COM 6010 - Introduction to Communication Theory and Research  
3 credit hours  
Introduction to various research paradigms and theories in communication. Through an examination of the communication literature, students will explore methodologies and approaches to communication research.

COM 6200 - Quantitative Communication Research  
3 credit hours  
Introduction to social scientific methods, techniques and instruments for conducting communication research. Students will examine varied methodologies including evaluation and assessment, experimental and survey research designs, and statistical analysis.

COM 6050 - Qualitative Communication Research  
3 credit hours  
Introduction to the paradigms and methods used in qualitative research. Students will participate in specific qualitative techniques (e.g. observations, interviewing, focus groups) and will learn qualitative analysis and writing.

COM 6400 - Seminar in Mass Communication  
3 credit hours  
Special topics may include: social movements, media criticism, mass communication and technology, international telecommunications, and cultural diversity and the media. This course may be repeated for credit under different topics.

COM 6430 - Communication, Strategic Planning and Innovation  
3 credit hours  
This course examines communication in innovation and strategic planning that contributes to organizations’ success. Students will learn about decisions and actions that determine performance and how to make innovation a sustainable, repeatable process.

COM 6700 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication  
3 credit hours  
Special topics may include: interpersonal and mediated communication, intercultural communication, family communication, identity, or others. This course may be repeated for credit under different topics.

COM 6730 - Conflict Management  
3 credit hours  
Based on the assumption that conflict pervades human life, the course explores strategies of productive and nonproductive interpersonal conflict within organizations. Theories of conflict are examined and an explanation of the sources that stimulate conflict in humans is made.

COM 6740 - Interpersonal Communication  
3 credit hours  
This course examines traditional and contemporary theoretical perspectives and research in interpersonal communication. Students will apply theory to interpersonal settings and will critique the contributions and limitations of various theoretical approaches.

COM 6800 - Seminar in Organizational Communication  
3 credit hours  
This course considers group communication in problem solving and decision making. Students will learn how groups work and are made more effective through leader facilitation. Students will gain experience in problem-solving and decision-making methods.

COM 6820 - Organizational Communication  
3 credit hours  
This course examines organizational communication perspectives, theories and processes. Students will explore foundational topics such as classical management, supervisor-employee relationships and socialization as well as contemporary issues such as systems theory and identity.

COM 6830 - Power and Leadership  
3 credit hours  
This course examines trends in leadership research. Students will explore topics including: leadership styles and competencies, women and leadership, culture, power, and transformational leadership. Emphasis on applying leadership research in for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

COM 7000 - Master’s Thesis  
1 - 6 credit hours; 6 credit hours needed to complete thesis  
A research activity in which students propose and test new ideas, replicate a study, or advance theoretical understanding. Students demonstrate scholarly abilities and mastery of academic literature as well as show competence in methodology and analysis.

COM 7100 - Independent Research  
2 - 6 credit hours  
Independent research can take a variety of forms and consider varied topics, theories and concepts of a student’s choosing. Students work with faculty mentors/ supervisors to develop and implement the project selected.

COM 7150 - Professional Project  
3 credit hours  
Students demonstrate knowledge of the theory and methods of communication through an applied communication project. The project may take forms such as workshops, case studies, websites, communication assessments or other options within a chosen area of study.
Master of Arts in Communication

The 10 course, 30 credit hour Master of Arts in Communication integrates communication theory and application, aligning with expectations for communication professions or for doctoral education. Western’s program is distinguished by:

- Nationally recognized faculty who teach all master’s-level courses
- Student placement in top communication careers post-graduation at regional, national and international organizations
- Faculty and graduate student collaboration in leading-edge research relevant to academic and practitioner careers
- Research productivity that rivals top communication doctoral programs within a supportive, master’s-degree-only environment
- Capstone choices that allow students to personalize their research and interests
- Courses that fit your schedule; all classes offered after 6 p.m.

PROGRAM TRACK
A 30 Credit Hour Program

FOUNDATIONS (Required) 9 credit hours
- COM 6010 - Introduction to Communication Theory and Research (3 credit hours)
- COM 6020 - Quantitative Communication Research (3 credit hours)
- COM 6050 - Qualitative Communication Research (3 credit hours)

ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT PATHWAY
21 credits (sample courses)
- COM 6400 - Seminar in Mass Communication (3 credit hours)
- COM 6740 - Interpersonal Communication (3 credit hours)
- COM 6820 - Organizational Communication (3 credit hours)

PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT PATHWAY
18 credits (sample courses)
- COM 6430 - Communication, Strategic Planning, and Innovation (3 credit hours)
- COM 6730 - Conflict Management (3 credit hours)
- COM 6810 - Group Communication Processes (3 credit hours)

ELECTIVES (Can be applied to either pathway)
- COM 6400 - Seminar in Mass Communication (3 credit hours)
- COM 6700 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication (3 credit hours)
- COM 6800 - Seminar in Organizational Communication (3 credit hours)
- COM 6830 - Power and Leadership (3 credit hours)
- COM 7100 - Independent Research (2 to 6 credit hours)

CAPSTONE OPTIONS
- COM 7000 - Master’s Thesis (1 - 6 credit hours, 6 credit hours needed to complete thesis)
- COM 7150 - Professional Project (3 credit hours)
- Comprehensive Exams (0 credit hours)

Focus Areas
The program provides students with an integrative degree spanning interpersonal, organizational and mass communication. The degree adds value to students’ advancement in academic and non-academic careers. Outcomes include:

- Leading teams and facilitating group discussions successfully
- Managing relationships effectively (i.e., conflict, feedback, motivation)
- Developing expertise in communication skills and knowledge for personal fulfillment and professional development
- Networking with like-minded professionals

Funding
Our graduate assistantships provide a competitive stipend plus a tuition waiver of nine credits per semester (18 credits per academic year). Working closely with faculty mentors, graduate students gain extensive teaching experience, including being responsible for their own sections of introductory courses. The annual funding consideration deadline is Feb. 1.

Admission
Domestic
Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, allowing students to begin coursework during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

International
Applications for graduate assistantships are due on February 1.

Fall: April 1
Spring: Aug. 1
Summer: Jan. 15

Career Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Careers and Median Salaries</th>
<th>Human resources director</th>
<th>$110,120</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community college professor</td>
<td>$76,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and development professional</td>
<td>$60,360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media manager</td>
<td>$56,770</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immediate Impact
From 2014-15 to 2017-18, WMU’s post-graduation activity reports show that 92 percent of communication graduate degree recipients were actively engaged in full-time, communication-related employment or continuing education.

According to Glassdoor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics