

<b><u>AREA 1: CONTEXTUAL COMMUNICATION STUDIES (12 hours)</u></b>		<b><u>Hrs</u></b>	<b><u>Semester</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>
COMS 530	Mass Media Theory	3	_____	_____
<i>Choose three (3) of the following courses:</i>				
COMS 532	Approaches to Media Technologies	3	_____	_____
COMS 632	Politics and Media	3	_____	_____
COMS 634	Religion and Media	3	_____	_____
COMS 638	Media Management	3	_____	_____

**AREA 2: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES (18 hours)**

*Choose six (6) 500/600 level COMS courses. Refer to the second page for recommended cognates and/or electives to satisfy this area. Electives may be taken from any/all Area 1 cognates if they have not been used to meet declared area 1 requirements.*

COMS_____	_____	3	_____	_____
COMS_____	_____	3	_____	_____
COMS_____	_____	3	_____	_____
COMS_____	_____	3	_____	_____
COMS_____	_____	3	_____	_____
COMS_____	_____	3	_____	_____

**AREA 3: RESEARCH (6 hours)**

COMS 680	Communication Research Methods	3	_____	_____
COMS 690	Thesis Defense <sup>1</sup>	3	_____	_____
<b>OR</b>				
COMS 691	Project Defense <sup>1</sup>	3	_____	_____

**TOTAL HOURS: 36**

**Graduation Requirements**

36 semester hours total  
A minimum of 30 hours must be completed through Liberty University, not to include credits from a prior degree earned through Liberty  
A maximum of 6 hours of transfer credit, including credit from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree  
3.0 GPA  
No more than two (2) grades of C may be applied to the degree  
No grade of D may be applied to the degree  
Thesis required  
Degree must be completed within 5 years  
All Resident students are required to enroll in and pass GRST 500 in their first semester  
Submit Graduation Application at the beginning of the final semester

**Program Currently Offered in Resident Format Only**

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup>Any student who is not ready for enrollment in COMS 690 or 691 after completing COMS 680 may be required, as determined by the student's thesis chair, to take COMS 689 Thesis Proposal and Research, and may be required to repeat COMS 689 until deemed ready for enrollment in COMS 690 or 691.

## Recommended Electives and/or Cognates for Area 2

*Note: You may mix and match courses from all areas below.*

### Communications Electives

COMS 550	Communication Education Theory
COMS 552	Leadership Communication
COMS 554	Argument and Persuasion
COMS 556	Audience Analysis and Measurement
COMS 558	Listening and Nonverbal Communication
COMS 560	Communication and Conflict
COMS 562	Web-based Communication
COMS 564	Family Communication
COMS 568	Creative Communication
COMS 618	Visual Rhetoric
COMS 652	Organizational Communication Consulting
COMS 654	Communication and Change
COMS 656	Media Strategies
COMS 697	Special Topics

### Interpersonal & Organizational Communication Studies Cognate

COMS 520	Communication Theory
<i>Choose three (3) of the following:</i>	
COMS 522	Interpersonal Theory and Practice
COMS 524	Small Group Theory and Practice
COMS 622	Organizational Communication Theory
COMS 624	Intercultural Communication

### Rhetoric & Religious Communication Studies Cognate

COMS 510	Rhetorical Theory
<i>Choose three (3) of the following:</i>	
COMS 513	Public Discourse in Retrospect
COMS 542	Communication in Christian Ministry
COMS 544	Great Preachers and Preaching
COMS 612	Rhetorical Criticism
COMS 620	Rhetoric in Popular Culture
COMS 643	Contemporary Topics in Religious Communication
COMS 644	Communication of Revival and Reform

### SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

#### First Semester

Area 1: Contextual Studies	3
Area 2: Strategies	3
Area 2: Strategies	<u>3</u>
Total	9

#### Second Semester

Area 1: Contextual Studies	3
Area 2: Strategies	3
COMS 680	<u>3</u>
Total	9

#### Third Semester

Area 1: Contextual Studies	3
Area 2: Strategies	3
Area 2: Strategies	<u>3</u>
Total	9

#### Fourth Semester

Area 1: Contextual Studies	3
Area 2: Strategies	3
COMS 690	<u>3</u>
Total	9