



UAF College of Liberal Arts

MA IN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION



EMPOWER YOURSELF

Master of Arts (MA)

The MA in professional communication is one of the most versatile master's degrees in contemporary universities. The degree provides you with a solid understanding of the processes at work when people interact with one another, and a significant set of tools with which to enter many different careers. The degree also provides a sound foundation for further study and research in the discipline.

Why Choose Professional Communication?

If you're a people person, a master's in professional communication might be for you. Our MA is particularly suited for people who enjoy people, or whose jobs require working with others in any setting: person to person, in small groups, in organizations, and in public contexts. The MA in professional communication focuses on how people link with one another by speaking and listening in direct human contact, rather than through written communication, or using media such as television or radio.

Career/Professional Opportunities

The MA in professional communication prepares graduates for career opportunities in public and nonprofit organizations, business, healthcare, public relations, government, social services, consulting, training and development, recruitment and teaching at the community college level. The ability to communicate effectively is the ground for successful entry and upward mobility in any professional setting or in advanced study and is fundamental in enriching your personal life.

About Us

For more than 50 years, students and faculty at UAF have been engaged in and excited about studying the many ways people link to other people. As an MA student in professional communication you will become part of that community. Your plan of study will center on a core set of courses that ground you in major concepts. You'll plan the balance of your program with a faculty advisor to ensure that the courses you take meet your specific interests, and you'll work closely with your faculty advisor in conducting your master's thesis research.

UAF MA in Professional Communication

Approximately 20 master's students, 60 undergraduate majors, four faculty and two staff members.

Small classes, informal atmosphere, close working relationships among students and faculty.

Each MA student designs and conducts a master's thesis research project.

Teaching assistantships available.

An opportunity to experience Alaska!

Program Highlights

- *Teaching assistantships available*
- *Small, interactive classes (7-12 students)*
- *A community of learners*
- *Small program to maximize attention*
- *No competition with PhD students*
- *Careful advising and mentoring*
- *Thesis oriented program*
- *Graduates successful in major PhD programs*
- *Graduates successful in professional employment*
- *Degree achievable in two years*
- *Northernmost MA communication program in the U.S.!*

Sample Classes

- *Communication Theory*
- *Quantitative Communication Research*
- *Qualitative Communication Research*
- *Training & Development*
- *Communication & Diversity*
- *Interpersonal Communication*
- *Health Communication*
- *Organizational Communication*
- *Teambuilding*

PROGRAM FOCUS

Contemporary graduates of higher education are being hired into a world of work in which the nature of the workplace is changing daily. The master of arts in professional communication is designed to provide the communication knowledge and skills necessary for persons employed in American organizations to meet the ongoing challenges of such change. Whether the organization is corporate, financial, service, government, retail, wholesale, or non-profit, it is always comprised of human beings who must communicate effectively for the organization to meet its purposes. Organizations need people trained to facilitate such communication. In preparing students with these skills and knowledge, the master of arts in professional communication from the University of Alaska Fairbanks is a key that can open many career doors, now and in the future.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The master of arts in professional communication requires a minimum of thirty credits, comprised of fifteen credits in required general coursework, nine credits of elective graduate coursework, and six credits of thesis. The program is designed both to prepare students for the rigor of doctoral study and to prepare practitioners to apply communication knowledge in professional settings. Teaching assistantships are available and involve teaching two sections of the Department's service course per semester, or a combination of teaching plus coaching in the Speaking Center.

Students must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Those with undergraduate degrees or strong coursework in communication will receive preference, but students from a variety of undergraduate majors have been successful in the program. Applications are reviewed twice yearly, during the first week of October and of March.

DIVERSITY

In studying communication we acknowledge both that communication occurs between persons who are diverse in gender, cultural background, belief and orientation, and that such diversity is increasingly apparent in an ever more complex and interdependent world. Study and coursework in communication provide the bases for making informed, critical analyses of one's own and others' communicative acts, and for applying such knowledge in creating effective and ethical communication in social situations characterized by diversity. Qualified persons from under-represented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

LOCALE

Fairbanks is a contemporary city in Alaska's Interior. The city and area offer rich cultural diversity, fantastic year-round outdoor recreation and a front-row seat for the aurora borealis. With an area population over 70,000, Fairbanks has excellent public schools and medical facilities and has been named one of the most livable small cities in America. Fairbanks is home to the Fairbanks Symphony, award-winning public radio and television stations, and is the center for graduate education and research in Alaska. UAF is located in a scenic hilltop area with a view of Denali (Mt. McKinley).

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review the admission requirements at www.uaf.edu/admissions/.
2. Click the "apply now" link for directions on the application process or proceed directly to the online application for admission through UAOnline at <http://uaonline.alaska.edu>.
3. Once on UAOnline select "Apply for Admission or Check on Status of Application" and follow the directions on the screen.