initially, unless a student specifically requests a particular faculty member, all doctoral students are assigned an "interim" advisor. After the completion of 12 credits, a student is required to designate a faculty member with specialized interests compatible with those of the student.
to act as the major professor. The major professor is expected to assist
the student in planning the remainder of the program of studies, chair the
student's preliminary examination committee, supervise the completion
of the PhD dissertation, and conduct of the dissertation defense meeting.
All students should consult the departmental handbook for additional
details on departmental policies and procedures.

**Comprehensive Preliminary Examination**
A student must pass all components of a comprehensive preliminary
examination to be advanced to candidacy for the doctoral degree. The
examining committee is responsible for setting an examination schedule
agreeable to all parties subject to the constraints that:

1. examinations must include at least 18 hours of questioning, and
2. must be completed in no longer than two (2) calendar weeks.

Each member of the examining committee must read and pass the
student on all examination questions the faculty member contributes.
The student must receive a passing evaluation from all members of the
committee on the written portion of the examination in order to attempt
an oral defense of the examination. An affirmative vote constitutes
the committee's decision to advance the student to candidacy for the
doctoral degree.

Students who fail the doctoral preliminary examination may not proceed
to the dissertation. The exam may be retaken only once. The preliminary
examination must be successfully completed within five years of initial
enrollment.

**Dissertation**
The candidate, under the supervision of the major professor and in
collaboration with a dissertation committee, must write a dissertation
that demonstrates the ability to formulate a research topic and pursue an
independent and original investigation of the chosen topic. The practices
for the dissertation will conform to the guidelines established by the
UWM Graduate School. The dissertation committee shall be composed
of the major professor and four additional graduate faculty members
(at least three of whom must be from the Communication Department's
graduate faculty). The dissertation committee is responsible for
assessing the dissertation project, which involves approving the
dissertation prospectus proposal, reviewing working drafts of research
in progress, and, finally, evaluating the candidate's ability to defend
decisions made during the course of research. After submission of a
reading copy of the dissertation to the faculty dissertation committee,
the candidate and the major professor will schedule a committee meeting
for the purpose of undertaking an oral defense of the dissertation work
by the candidate. At the conclusion of the candidate's oral remarks, the
dissertation committee will vote on passing the candidate's dissertation
work. A majority of the committee must vote to approve the dissertation
and recommend granting of the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

**Residence**
The student must meet minimum Graduate School residence
requirements [link](http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/doctoral-requirements/
#residence) of one continuous academic year of full-time graduate
studies at UWM. This can be satisfied by completing at least 8 graduate
credits in each of two consecutive semesters, or 6 or more graduate
credits in each of three consecutive semesters, exclusive of summer
sessions. Residence credit cannot be earned at the master's level.

**Time Limit**
All components of the PhD program must be completed within 10 years
of matriculation