



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Department of Communication Studies
IUPUI

Memo

To: Dr. Sherry Queener and the Graduate Affairs Committee

From: Dr. Catherine Dobris, Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Communication Studies
Dr. Kim White-Mills, Chair, Department of Communication Studies

Date: February 25, 2008

Re: Change in Credit Requirements for Applied Communication M.A. Degree

We are proposing that the 33 credit hour requirement for degree completion for the Applied Communication Graduate Program be increased to 36 credit hours.

Currently, our degree requires the completion of 33 hours distributed as follows: (1) 9 credits of core requirements (theory course, research course, and thesis/Applied Learning Project); (2) 18 credits of Communication courses; and (3) 6 credits of interdisciplinary electives.

Thus, under the current system, all students take C501, a quantitative and qualitative methods course, which we have concluded cannot do justice to both areas in one 3 credit course. As a result we have proposed a change in our research requirements so that students will take two research courses, C501, which will now provide a comprehensive investigation of quantitative methods, and another approved course such as our new course, C502, Qualitative Methods, C530, Rhetorical Criticism, C531, Media Theory and Criticism. In this way, all students will have in-depth background in quantitative methods and in one other significant methodological area in our discipline.

Presently, we are in the official approval process of changing the title for C501 to reflect the shift in content, and we are offering C502, Qualitative Methods, for the first time in fall 2008. We do not want the increased requirement in methods, which we feel is integral to strengthening our degree program, to detract from the available options for choosing electives, particularly in key areas of concentrations.

Thus, we would like to increase the degree requirements to include (1) 12 hours of core requirements (theory course, **two research courses** – one quantitative and one qualitative, and thesis/Applied Learning Project); (2) 18 credits of communication courses; and (3) 6 credits of interdisciplinary electives, totaling 36 credit hours.

We appreciate your consideration of our proposal. Please let us know how we should proceed by contacting Catherine Dobris (cdobris@iupui.edu) or Kim White-Mills (kwhitemi@iupui.edu) or via the Department at phone at 274-0566.