



# Department of Communication Studies

## Graduate Student Handbook

*2014-2015 Academic Year*

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## **PART I: DEPARTMENTAL POLICY**

### **Program Orientation**

The Master of Arts in Communication Studies at Sam Houston State University is an entirely online program designed to provide students with advanced instruction in research methods, statistics, and theory. Students will develop the professional skills necessary to analyze communication issues in interpersonal, family, and professional settings.

Our award-winning faculty is committed to providing high quality instruction and faculty research interests include:

- Intercultural Communication
- Message Effects
- Health Communication
- Message Interpretation
- Humor
- Appreciation
- Interpersonal Communication
- Visual Persuasion
- Theory
- Family Communication
- Equivocation

Target students for the Master's program include:

- Elementary and secondary school teachers
- Community and small college instructors
- Managers and Human Resources Professionals
- Marriage and Family Counselors

Graduates from the Communication Studies Master's program have found careers in human resources, community colleges, non-profit organizations, and industry. Convenient online classes provide quality instruction that fits within your personal and professional schedule

NOTE: Requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies at Sam Houston State University as stated in the *Graduate Catalog* (<http://www.shsu.edu/graduate-catalog/>) apply to all operating procedures of the Department.

### **Admission Requirements**

Students are admitted to the graduate program biannually for the Fall and Spring semesters. There are no Summer admissions. The application deadline for Spring enrollment is December 1<sup>st</sup>; the application deadline for Fall enrollment is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Admission into the program is based on the listed requirements and faculty/student ratios. The following are required for admissions consideration:

1. *Graduate Studies Application:* The Graduate Studies Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency. To apply, go to <http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>.

2. *Application fee:* An application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. *Official transcript from the baccalaureate degree granting institution:* Official transcripts from the degree granting institution are required. Students must contact their previous institution and arrange to have that college or university send transcripts directly to graduate admissions at SHSU. Transcripts will be reviewed by the graduate committee and used as a factor in deciding whether the applicant gains entry into the program.
4. *Official GRE Scores:* GRE scores are required for all applicants to the program. However, in some instances this requirement can be waived. GRE waivers are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and require the applying student to submit a formal petition to the Director of Graduate Studies. GRE scores will be reviewed by the graduate committee and used as a factor in deciding whether the applicant gains entry into the program.
5. *Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0:* The department requires students applying to the graduate program to have earned a minimum GPA of 3.0 from their degree granting institution. Each applicant's undergraduate GPA will be used as a factor in deciding whether the applicant gains entry into the program. Applicants seeking to enter the program who already have a graduate degree but do not have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher can submit a formal petition to the Director of Graduate Studies to request that this requirement be waived.
6. *Letters of Recommendation:* Three letters of recommendation are required for each applicant. Letters should be submitted by someone who is able to evaluate the applicant's academic and professional potential.

All application materials are submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions, who will forward completed applications to the Director of Graduate Studies.

### **Performance Standards and Scholastic Expectations**

The criteria for earning a M.A. degree include completion of the 36 credit hour requirement and successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination. In addition to these criteria, students are expected to maintain high performance standards throughout their residence in the program and remain in "academic good standing" at Sam Houston State University.

In order to achieve and remain in academic good standing at Sam Houston State University, a graduate student must maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on all graduate coursework attempted. All grades earned in courses taken for graduate credit will be utilized in computing the grade point average.

A grade earned at another institution may not be used to remove a grade deficiency earned in residence at Sam Houston State University. Semester hours of credit earned at another institution are not utilized in computing the student's Sam Houston State University overall grade point average. A 3.0 overall grade point average is the absolute minimum required for graduation.

*Grading System:*

Four grades are given in graduate courses at the University:

**Grade Denotation**

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- A Academic Excellence
  - B Acceptable Performance
  - C Passing, yet Insufficient Performance
  - F Failure
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The mark “IP” denotes “in progress” and is given in thesis and other courses which cannot be completed within one semester. The mark “CR” denotes “credit.” The mark of “W” denotes “withdrew” and is given for resignations. The mark “X” denotes “incomplete.” If the student meets the prescribed requirements of the course before the end of the next academic semester after the “X” is given, the student will receive the grade earned; otherwise, the mark “X” will be automatically changed to an “F.” The mark of “Q” is assigned to courses dropped after the thirteenth class day, for a fall or spring semester, or from the fifth class day, for a summer session, but by the last date to drop courses or labs with a “Q” as indicated in the SHSU Academic Calendar. Courses with the mark of “Q” will not be counted as courses attempted and will not be included in determining grade point averages. However, be aware that SHSU students are allowed no more than five “Q” drops during the course of their career at SHSU.

A graduate student who elects to drop all courses, i.e., to resign from the University, must notify the Registrar’s Office and process a Resignation Request (see [Resignations](#)).

*Academic Probation and Suspension:*

A graduate student who falls below a 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of any semester during which one or more semester credit hours are attempted will be placed on probation. If an enrolled student on probation fails to achieve a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of the next semester or summer school following the starting of the probation, the student will be suspended.

The Graduate Committee will review the graduate status for any student earning two grades of “C” in any combination of graduate courses. The committee will consider the advisability of the student’s continued enrollment in the graduate program. A student who earns three grades of “C” or one grade of “F” will be terminated from graduate studies. A student who earns a third grade of “C” or a grade of “F” during the semester or summer of the anticipated graduation will be terminated from graduate studies and will not be eligible to graduate. The Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences may place on probation, retain on probation, or suspend any student deficient in grade points without regard to the regulations previously stated.

*Academic Honesty:*

The Graduate Faculty of Sam Houston State University and the Communication Studies Department expect students to conduct academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments. The University’s policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the *Student Guidelines*, distributed by the Division of Student Services

(<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>). It is the student's responsibility to read and understand all relevant policies related to academic honesty.

Additional academic policy and student guidelines provide specific information about the SHSU educational mission and student conduct which can be accessed in the Academic Policy Manual (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>).

#### *Resignations:*

To resign (officially withdraw) from the University, a student must notify the Registrar's Office and process a Resignation Request. The Resignation Request must be in writing and becomes effective on the date received by the Registrar's Office. The effective date of the Resignation Request, as received by the Registrar's Office, is the date used for determining any refund as authorized in the State Refund Policy (see [Tuition and Fees Refund Policy](#)). The student is responsible for clearing all debts owed to the University. A student who wishes to drop all courses must officially resign.

A student who discontinues attending class and fails to officially resign from the University will receive the grade of "F" in each enrolled course. A student who resigns after the 12th class day of a regular semester or after the 4th class day of a summer session will receive a mark of "W" for each enrolled course. A student who resigns from the University while enrolled in a course whose duration is less than a normal term will receive a mark of "W" if the resignation occurs after one-half of that course time has been completed.

## **Program Governance**

#### *Director of Graduate Studies:*

The Director of Graduate Studies is appointed by the Department Chair. His or her duties include:

- Supervision of the Graduate Program in Communication Studies
  - Graduate Student Advisement
  - Coordination of recruitment of students and advertisement of the Graduate Program

#### *Supervision of the Graduate Program in Communication Studies:*

The Director is in charge of implementing and enforcing the rules of the graduate program at SHSU. He or she must be familiar with the University and Departmental rules concerning enrollment in the program, academic requirements, academic specializations and other aspects of the SHSU graduate career.

#### *Graduate Student Advisement:*

The Director of Graduate Studies is the advisor for all incoming graduate students. It is the duty of the Director to advise students of required coursework and curriculum objectives relevant to students' needs. Students are also free to talk with any of the graduate faculty about specific courses and interests.

#### *Coordination of Recruitment and Advertisement:*

The Director supervises and promotes the production and distribution of material advertising the Graduate Program in Communication Studies at SHSU.

#### *The Graduate Committee:*

The Graduate Committee is appointed by the Communication Studies Department Chair in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. The Graduate Committee is the main body of governance for the graduate program curriculum standards and policies regarding the operation of the graduate program. The graduate committee assists the Director of Graduate Studies in

implementing graduate student admission, formulating the graduate program policy, and advising the Communication Studies Department on Graduate Program policy issues.

*Communication Studies Department Graduate Faculty:*

The Communication Studies Department Graduate Faculty consists of regular department faculty members who have maintained high academic standards in research, teaching, and service at SHSU. All Graduate Faculty possess a terminal Ph.D. degree in Communication Studies and are qualified to teach core and area-specific curriculum at the graduate level.

## **Petition Policies**

Students who are seeking admission to the Communication Studies Graduate Program, or those who have already been admitted, may find that their unique situations may preclude the application of certain departmental policies. In such cases, students may submit a formal request for exemption from the relevant policy.

Common petitions are listed below.

1. *GRE Waiver:*

The Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee offer a GRE waiver for graduate admission in some circumstances. Applicants may submit a formal appeal to the Director for a waiver of the GRE application requirement. Students may apply for a waiver *only if* they have 3 to 5 years of professional experience in an area directly related to Communication Studies.

2. *Request for transfer credit:*

In accordance with SHSU Academic Policy Statement 801007, graduate courses completed at other accredited colleges or universities may be applied toward the graduate degree in Communication Studies at SHSU. Up to six credit hours from outside the Communication Studies program may be used to complete the 36 credit hour requirement for the M.A. Only those transferred courses from accredited institutions in which a grade of "A" or "B" was earned and which are accepted toward an official degree program will be considered for transfer. Transfer credit is not guaranteed. Students must submit a formal written request to the Director of Graduate Studies in order to have their transfer credits considered viable for the degree program. The Director may request supporting documentation when considering transfer credits, including, but not limited to syllabi, course catalog descriptions, formal letters from previous professors, etc.

3. *Termination of Graduate Status:*

Any appeal for a review of the termination of graduate status should be directed in writing through the Director of Graduate Studies, to the Chair of the Department, to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and finally to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval or denial.

4. *SHSU Student Grievance Procedures:*

The Department abides by the university policy with respect to student grievances. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/vaf\\_www/aps/documents/900823\\_001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/vaf_www/aps/documents/900823_001.pdf)

## **Students with Disabilities**

The University and students with disabilities have certain rights and responsibilities related to receiving, providing, and determining reasonable accommodations, the purpose of which is to provide students with disabilities equal access to educational and student support services offered by the University. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Additional information for students with disabilities can be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>.

## **Religious Freedom and Observance of Religious Holidays**

The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. “Religious Holy Day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes due to “Religious Holy Days.”

## **FERPA**

Student employee FERPA obligations may be found here:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/students/privacy-rights/responsibilities-as-a-student-employee.html>

Information on general FERPA compliance may be found here:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/students/privacy-rights/>

## **Title IX**

Sam Houston State University complies with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act. Sexual misconduct, as defined in the University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy, constitutes a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX and Title VII. For more information on this policy, please see <http://www.shsu.edu/titleix/>



## **PART II: THE MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

### **General Curriculum Requirements<sup>1</sup>**

The Communication Studies Master of Art requires a minimum of 36 credit hours beyond the Bachelor's degree be completed. The following requirements also apply:

- Thirty of these credit hours must be completed in the Communication Studies Department at Sam Houston State University.
- Currently the M.A. program is a non-thesis degree.

### **Curriculum Description**

Graduate students in Communication Studies are required to complete 36 hours. Students pursuing a Master's Degree in Communication Studies must take the following required courses:

#### **Required Courses**

COMS 5331 Speech Communication Methods and Research  
COMS 5332 Statistical Methods for Communication  
COMS 5360 Advanced Interpersonal Communication  
COMS 5380 Advanced Family Communication  
COMS 5390 Seminar in Interpersonal Communication  
COMS 5391 Seminar in Family Communication

#### **Other Graduate Courses**

COMS 5335 Advanced Communication Theory  
COMS 5370 Health Communication and the Family  
COMS 5371 Sex & Gender in Communication  
COMS 5375 Graduate Readings in Communication Studies

NOTE: A student may take COMS 5375 only with the approval of the Graduate Director.

### **Graduate Course Descriptions**

*COMS 5331 Speech Communication Methods and Research.*

An introduction to graduate level research methods, including quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Students will learn to develop individual research proposals.

*COMS 5332 Statistical Methods for Communication.*

This course focuses upon various statistical techniques used in communication research, including univariate and bivariate techniques, hypothesis testing for single and multiple samples, as well as methods used to investigate relationships between two or more variables such as ANOVA, ANCOVA, and multiple regression analysis. Lectures, assigned readings and projects are used to describe and illustrate advanced literature on the logic, interpretation, and assumptions of each statistical model. Emphasis is placed upon understanding of the techniques and their assumptions as well as applications. Research activities based on the use of statistical techniques are included in the course.

*COMS 5360 Advanced Interpersonal Communication.*

A study of methodological and theoretical issues in relational communication with special attention to building ongoing research projects in support of theory.

*COMS 5370 Health Communication and the Family.*

A study of a variety of health communication topics that relate to and influence the family and other relationships. Perspective and theories in public health, adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, parent/child-physician communication, telemedicine, and rural health concerns.

*COMS 5371 Sex & Gender in Communication.*

A study of sex and gender differences and similarities in communication behavior. Students will examine the sex and gender scholarship and assess its implications for understanding communication in interpersonal and family relationships.

*COMS 5380 Advanced Family Communication.*

Methodological and theoretical issues in family communication.

*COMS 5390 Seminar in Interpersonal Communication.*

Advanced topics in interpersonal communication theory and research. Topics rotate from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit when topics change.

*COMS 5391 Seminar in Family Communication.*

Advanced topics in family communication theory and research. Topics rotate from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit when topics change.

## **Comprehensive Exam Details**

This degree plan does not require a thesis. Graduate students are required to pass a comprehensive exam prior to graduation. This requirement is in addition to the 36 credit hours coursework requirements. The comprehensive exam for the Master's Degree in Communication Studies will cover program coursework including, but not limited to: Theory; Methods and Statistics; and course specific content.

### *Comprehensive Exam Scheduling*

After completing a minimum of 27 credit hours, including the required courses (see required course list above) and elective courses, students are allowed to take the Comprehensive Examination. Exam are offered twice each academic year, once during the Fall semester and once during the Spring semester. The Comprehensive Exam is NOT offered during the summer semesters. Students will be asked to declare their intent to take the Comprehensive Exam to the Director of Graduate Studies by the indicated date each semester and to contact the departmental secretary to schedule their exam.

### *Exam Administration*

Students will have a one-week period to complete the exam. Comprehensive Exams must be proctored. Students are welcome to come to campus to take the exam or they may use a Graduate Director approved proctoring center or method.

All written work will be evaluated using anti-plagiarism software. It is the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism, and the penalty for violating the SHSU policy.

The comprehensive exam will be governed by the Comprehensive Examination Committee, which is composed of the Graduate Committee and Exam Ad Hoc Committee. Students will be informed of their results approximately two weeks after the completion of the exam.

### **Written Exams**

Written exams are offered in two four-hour sessions twice each academic year (once during the Fall semester and once during the Spring semester). They are offered during a one-week period to be determined by the Graduate Director no later than the end of the second week of the respective semester. No exams will be offered during the Summer semesters. Each written exam is given one of the following grades: (a) Pass; (b) Conditional Pass; or, (c) Fail. If a student fails any part of the written examinations, then he/she may retake that part of the exam one additional time. The student must retake the written exam(s) the next time the comprehensive exam is offered. If the student fails to pass the written exam(s) a second time, then he/she will be dropped from the Graduate Program in Communication Studies.

#### *Preparation Guidelines and Performance Expectations for the Comprehensive Exam*

The Comprehensive Exam will require substantial preparation for students prior to the exam. Students should re-familiarize themselves with their course content. In addition, students are encouraged to reach out their instructors for guidance in preparation for the Comprehensive Exam.

#### Theory

Students should be able to demonstrate competency of both classic and contemporary theories. For preparation of the theory part of the exam, students are strongly encouraged to review the textbooks and course materials.

#### Research Methods and Statistics

Students should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of key concepts, methodologies, and statistical procedures in social science research and their application to practical research situations. For preparation of the methods and statistics part of the exam, students are strongly encouraged to review the textbooks and course materials.

#### Elective Courses

Students should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of key concepts from elective courses they have taken in the program. Students should expect to be able to discuss the courses in terms of their general relevance and also to identify specific issues of importance for those courses.

#### *Graduation*

Students who receive a passing grade on the Comprehensive Exam will have their results submitted to the CHSS Dean's office by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Those students who have successfully completed the exam become eligible to graduate once they have complete the required coursework and must formally apply to the graduate school for graduation at <http://www.shsu.edu/graduate-catalog/2013-2015/graduation.html>.

## **PART III: GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES**

### **Graduate Assistantships**

The Department of Communication Studies offers a limited number of graduate assistantships to students who have been admitted to the Graduate Program. Assistantships pay a 9-month stipend for in-state students and are awarded based on qualifications. Out-of-state assistantships are available in some cases. Graduate assistants work closely with professors in teaching and/or research activity and are appointed on a semester-by semester basis. Students may receive department assistantships for a maximum of 2 years.

Students seeking assistantships should contact the Graduate Director and/or the Departmental Administrative Assistant to express interest in the position. Graduate Assistant positions are awarded based on GRE, GPA, and academic performance.

#### *Assistantship Obligations*

As employees of Sam Houston State University and the State of Texas and as representatives of the Department of Communication Studies, graduate assistants must comply with the rules of professional conduct and ethical behavior to which all other faculty and staff are bound, including FERPA and Title IX regulations.

Graduate assistantships provide the opportunity for students to work with faculty members. Graduate students receiving departmental support are expected to actively engage in departmental research and/or perform services assisting professors' instruction. Assistantships require that the student be enrolled 6-9 credit hours per semester. Audited courses do not count toward assistantship credit hour levels.

Assistants are expected to be available and perform services related to teaching and/or research for an average of 20 hours per week. A graduate assistant may accept concurrent employment outside the University only with permission from the Director of Graduate Studies.

#### *Termination of Assistantships*

A student's assistantship may be terminated for a variety of reasons, some of which are beyond the control of the student. Teaching and research assistants are expected to maintain academic standing of GPA of 3.5 or above, obtain grades of A or B in each class they take, possess high levels of academic integrity, and perform their assistantship duties responsibly. Failure to meet these criteria may be considered grounds for assistantship termination. Assistantships may also be terminated due to financial and/or bureaucratic exigencies of the Department and/or the University.

### **Scholarships**

A number of scholarships are available for graduate students. University and Graduate School scholarships are also available. Students should explore these options by contacting the Office of Financial Aid. Application deadlines for University and Graduate School scholarships vary.

### **SHSU Academic Resources**

#### *The Academic Success Center*

The Sam Houston Academic Success Center for Reading and Writing serves all members of the SHSU academic community. The center provides one-on-one instruction for reading and writing and assists students of all level in composition of their written work. The center assists students in: constructing arguments, organizing papers, identifying and correcting grammatical errors, teaching

proofreading techniques, and generally improving their writing style. The writing center also provides APA style guides and online tutoring.

Graduate students at SHSU are encouraged to utilize the Academic Success Center to enhance their writing capacities. The Academic Success Center can be contacted at <http://www.shsu.edu/centers/academic-success-center/>.

#### *Newton Gresham Library*

Newton Gresham Library faculty and staff envision a library that supports and enhances the development of critically thinking, educated and informed lifelong learners. The Library is integral to the University's learning and research mission and endeavors to create physical and virtual environments that promote discovery of new knowledge and the transfer of existing knowledge. The Library fulfills this mission by providing organized access to a diverse array of quality print, electronic, and other resources and by continuously improving the effectiveness of its bibliographic, instructional, and reference services.

The library offers a comprehensive inventory of physical and electronic media that graduate students are required to access during the course of their academic studies. The library offers a number of resources for distance learning students. These include the Interlibrary Loan services, electronic journal access, TexShare, and access to electronic databases. A full inventory of library resources for distance is available at <http://library.shsu.edu/services/distance/>.

#### *SHSU Online*

SHSU online offers a variety of resources for student enrolled in online classes. These include technical support for problems with online videos, course tools or features, issues with Internet browsers and other problems associated with an online learning environment. The SHSU Online support desk is available via email at [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu) or via phone at (877)759-2232. For more information regarding resources available to online students visit SHSU Student Resources at <http://distance.shsu.edu/currentstudents/resources.html>.

#### *Students with Disabilities*

The University and Students with Disabilities have certain rights and responsibilities related to receiving, providing, and determining reasonable accommodations, the purpose of which is to provide students with disabilities equal access to educational and student support services offered by the University. Students with disabilities should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>.

## **PART IV: FORMS AND CHECKLIST**

### **Communication Studies Graduate Application Checklist**

Graduate Studies Application  
Graduate Studies Application Fee  
Official Baccalaureate Transcripts  
Official Graduate Record Exam  
(GRE) Scores  
Letters of Recommendation

## **Graduate Assistant Application**

Graduate Assistant application materials should be submitted to the Departmental Administrative Assistant prior to the start of the semester.

1. Summarize your qualifications to work as a Graduate Assistant. Briefly describe your teaching and research experience. Additionally, please discuss your experience (if any) with distance learning.
2. Indicate what, if any, Communication courses you have taken.
3. Please provide two references.

Signature

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAM EVALUATION RUBRIC

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comprehensive Exam Committee Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of the Exam: \_\_\_\_\_

(A) PASS | A grade of Pass is awarded to a student response that:

- (1) offers a skillful and polished answer to the question or questions presented and follows the guidelines provided by the Comprehensive Exam Committee;
- (2) demonstrates an exceptional knowledge of the relevant communication theories/research methods/statistics/analysis of communication phenomena with reference to literature and empirical evidence that are most relevant to their analysis;
- (3) demonstrates an ability to make significant and sophisticated arguments about the communication topic, while also presenting those arguments in a clear, logical, and concise manner.

(B) CONDITIONAL PASS | A grade of Conditional Pass is awarded to a student response that:

- (1) offers an answer to the question or questions presented that is not as direct, proficient, or complete as the guidelines provided by the Comprehensive Exam Committee;
- (2) demonstrates a knowledge of the relevant communication theories/research methods/statistics/analysis of communication phenomena that is not as adequate, complete, or relevant as required by the Comprehensive Exam Committee;
- (3) demonstrates a less than adequate ability to make general arguments about the communication topic.

(C) FAIL | A grade of Fail is given to a student response that:

- (1) fails to adequately address the question or questions presented or follow the guidelines provided by the Comprehensive Exam Committee;
- (2) fails to demonstrate graduate-level knowledge of relevant communication theories/research methods/statistics/analysis of communication phenomena;
- (3) is incoherent, poorly organized, or fraught with construction, grammar, and usage problems.

A student who conditionally passes an area or areas is allowed one opportunity to retake the examination in the conditionally passed section(s).

Overall Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: