MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Fairfield University M.A. in Communication Program combines a rigorous study of the field – theory, research, practice, and application – with the ideals and values of a Jesuit education. Students gain a complete understanding of the role of communication in personal relationships, large organizations, and society as a whole. They go on to careers in the media, marketing, health, education, and corporate spheres.

COURSE OF STUDY
The Master of Arts in Communication requires 36 credits. These include three required courses totaling nine credits, seven electives totaling 21 credits, and a required thesis or project, totaling 6 credits. Students choose from a range of courses that have been designed specifically for the M.A. program and may take up to two elective courses in other graduate programs.

Students, in consultation with the program director, select courses that suit their personal, academic, and career goals. Possible paths that students may follow include in-depth study in organizational communication, health communication, media studies, communication in the non-profit sector, educational communication, and preparation for Ph.D.-level work.

REQUIRED COURSES (15 CREDIT HOURS)
- Communication Philosophies, Theories and Research Traditions
- Communication Research Design and Methodologies
- Ethics and Communication
- Thesis or Project Proposal
- Thesis or Project Research

ELECTIVE COURSES (21 CREDIT HOURS)
Seven courses, focusing on communication theoretical and research traditions, communication processes and applications, and allied coursework in related areas, need to be completed.

ELECTIVE COMMUNICATION COURSES
- Perspectives and Theories in Organizational Communication
- Written Communication
- Communication Practicum (internship)
- Interpersonal Communication
- Small Group and Team Communication
- Communication and Organizational Leadership
- Negotiation & Conflict Management: Communication Approaches
- Professional Rhetoric and Presentations

- Globalization, Communication, and Culture
- Intercultural Communication
- International Communication
- Contemporary Topics in Communication Research
- Media Theory and Criticism
- Communication and Technoculture
- Media Institutions and Law
- Health Communication
- End-of-Life Communication
- Advertising and Marketing Audiences
- Technoculture and Information Society
- Gender and Organizing
- Risk Communication
- Healthcare Organizational Communication
- New Media Studies
- Political Communication
- Nonprofit Media

ELECTIVE GRADUATE NON-COMMUNICATION COURSES (6 CREDIT HOURS MAXIMUM)
- Dolan School of Business Marketing and Management courses
- School of Nursing graduate courses
- Public Administration graduate courses
- Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions courses

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Dr. Sean Horan
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2839
Email: shoran@fairfield.edu

Dr. Horan serves as the faculty advisor for students in the M.A. in Communication Program and is the appropriate person to contact with questions, or to learn more.

For a complete faculty listing, see www.fairfield.edu/commfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
The program welcomes students of ability from all academic and professional backgrounds. Students who hold a bachelor’s degree in any field from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) are encouraged to apply.
FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications to the graduate program are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are reviewed by the Graduate Admission Committee. Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed application.  
   (Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/comapp.)
2. A non-refundable $60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé.
4. Personal statement describing intent for studying in the program.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended.  
   (All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A list of approved evaluators is available at www.fairfield.edu/eval.)
6. Two recommendations, one of which must be from a current supervisor or professor, completed online.
7. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 80 on the internet-based test or an IELTS score of 6.5 is strongly recommended. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield’s ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:
Fairfield University  
Office of Graduate Admission  
Kelley Center  
1073 North Benson Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000 ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2018/19  
Tuition: $750 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. However, the costs associated with earning a master’s degree may be challenging. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program which are discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION  
Phone: 203-254-4125  
Fax: 203-254-4008  
E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS  
Days: Monday-Friday  
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION

ADMISSION QUESTIONS  
Questions about the application process should be directed to the Office of Graduate Admission.  
Phone: 203-254-4184  
Fax: 203-254-4073  
E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS  
Days: Monday-Friday  
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION WEBSITE  
www.fairfield.edu/gradcomm

ONLINE CATALOG  
For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.