

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION (M.A.) - CRITICAL/INFLUENTIAL COMMUNICATION

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2025 through summer 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

Code	Title	Hours
Theory and Research Courses		
COMS 520	Communication Theory and Practices	3
COMS 680	Communication Research Design	3
COMS 690 or COMS 691	Thesis Defense Project	3
Total Hours		9

Code	Title	Hours
Critical/Influential Communication Cognate		
COMS 552	Leadership Communication	3
COMS 554	Strategies and Tactics of Persuasion	3
COMS 612	Rhetorical Theory and Criticism	3
COMS 632	Politics and Media	3
Total Hours		12

Code	Title	Hours
Elective Courses		
Communication or Strategic Communication Elective ¹		3
Communication or Strategic Communication Elective ¹		3
Communication or Strategic Communication Elective ¹		3
Communication or Strategic Communication Elective ¹		3
Communication or Strategic Communication Elective ¹		3
Total Hours		15

¹ Choose any 500-600 level COMS or STCO course not already applying to the degree

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 36 hours
- A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No more than two grades of C may be applied to the degree (includes grades of C+ & C-)
- No grade of D or below may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+ & D-)
- Degree must be completed within 5 years

- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Resident Format Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
First Semester		
COMS 520	Communication Theory and Practices	3
COMS 554	Strategies and Tactics of Persuasion	3
Elective ¹		3
Hours		9
Second Semester		
COMS 522	Interpersonal Communication Theory and Practice	3
COMS 612	Rhetorical Theory and Criticism	3
Elective ¹		3
Hours		9
Second Year		
First Semester		
COMS 680	Communication Research Design	3
Elective ¹		3
Elective ¹		3
Hours		9
Second Semester		
COMS 632	Politics and Media	3
Elective ¹		3
COMS 690 or COMS 691	Thesis Defense or Project	3
Hours		9
Total Hours		36

¹ Choose any 500-600 level COMS or STCO course not already applying to the degree.