



**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
College of Arts and Sciences  
School of Communication



**ACCELERATED GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM (AGDP)**

## Communication - Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP)

The AGDP, also known as a dual-degree bachelor's/master's (4+1), gives students a professional advantage because they earn a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in 5 years.

AGDP students begin their master's degree in their senior year, double-counting eligible graduate courses for both the bachelor's and master's degrees.

### Saves Students Time and Money

- Earning 12 credit hours as an AGDP student means you are nearly halfway to earning the 30-credit-hour master's degree.
- You enter the job market one year earlier than those completing a traditional 4-year bachelor's degree and 2-year master's degree.
- You pay the undergraduate tuition rate for the master's degree courses that double-count, saving thousands of dollars.

### Advances Students in Professional Careers

- A master's degree elevates your qualifications in a competitive job market, distinguishing you from those who only have a bachelor's degree.
- Employment in master's level occupations is projected to grow by 17 % by 2026.
- In communication, earnings increase 18% from the bachelor's level to the master's level.

## SAMPLE MASTER'S PROGRAM TRACK

AGDP students earn up to 12 credit hours (4 courses) towards the 30-credit-hour master's 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

15 credits (sample courses)

- COM 6450 - 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 6830 - Power and Leadership (3 credit hours)
- COM 6730 - Conflict Management (3 credit hours)
- COM 6810 - Group Communication Processes (3 credit hours)

CHOOSE ONE

### 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 7100 - Independent Research (2 to 6 credit hours)
- COM 7120 - Professional Field Experience (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)





## Student Perspectives: AGDP Builds Confidence and Develops Mentoring Relationships

“It builds your confidence knowing that you are a part of a group of students that are in their undergrad and that not only yourself, but the faculty and staff of the program have the confidence in you that you can do it.” — *Michael Slowik, B.A. '21, M.A. '22*

“I fell in love with the communication department. I love the culture we have. I had gotten so close with my professors over the years that I felt I wanted to continue to build these working relationships.” — *Maddie Darling, B.A. '20, M.A. '21*

“[Mentoring] relationships happen. As you take different courses and meet different people, the people you gel with, the people you bond with happen naturally.” — *J. Gabriel Ware, B.A. '18, M.A. '19*

## Admission

Reach out to your undergraduate academic advisor in your sophomore or junior year to determine your eligibility and plan coursework to complete your bachelor’s degree with master’s courses double counting.

Contact the Communication graduate director to learn more about admission and to plan your AGDP coursework.

AGDP students begin enrollment in the fall semester of their senior year.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

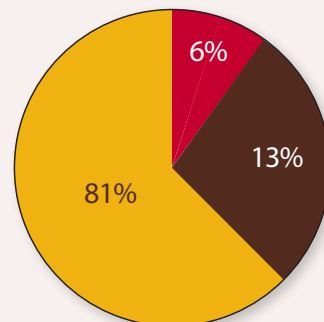
### Potential Careers

- Human resources director
- Communication director
- Community college professor
- Training and development professional
- Social media manager
- Talent acquisitions representative
- Non-profit communication manager
- Customer experience lead
- Academic advisor
- Public relations manager

*According to Glassdoor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics*

### Immediate Impact

From 2017-18 to 2020-21, WMU’s post-graduation activity reports show that 94 percent of communication graduate degree recipients were actively engaged in full-time, communication-related employment or continuing education.



- Employed full time
- Continuing education
- Seeking employment

*Based on WMU Career Services Guides from 2017-2021*

## Contact

School of Communication Undergraduate Advising  
com-advising@wmich.edu

Dr. Julie Apker  
Director of Graduate Studies  
com-grad@wmich.edu

School of Communication  
wmich.edu/communication/academics/graduate/accelerated

College of Arts and Sciences  
wmich.edu/arts-sciences  
(269) 387-4366



# ACCELERATED GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM (AGDP)

## DESCRIPTIONS OF AGDP ELIGIBLE COURSES

*Click on the course number or title for more information*

**Communication AGDP students may enroll in up to 4 of the following courses (12 credit hours) to double count towards their bachelor's and master's degrees:**

### **COM 5600 – Instructional Communication Best Practices**

**3 credit hours**

Students will learn best practices of instruction that span disciplines and extend to professions outside higher education.

### **COM 6010 - Introduction to Communication Theory and Research**

**3 credit hours**

Students will explore paradigms, theories, methodologies and approaches to communication research.

### **COM 6020 - Quantitative Communication Research**

**3 credit hours**

Students will examine varied social science methodologies including evaluation, experimental and survey research designs, and statistical analysis.

### **COM 6050 - Qualitative Communication Research**

**3 credit hours**

Students will participate in specific qualitative techniques (e.g. observations, interviewing, focus groups) and will learn qualitative analysis.

### **COM 6400 - Seminar in Mass Communication**

**3 credit hours**

Special topics may include: social movements, media criticism, mass communication technology, and cultural diversity and the media. This course may be repeated for credit under different topics.

### **COM 6450 - Mass Communication**

**3 credit hours**

Students will survey a range of mass communication theories that address media production, analysis and reception.

### **COM 6700 - Seminar in Interpersonal Communication**

**3 credit hours**

Special topics may include: interpersonal and mediated communication, intercultural communication. This course may be repeated for credit under different topics.

### **COM 6730 - Conflict Management**

**3 credit hours**

This course explores theories and strategies of productive and nonproductive interpersonal conflict within organizations.

### **COM 6740 - Interpersonal Communication**

**3 credit hours**

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**

Special topics may include corporate advocacy, public relations, training and development, and strategic communication. This course may be repeated for credit under different topics.

### **COM 6810 - Group Communication Processes**

**3 credit hours**

Students will learn how groups work and are made more effective through leader facilitation. They 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 applying knowledge to organizational experiences.

### **COM 6830 - Power and Leadership**

**3 credit hours**

Students will explore topics including: traditional and contemporary leadership styles and competencies, culture, and power. Emphasis on applying leadership research in for-profit and nonprofit organizations.



◀ **SCAN the code here** for more information on the WMU School of Communication Master of Arts in Communication Program

or visit:

[wmich.edu/communication/academics/graduate/accelerated](http://wmich.edu/communication/academics/graduate/accelerated)