Coursework for the MA in Communication

The CU Denver Department of Communication offers a 33 credit Master of Arts (MA) in Communication with an optional 12 credit Public Relations degree certificate that may be taken as part of MA coursework or as a stand-alone non-degree certificate. Requirements for the MA include 1 introduction class, 1 methods class, 5 graduate seminars, and 4 electives. Two of the electives may be taken outside of Communication. Students may also opt to write an MA thesis, which requires an original research paper and no fewer than 3 but no more than 6 credits of elective thesis hours.

**Required: 1 Introduction Class** (only offered in fall semesters in the evenings)
COMM 6013, Introduction to Graduate Work in Communication

**Required: 1 Methods Class**
Choose one methods class from the list below. We try to offer at least one a year in the evenings.
- COMM 5011, Research Methods: Quantitative
- COMM 5022, Critical Analysis of Communication
- COMM 5205, Empirical Research Methods for Communication
- COMM 5221, Research Methods: Qualitative
- COMM 5710, Media Criticism
- COMM 5710, Film Criticism

**Required: 5 Seminars**
Choose five seminars (offered evenings, not all are offered every year). We offer a rotating list that includes:
- COMM 5240, Organizational Communication
- COMM 5600, Media Theory
- COMM 5710, Critical Theory
- COMM 5710, Communication, Globalization, and Social Justice
- COMM 5710, Organizational Discourse
- COMM 5710, Communication and Security

**Required: 4 Electives**
Choose four electives (offered daytime and evenings depending on the schedule, not all are offered every term):
- COMM 5040, Communication, Prisons, and Social Justice
- COMM 5250, Organizational Communication *
- COMM 5255, Negotiations and Bargaining
- COMM 5265, Gender and Communication
- COMM 5270, Intercultural Communication
- COMM 5282, Environmental Communication
- COMM 5710, Organizational Discourse
- COMM 5710, New Media
- COMM 5500, Health Communication
- COMM 5550, Rhetorics of Medicine & Health
- COMM 5620, Health Risk Communication
- COMM 5621, Visual Communication
- COMM 5635, Principles of Public Relations *
- COMM 5640, Advanced Public Relations *
- COMM 5665, Principles of Advertising *
- COMM 5840, Independent Study
- COMM 5939, MA Internship
- COMM 5995, Travel Study (China, Spain, Italy, Guatemala, and more)
- COMM 6950, Master’s Thesis (You need 3-6 credits if you elect the thesis option.)

**Public Relations Certificate:** The asterisked (*) courses are required for the Graduate Certificate in PR.
The Rules

- While some methods courses may also count towards seminar credits, these do not lower the total number of credit hours required. Similarly, courses that fulfill two requirements may count for two requirement areas (say, for instance, a PR course that also fulfills elective requirement) but do not lower the total credit hours required.

- Although the Graduate School permits two 4000-level classes, 4000-level classes may NOT be in COMM. Whenever possible, students should register at the 5000-level.

- Substitutions may be granted with written permission of the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in cases where seminars or electives are not available and/or offered when they are needed for the degree.

- If you wish to request a substitution, first discuss it with your advisor and get their approval. Then, email the DGS (copying your advisor) requesting the substitution. The email should include all relevant course information and a rationale.

- Two of four electives should be COMM courses unless a substitution is granted.

- Requests for up to 9 credits of graduate transfer credit from another institution may be made to the Director of Graduate Studies. The courses for which the transfer is being request must be 5000-level or above, must not have counted towards another degree, must have received a "B" grade or better, and must be no more than 7 years old. Non-degree students from CU Denver may transfer up to 9 graduate credits with written approval of the DGS (same stipulations apply). These requests ultimately need approval from the Dean of the Graduate School. They may not be done in the first or last term of graduate study.

- Students must earn a "B" or better in graduate coursework for it to count towards the degree and must pass comprehensive examinations in their final semester.

- Students must complete at least 6 credits before they are allowed to conduct an independent study or internship.

- No more than two (2) independent studies may count towards the degree.

- Students are responsible for completing all required paperwork concerning registration, graduation, and theses/examinations and for knowing and complying with all rules of the CU Denver Graduate School.