



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

# Graduate Program Handbook - 2025/26

*Communication Master's Program*

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Reference this handbook to learn about the unique policies, requirements, procedures, resources, and norms for graduate students in the *Communication MA program*.

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Updated Fall 2025 Nicholson School of Communication and Media.



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# Navigating Policy and Resources at the University of Central Florida

This handbook is one of many sources to consult as you become familiar with the policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms of graduate education at the University of Central Florida.

## ACADEMIC CATALOGS

These online catalogs can help you quickly locate and save details about our undergraduate and graduate programs. Whether you are a prospective student or already enrolled, you can easily see what the University of Central Florida has to offer!

**Current Undergraduate Offerings**  
VISIT CATALOG

**Latest Graduate Programs**  
VISIT CATALOG

**Prior Years' Catalogs**  
VISIT ARCHIVES

## STUDENT LIFE

ORLANDO, FL | 73°F

### Student Handbook

## THE GOLDEN RULE STUDENT HANDBOOK

## GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

[Student Handbook Intro](#)  
[Financial Matters](#)  
[Role of the College of...](#)

### Understanding Your Graduate Experience

## UCF Regulations

## Pathways to Success

Personal and Professional Development Opportunities

HOME NOTICE ARCHIVES SUBSCRIBE TO NOTIFICATIONS UCF POLICIES

## Chapter 5: Students

## How to Use This Handbook

Many of your questions about how to meet expectations and thrive as a graduate student will be answered by the various sources of policies, procedures, requirements, resources, and norms listed in this document. Please refer to the Table of Contents to seek answers to specific inquiries. The information provided here will be reviewed in orientations, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to be aware of the relevant policies and procedures.

## Who to Contact for Questions

The following campus resources are a great place to go for answers to any additional questions you might have.

### **Graduate Program Staff**

Each graduate program has at least one department staff person, in our case, the graduate student services coordinator, who serves as a point person for program policy and procedures. The graduate student services coordinator is well-versed in most elements of graduate education that extend beyond academic instruction in your program and will likely be your first stop for questions related to anything in this handbook. The current Graduate Student Services Coordinator associated with this program is Michael Haney and can be reached by email at [nicholsongrad@ucf.edu](mailto:nicholsongrad@ucf.edu) or by phone at 407-235-3576.

### **Graduate Coordinator**

Each graduate program has one faculty member designated to direct its educational vision and structure. The Graduate Coordinator in the Communication area is Dr. Ann Miller. You can contact her at [ann.miller@ucf.edu](mailto:ann.miller@ucf.edu).

### **College of Graduate Studies Services**

For general graduate inquiries and graduate student services, please review the [College of Graduate Studies](#) website as an additional resource.

## Onboarding

We encourage students to stay in contact with their Graduate Coordinator throughout the summer before they begin the program to have current information about orientation and onboarding.

## Introduction/Overview Section

### Complete Name of Degree

Master of Arts in Communication

### College

College of Science

### Department

Nicholson School of Communication and Media

### Program Type

Master of Arts

### Program Website

<https://communication.ucf.edu/degree/communication/>

### Program Overview Narrative

The Communication MA Program at the Nicholson School of Communication and Media (NSCM) is dedicated to serving its students, faculty, the central Florida community, and the professions associated with the field of communication. The mission of the program is to offer high-quality, academically challenging graduate education in Communication; to mentor students in the conduct of research and creative activities; to provide the students with the educational development that will enhance the intellectual, cultural, environmental, and economic development of the metropolitan region; to develop students' academic and professional competencies; to establish UCF as a major presence in local and global communication related professional and academic communities; and to support the mission and vision of the University of Central Florida as a whole.

### Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies

The MA in Communication provides students the opportunity to develop an advanced understanding in interpersonal communication, mediated communication, and public relations. Students will develop an understanding of theory, theory testing, and milestone theories in the field. They will also develop a basic understanding of research methodologies used in communication, with a more advanced understanding and expertise in either qualitative or quantitative methods.

## Student Expectations

In order to be successful in the program, you will need excellent time management, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. The program emphasizes community and professional collaboration that requires effective communication across differences and difficulties. Students will excel if they have a strong commitment to their studies, a curious mind, and the capacity to engage with their peers and faculty.

## Program Professional Conduct/Ethics Statement

All Communication M.A. students are expected to represent the Nicholson School of Communication and Media with the highest standards of ethics and integrity. We encourage students to read the National Communication Association [Credo for Ethical Communication](#) for more details. Students are also expected to abide by the [UCF Golden Rule](#).

## Professional Development

All Communication MA students will begin with COM 6008 Pro-Seminar in Communication, which introduces you to the communication discipline, professional organizations, program expectations, and essential graduate-level skills. We highly encourage students to take full advantage of the many additional learning opportunities through the College of Graduate Studies [Pathways to Success](#) program.

## Advising/Mentoring

Advising relationships are a central part of academia, important to both the experience and development of students and faculty members.

Your advisor has two main roles: 1) to assist you in acquiring the highest possible level of knowledge and competence in the field, and 2) to chair the committee that will determine whether you have performed at an acceptable level in each of your degree

milestones. Other roles of your advisor may include tracking your progress in completing your degree, assisting with course selection and planning your academic path, and helping you identify possible research mentors, committee members, and research opportunities. Both the student and advisor are responsible for making their expectations clear to each other.

All incoming students will work with a temporary advisor before they choose a permanent advisor. Temporary advisors will be assigned at the end of the first semester. Absent a temporary advisor, students should seek out the Graduate Coordinator for advising.

Students should have a completed Graduate Plan of Study by the 18<sup>th</sup> credit hour of their coursework. This can be completed under the supervision of one's temporary or permanent advisor. The GPS can be located in the Communication MA webcourse.

## Finding & Selecting an Advisor

Students are responsible for selecting a permanent advisor (who may be the assigned temporary advisor). A permanent advisor sees a student through assembling a committee and completing a culminating experience. You should approach a faculty member with the request that they serve as your advisor by the end of your first year of study.

Your advisor should be a faculty member in the program whose expertise and project/research interests match closely with those that you intend to acquire. To learn more about the faculty in your program, consider consulting the following sources:

- Courses and seminars you attend
- [Our program website](#)
- Faculty publications
- Students are currently being advised by a prospective advisor

Additionally, you may wish to have a discussion with a prospective advisor. Below are questions to consider asking in this discussion, though this is not a complete list. Take time to identify what is most important to you in your graduate training and ask questions accordingly.

## Questions to Ask of Prospective Advisors

- What is your philosophy regarding the amount of guidance the advisor should provide to a student during preparation of the thesis proposal, thesis writing, etc.?
- How frequently do you typically meet with advisees?
- What regularly scheduled activities (e.g., group meetings, joint group meetings, research clubs) would you suggest I get involved with that provide an opportunity to get outside input on my research project and to hear about the work of other students?
- Do you include your graduate students in professional activities that will familiarize them with their field of interest/research, such as reviewing manuscripts and meeting with visiting speakers?
- How long do you think it should take me to get my degree?
- What are your former graduate students (if any) doing now?
- What is your general philosophy of graduate training and what goals do you have for your graduate students?

No faculty member is obligated to accept a student's request to serve as advisor, though invitations are often accepted unless the faculty member judges that a different advisor would serve your needs better.

After you have located your permanent advisor, be sure to talk through with them about your values, goals, and responsibilities; expectations about how you will meet and maintain contact; and how regular reviews and evaluation of progress will be structured. Should problems arise in the advisor-student relationship, students and/ or faculty should consult with the Graduate Program Coordinator.

## Changing Your Advisor

As the advisor-student relationship is one of mutual agreement, it may be terminated by either party. If you decide that you would prefer working with a different advisor, discuss this with your prospective advisor to seek the change.

In order to change advisors, simply complete an updated Program of Study Form with the new advisor's name and signature. All necessary forms are available for all students to review on the Communication MA WebCourses page, to which all new students are added to prior to their first semester. If you have difficulty locating a form, please contact the graduate student services coordinator at [nicholsongrad@ucf.edu](mailto:nicholsongrad@ucf.edu).

## Giving & Receiving Feedback

Although your advisor is likely to institute a regular meeting schedule, if they do not, don't hesitate to approach them to discuss feedback mechanisms.

## How to Get Involved

As a graduate student at UCF, you have a multitude of opportunities to become involved on campus and in your academic discipline. This involvement often enhances your academic, professional, and personal growth through developing advanced leadership, communication, and collaboration skills. It also provides opportunity for professional networking.

## In Our Discipline

There are many regional, national, and international organizations that will be important to your development as a master's student. While you should work closely with your advisor to select the most salient opportunities the following organizations are valuable places to start:

- [National Communication Association \(NCA\)](#)
- [International Communication Association \(ICA\)](#)
- [Broadcast Education Association \(BEA\)](#)
- [Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication \(AEJMC\)](#)
- [Public Relations Society of America \(PRSA\)](#)
- [European PR Education and Research Association \(EUPRERA\)](#)
- Join the [COMMNotes listserve](#) from NCA

## On Campus & In the Community

Collaborative experiences and internship opportunities abound for students in the Communication M.A. program. Students are welcome to engage in internships with media organizations, corporate social responsibility/community engagement departments, health organizations, nonprofit organizations, research firms, public affairs firms, and public relations firms, to name a few.

You may also consider the following on-campus involvement:

- Joining the [COMMNotes listserve](#) from NCA
- Joining the NSCM Graduate Student Council
- Participating in the university [Graduate Student Advisory Council](#) and
- Connecting with [Downtown Student Engagement](#) .

# Curriculum Section

## Admission Requirements

- Applicants must have an earned undergraduate degree or its equivalent. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in their undergraduate degree.
- Letters of reference that evaluate the applicant's academic performance, suitability, and potential for undertaking graduate study. (Three letters of reference are required if you want to apply for funding.)
- A personal statement outlining the applicant's academic and professional experience, and the applicant's professional and research goals. This statement Two should clearly articulate how your work aligns with the purpose and character of this program.
- An optional writing sample of the applicant's professional or academic work, preferably an example of your empirical research.
- A CV or Resume.
- Applicants applying to this program who have attended a college/university outside the United States must provide a course-by-course credential evaluation with GPA calculation. Credential evaluations are accepted from [World Education Services \(WES\)](#) or [Josef Silny and Associates, Inc.](#) only.
- International applicants whose first language is not English are required to submit results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the Duolingo English Test unless they hold a degree from a U.S. accredited institution. The minimum TOEFL score for full admissions consideration is 80 on the Internet-based test (IBT). Applicants desiring a graduate teaching assistantship must take the speaking portion of the TOEFL and score a 26 or higher. The minimum IELTS score is 6.5 (7.0 for applicants desiring a graduate teaching assistantship). The minimum Duolingo test score is 120. Applicants should plan to take the appropriate test no later than early November to ensure they meet the January deadline. It can take 4 to 6 weeks for the university to receive test scores.

Meeting minimum UCF admission criteria does not guarantee program admission. Final admission is based on an evaluation of the applicant's abilities, past performance, recommendations, match of this program and faculty expertise to the applicant's career/academic goals, and the applicant's potential for completing the degree.

## Degree Requirements

Total Credit Hours Required: 30 credit hours minimum beyond undergraduate degree. Students must earn a grade of “B” or better in the program core courses and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their plan of study.

### **Core Requirements—9 Credit Hours**

- COM 5312 Introduction to Communication Research (3 cr.)
- COM 6008 Proseminar in Communication (3 cr.)
- COM 6401 Communication Theory (3 cr.)

### **Research Requirements—3 Credit Hours**

Complete at least one of the following

- COM 6303 Qualitative Research in Communication (3 cr.)
- COM 6304 Quantitative Research in Communication (3 cr.)

### **Unrestricted Electives —12 Credit Hours**

Choose from the NSCM graduate courses below. Special topics courses, study abroad courses, independent study, directed research, internship and other graduate-level courses may also be counted as restricted electives, pending approval of the program coordinator for up to 6 credit hours total. Note: Non-Nicholson School courses might not be offered on the Downtown campus and will require students to attend the course at the UCF Main campus.

- COM 5932 Topics in Communication Theory and Research (3 cr.)
- COM 6046 Interpersonal Communication (3 cr.)
- COM 6121 Communication Management (3 cr.)
- COM 6145 Organizational Communication (3 cr.)
- COM 6463 Studies in Intercultural Communication (3 cr.)
- COM 6467 Studies in Persuasion (3 cr.)
- COM7227 - Seminar in Health Communication (3)
- COM7745 - Current Issues in Communication (3)
- MMC 6307 International Communication (3 cr.)
- MMC 6567 New Media (3 cr.)
- MMC 6600 Media Effects and Audience Analysis (3 cr.)
- MMC 6735 Social Media as Mass Communication (3 cr.)
- PUR 6005 Theories of Public Relations (3 cr.)
- PUR 6215 Communicating Corporate Social Responsibility (3 cr.)
- PUR 6403 Crisis Public Relations (3 cr.)
- SPC 6430 Teaching Communication (3 cr.)

Second-year master's students may also take courses in the Strategic Communication PhD program to fulfill elective requirements, with the consent of the instructor and upon advice of their advisor.

### **Culminating/Capstone Experience—6 Credit Hours**

In addition to the above coursework, one of the following must be taken as a culminating experience: thesis, applied project, or comprehensive exams.

#### ***Thesis Option***

- COM 6971 Thesis (6 cr.) All credits cannot be taken in the same semester.

#### ***Applied Project Option***

- COM 6909 Research Report (3 cr.)
- One additional elective (3 cr.)

#### ***Comprehensive Exams Option***

- Take comprehensive examinations
- Two additional electives (6 cr.)

## **Certificate Program Linkages**

The communication Master's program can be completed concurrently with the graduate certificate in Corporate Communication. For more certificate information, see: <https://communication.ucf.edu/degree/corporate-communication/> This graduate certificate offers a specialization in corporate communication that focuses on public relations and crisis and risk communication.

Classes completed for the MA also count toward the certificate, such that the 18 credit hours the certificate requires can be taken and completed at the same time as the MA.

## **Sample Plans of Study/Course Sequence/Completion Timeline**

*Below are SAMPLE timelines for completion of the program. Please note that, except for a student's first semester, this is a suggested timeline. Students are expected to develop their timeline in consultation with their faculty advisor.*

<b>Full-time enrollment</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COM 6008 Proseminar in Communication(3 credits)</li> <li>• COM 5312 Introduction to CommunicationResearch (3 credits)</li> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Draft Graduate Plan of Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COM 6401 Communication Theory (3 credits)</li> <li>• COM 6303 Qualitative Research Methods* OR Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Select Culminating Experience and choose permanent_faculty advisor</li> <li>• Complete Plan of Study with faculty advisor</li> </ul>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COM 6304 Quantitative Research Methods OR Elective (3 credits)*</li> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• COM 6971 for thesis option; Elective for other options (3 credits)</li> <li>• Proposal defense for thesis option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elective for comprehensive exam option; COM 6971 for thesis option; COM 6909 for applied project option (3 credits)</li> <li>• File intent to graduate</li> <li>• Comprehensive exams for exam option</li> <li>• Thesis defense or applied project defense</li> </ul>

*\*Students select COM 6303 OR COM 6304, only one is required.*

<b>Part-time enrollment</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COM 6008 Proseminar in Communication (3credits)</li> <li>• COM 5312 Introduction to CommunicationResearch (3 credits)</li> <li>• Draft Plan of Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COM 6401 Communication Theory (3 credits)</li> <li>• COM 6303 Qualitative Research Methods OR Elective(3 credits)*</li> </ul>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COM 6304 Quantitative Research Methods OR Elective (3 credits)*</li> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Select Culminating Experience and choose permanent_faculty advisor</li> </ul>	<p>Applied Project and Exams options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> </ul> <p>Thesis option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COM 6971 Thesis (3 credits)</li> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Proposal defense</li> </ul>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• File intent to graduate</li> </ul> <p>Thesis option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• COM 6971 Thesis (3 credits)</li> <li>• Final defense</li> </ul> <p>Applied project option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• COM 6909 Research Project (3 credits)</li> <li>• Project defense</li> </ul> <p>Comprehensive exam option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Elective (3 credits)</li> <li>• Take comprehensive exams</li> </ul>	
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*\*Students select either COM 6303 or COM 6304; both are not required.*

## Statement of Graduate Research

Students are expected to adhere to [principles of ethical research elucidated by the National Communication Association](#), as well as broader scientific principles of research with human subjects laid out in [the Belmont Report](#).

# Comprehensive Examination Section

## Exam Introduction

By the end of their second semester of coursework in the program, students who elect to follow the comprehensive exam track for their culminating experience must select a permanent advisor from among graduate faculty members. They will then work with their advisor to appoint two NSCM graduate faculty members as additional committee members to the comprehensive examination committee. The three-person committee will compile the questions based on the student's content area specialization and grade the questions.

## Scheduling of Exams

Comprehensive examinations will be administered in the fall and spring of each year. (Exams may be scheduled in summer if the committee agrees and the student is enrolled in at least one credit hour in that term.) Students must notify the graduate program coordinator by September 15 for fall exams and by January 15 for spring exams. The exams will be administered by the academic advisor in collaboration with the graduate program staff. Students will complete the exam in a prearranged room on the UCF Downtown campus.

## Logistics of Exams

The examinations will cover research methods, communication theory, and elective areas selected together by the student in conjunction with their comprehensive examination committee. Students will usually answer four questions (two hours each). Students can take one exam question per day over four days or take two exam questions over two days. It is recommended that students follow the thesis defense deadlines set by the College of Graduate Studies of UCF, which can be found at <https://calendar.ucf.edu/>. The comprehensive exams are typically closed-book. Time and location of exams will be determined in consultation between the student, their advisor, and the graduate coordinator.

A student must be enrolled to take the comprehensive exams.

## Outcome of Exams

The advisor will determine the outcome of the comprehensive exam based on input from the committee. Students may ultimately be graded in one of three ways:

**Pass:** All committee members were satisfied with the written responses. No more action is required.

**Conditional Pass:** If there is some concern about the student's response to one or more questions, the committee can elect to evaluate the student with a conditional pass. In this case, the advisor (as advised by the committee members or together with the committee members) will schedule and participate in an oral defense in which the student will present a revision of the answer. The committee will then vote to pass or fail the student's revised response.

**Fail:** Students who fail one or more questions must retake the failed exam question(s) the following semester.

In order to fulfill the comprehensive exam requirement, the student must earn a passing grade on all exams. If a student fails to pass any of the comprehensive exam area questions, they are allowed two additional attempts to satisfy the comprehensive exam requirement. Once an exam in an area is passed, the student does not have to sit for that exam area again.

Students who fail one or more of their comprehensive exams are encouraged to review the failed exams with their faculty advisor before retaking the exams. Advisors who return an exam with a grade of FAIL are required to meet with the student if the student makes such a request. The advisor should provide detailed feedback that explains the basis for the failing grade. Faculty are strongly encouraged to use a detailed rubric when grading comprehensive exams to help identify weaknesses and strengths in students' comprehensive exam responses.

Students who fail to satisfy the comprehensive exam requirement after taking the exams three times will be reviewed by the NSCM Graduate Committee. The committee will consult the student's comprehensive examination committee and will determine a course of action for the student. This may include additional coursework designed to strengthen the student's knowledge and proficiency in areas where the comprehensive exam performance is deficient. The student will not be allowed to retake the exams until they have complied with the committee's recommendations.

**Note: Students who choose the comprehensive examination option must take two additional elective courses (6 credit hours).**

## Applied Project Section

### Master's Applied Project – Overview

The applied project option requires students to demonstrate their ability to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the graduate program to a problem/topic related to the area of communication. The applied project is applied research, such as a case-study, sample corporate communication strategy, crisis communication plan, project serving the communicative needs of a corporate or organizational client, or communication project which combines scholarship with extensive experiences in a non-academic workplace that integrates the range of communication theory, practice, and research presented throughout the program.

Students are required to articulate a problem/topic, design an argument, and complete a plan for investigating the problem/topic. The project should be designed for a professional audience. The finished product must be composed in a manner worthy of presentation either to a professional organization or decision-makers in the area of study. The major components of the applied professional project include enrollment in and successful completion of applied project hours, and completion of the project, which includes a reflective write-up and an oral presentation of their work. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible for this option.

Students are required to fill out a registration form to enroll in applied professional project hours (COM 6909). At least THREE applied professional project hours are required.

Students may opt to enroll in 1 to 3 hours of applied professional project in a given semester, but must be enrolled in at least 1 hour in the semester s/he graduate. Any student who has not completed an applied professional project after three hours of applied professional project enrollment must enroll in one hour of continuing professional credit each semester after the semester in which the third hour of applied professional project credit was completed. Evidence of project progress must be submitted with a new enrollment request form.

### Master's Applied Project – Committees

A Culminating Experience Declaration form must be completed before beginning

the project. Students need to secure an advisor, or project chair, and at least one additional committee member, both from the NSCM graduate faculty. A third committeemember is optional, and can be a community member with professional experience in the area upon which the project is based.

Under the supervision of the project advisor, the student prepares a project proposal that includes a clear plan of how the project is to be completed. This includes reviewing relevant information and previously conducted research on the topic or problem to be solved, as well as details on the research method and/ plan for creating thefinal deliverable project. This proposal is shared with committee members. Typically, a face-to-face meeting or virtual meeting to discuss the proposal is held with the student, project advisor, and all committee members. If students want to publish the project in the future, they need to complete the IRB review at UCF before data collection.

(<http://www.research.ucf.edu/Compliance/irb.html>)

A project involving community partners must be approved by those entities prior to the commencement of the research/ implementing the communication deliverable. A meeting reviewing the study proposal is typically done the semester prior to the completion of the project, but may be completed in the same term.

## Master's Applied Project – Defense

An oral defense of the project is conducted after the project is completed. The procedure is the same as for thesis defense meetings. An Applied Professional Project Approval Form must be turned in after the oral defense meeting.

It is recommended that students follow the thesis defense deadlines set by the College of Graduate Studies of UCF, which can be found at <https://calendar.ucf.edu/>. All general rules and expectations from the committee should be discussed and shared with students before a project starts.

If a student fails the written part of the project, he or she will immediately set up a meeting with the GraduateProgram Coordinator to enter the comprehensive examination process.

# Thesis and Dissertation Section

## Master's Thesis - Overview

The Master's thesis is the capstone of a student's graduate training. Although some students have a thesis topic in mind early in their graduate career, other students develop ideas as they progress through their classes. It is always a good idea to discuss ideas early with the faculty who have expertise in that area.

Students who elect to write a thesis should become familiar with the university's requirements and deadlines for organizing and submitting the thesis. Check the website of the College of Graduate Studies <https://graduate.ucf.edu/thesis-and-dissertation/> for requirements, and check the UCF Academic Calendar for important dates and deadlines. Students may enroll in thesis hours after they have successfully completed the three core courses and their thesis committee has been approved by the department, college, and the College of Graduate Studies. All students must enroll in thesis hours and pass a proposal hearing at least one semester before the final oral defense of their thesis. Students cannot take all six thesis hours in a single semester.

The College of Graduate Studies offers several thesis and dissertation [Workshops](#) each term. Students are highly encouraged to attend these workshops early in the dissertation process to fully understand the above policies and procedures. The College of Graduate Studies thesis and dissertation office is best reached by email at [editor@ucf.edu](mailto:editor@ucf.edu).

The dissertation will be completed in the American Psychological Association (APA) style. Dissertations vary in length and content depending on the specialty area and methodology used. Students should discuss expectations with their committee very early on and schedule regular check-ins to ensure appropriate progress.

## Master's Thesis – Committees

The student's permanent faculty advisor is among tenured/tenure-earning faculty who will chair their committee. The committee will also include two additional graduate faculty members in the Nicholson School of Communication and Media. One additional member, who is also a graduate faculty member, may be added from outside the NSCM. All members of the thesis committee are selected in consultation with the student's permanent faculty advisor.

## Master's Thesis – IRB

Projects that involve human subjects should be approved by the IRB before data collection. (<http://www.research.ucf.edu/Compliance/irb.html>) Please note that all students planning to complete a thesis must complete the UCF Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Webcourse and attach the completion certificate when submitting their advisory committee.

## Thesis Proposal

Under the supervision of their advisor, the student prepares a thesis proposal that includes a clear plan of how the research is to be completed. The final proposal should include an abstract, introduction, review of relevant literature, proposed research methodology, data analysis plan, and a complete list of references and supporting literature.

The entire thesis committee must receive a copy of the proposal at least ONE week prior to the scheduled meeting. All committee members are obligated to read the thesis before the meeting occurs and prepare questions for the student. The proposal defense is a working meeting designed to fine-tune the research project. The student may be asked to leave the room as committee members discuss the proposal, although this is not essential. Students should not begin collecting data for their thesis until they have passed their proposal defense.

After the proposal defense, the student must obtain signatures of the Thesis Proposal form from committee members.

## Master's Thesis – Defense

After the student has completed the work agreed upon at the proposal meeting and after the thesis advisory chair agrees that the student is ready to defend, a thesis defense meeting may be scheduled. The meeting should be scheduled for approximately 1.5 hours. The thesis must be defended before the university deadline for that semester, as recorded in the [Academic Calendar](#).

The entire committee must receive a copy of the proposal at least ONE week prior to the scheduled meeting. All committee members are obligated to read the thesis before the meeting occurs and prepare questions for the student. The oral defense usually begins with an oral presentation of the research project. The presentation is followed by a question-and-answer session in which each committee member asks questions

regarding the project. Finally, the student will be excused from the room, and a closed executive session attended only by the thesis committee members will take place. In the closed session, the committee chair shares results of the iThenticate.com originality report with the committee, followed by the committee's discussion of the merits of the project and a vote on the acceptability of the thesis. After the committee has decided on a result, the student will be invited back into the room, and the adjudication by the committee will be shared with the student.

A majority of committee members must vote in favor of a passing grade on the project for the student to qualify for graduation. The committee may decide to accept the thesis as is, accept the thesis with minor revisions (requiring no rescheduled meeting), or require major revisions. In the event that a majority of committee members do not vote to pass the project, a new thesis defense meeting will be scheduled after required revisions have been completed.

## Master's Thesis – Submission Procedures

Students are expected to acquire signatures for the Defense Approval form from committee members as well as the graduate program coordinator, the director of the Nicholson School of Communication and Media, and the Dean of the College of Sciences. Signatures may be obtained in person or through an authenticated online signature process.

## University Thesis Requirements

Master's thesis students must be enrolled continuously (including summer). Exceptions to the continuous enrollment policy may be appealed to the College of Graduate Studies. Graduate policy states that students have seven years from the beginning of the program to complete the degree. Students who wish to enroll in part-time hours must enroll for a minimum of one credit hour. Of thesis research (COM 6971) every semester after the initial six hours (including summers), until successful defense and graduation.

The College of Graduate Studies [Thesis and Dissertation page](#) contains information on the university's requirements for thesis formatting, format review, defenses, final submission, and more.

All university deadlines are listed in the [Academic Calendar](#). Consult with the graduate director or advisor for potential earlier deadlines.

**The following requirements must be met by thesis students in their final term:**

- Submit a properly formatted file for initial format review by the format review deadline
- Submit the Thesis and Dissertation Release Option form
- Defend by the defense deadline
- Receive format approval (if not granted upon initial review)
- Submit a signed approval form by the final submission deadline
- Submit the final thesis document by the final submission deadline

The College of Graduate Studies offers several thesis and dissertation Workshops each term. Students are highly encouraged to attend these workshops early in the dissertation process to fully understand the above policies and procedures.

The College of Graduate Studies thesis and dissertation office is best reached by email at [editor@ucf.edu](mailto:editor@ucf.edu).

## **Program and Institutional Policies**

### **Absences**

Students who anticipate that they may not be able to enroll continuously due to external circumstances should apply for Special Leave of Absence. Specifically, students who are taking courses should apply for a Special Leave of Absence when they cannot enroll in more than two consecutive semesters. Students who are in thesis/dissertation hours should apply for a Special Leave of Absence when they cannot enroll in one semester of every three consecutive semesters to maintain active student status.

To qualify for a Special Leave of Absence, the student must demonstrate good cause (e.g., illness, family issues, financial difficulties, personal circumstances, recent maternity/paternity, employment issues). The specific reason for the Leave of Absence request must be indicated by the student on the Leave of Absence Form. Due to current U.S. government regulations, international students must be enrolled every fall and spring semester. For students in this category, a Special Leave of Absence is only available for documented medical reasons.

### **Academic Standards/Conduct/Integrity**

UCF has three fundamental responsibilities with regard to graduate student research.

They are to:

- 1) Support an academic environment that stimulates the spirit of inquiry
- 2) Develop the intellectual property stemming from research
- 3) Disseminate the intellectual property to the general public

UCF's Office of Research & Commercialization ensures the UCF community complies with local, state, and federal regulations that relate to research. For policies including required Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval when conducting research involving human subjects (e.g., surveys), animal research, conflict of interest, and general responsible conduct of research, please see their website: <http://www.research.ucf.edu/compliance/irb.html>.

Please refer to the UCF [Golden Rule](#) for additional UCF conduct expectations.

## Accommodations

UCF admits a diverse graduate student population. Some of those students may need accommodations to help them be successful in the program. Students can find more information about formal accommodation from the Student Accessibility Services office: <https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/accommodations/>

## Annual Review

Annual reviews are required for all Master's students to assess how students are doing academically, as well as to track progress toward milestones in the program. The annual review is an important opportunity to reflect on your own goals and discuss any areas of improvement with your temporary or permanent advisor. Students complete the review via a Qualtrics survey at the end of each spring semester.

## Appeals/Grievances

If students do not agree with an assessment or believe they have been treated unfairly, they should refer to the [Academic Grievance Procedure](#) from the graduate catalog. We encourage students to meet with their advisor and the program coordinator, if appropriate, as well.

## Communication

Students are expected to use their UCF email address for program-related information. All M.A. students are enrolled in the Communication MA Webcourse, where essential information (e.g., reminders, program opportunities, updates, information about workshops) is posted on a regular basis. Additionally, the webcourse will contain essential documents and forms that students need at various stages of the program.

### **Student Responsibility for University Communication**

UCF uses email as the official means of notifying students of important university business and academic information concerning registration, deadlines, financial assistance, scholarships, student accounts (including tuition and fees), academic progress and problems, and many other critical items for satisfactory completion of a UCF degree program. The university sends all business-related and academic messages to a student's campus email address to ensure that there is one repository for that information. Every student must register for and maintain a campus email account [here](#) and check it regularly to avoid missing important and critical information from the university. Any difficulty with establishing an account or with accessing an established account must be resolved through the [UCF Computer Services Service Desk](#) so that a student receives all important messages.

Additionally, each student must have an up-to-date emergency e-mail address and cell phone number by which they can be reached in case of a crisis on campus. This emergency contact information will be used only for emergency purposes. Also, both permanent and local mailing addresses must be on the record, so that any physical documents that must be mailed can be delivered.

It is critical that students maintain and regularly check their email accounts for official announcements and notifications. Communications sent to the campus email address on record will be deemed adequate notice for all university communication, including issues related to academics, finances, registration, parking, and all other matters. The University does not accept responsibility if official communication fails to reach a student who has not registered for, or maintained and checked on a regular basis, their email account, nor for students who do not read their emails. Please ensure that this information is current and that any changes in contact information are made online through the [myUCF portal](#).

### **Continuous Enrollment**

All graduate students are required to enroll in at least one class over the span of the Academic year. Failure to enroll in 3 consecutive terms results in dismissal from the program. After the candidacy exam is passed for doctoral students, they are required to

enroll in dissertation hours every semester until graduation. The institutional policy from the graduate catalog regarding continuous enrollment could be provided in this section. [Continuous Enrollment](#) and [Continuous Enrollment and Active Students](#).

## Disability Statement

UCF strives to be a fully accessible campus and an inclusive environment for people with disabilities. Students with accessibility concerns should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#).

## Dismissal/Discipline

If a student is not able to remain in good academic standing or meet the program standards, they may be subject to discipline and/or dismissal from the program. Any formal action will be considered by the program coordinator in consultation with the doctoral faculty and NSCM Director.

## Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance

The University of Central Florida considers its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to a respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at <https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu> and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers or inaccurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact [Student Accessibility Services](#).

For more information on Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes, contact:

- Title IX – ONAC <https://onac.ucf.edu/> & [onac@ucf.edu](mailto:onac@ucf.edu)
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – <https://sas.sswb.ucf.edu/> & [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu)
- Student Complaints and Appeals– <https://www.sdes.ucf.edu/student-complaints-and-appeals/>

- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & [complianceandethics@ucf.edu](mailto:complianceandethics@ucf.edu)
- Ombuds Office – <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

## Enrollment in Thesis/Dissertation Hours

All thesis and dissertation committees must be submitted at least one semester before the anticipated start of thesis or dissertation hours; see the academic calendar for deadlines related to the committee submission and candidacy.

## Golden Rule

The Golden Rule is the university's policy regarding non-academic discipline of students and limited academic grievance procedures for graduate (grade appeals in individual courses, not including thesis and dissertation courses) and undergraduate students. Information concerning The Golden Rule can be found at [www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/](http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/). Section 11, Student Academic Behavior, addresses appeals of graduate program actions or decisions.

## Grading and Grading Procedures

Faculty will determine and provide their grading schemes for each course. In general, the university uses a standard alphabetic system (i.e., A-F). Other university designations may include the following:

I	Incomplete
N	No grade reported by the instructor
S	Satisfactory (with credit)/Satisfactory Progress (Research, Thesis, or Dissertation)
U	Unsatisfactory (no credit)
W	Withdrawn
WF	Withdrawn Failing
WH	Health Form Withdrawal
WM	Medical Withdrawal
WP	Withdrawn Passing
X	Audit (no credit)

The designation of "N" will be temporarily assigned by the Registrar's Office only in the case when a grade has not been submitted by the faculty by the grades due deadline. The designator will be replaced by the earned letter grade at the earliest opportunity in

the semester that immediately follows. The "N" designator may not be assigned by faculty.

Grade changes other than medical withdrawals will be considered only during the semester immediately following the one in which the grade was assigned, except that grades assigned during the spring semester may be changed during either the following summer term or fall semester. A change in grade must be approved by the dean of the college or school. If an academic action, such as dismissal or probation, has been taken by the university before a grade change, the action will remain in effect regardless of the grade change. A grade will not be changed after a degree has been conferred.

## Harassment

Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital status, parental status, veteran status, sexual orientation, or genetic information is prohibited.

Sexual harassment, a form of sex discrimination, is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, including any of the following situations:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or enrollment.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or enrollment decisions affecting such individual.
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or enrollment, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

Sexual harassment is strictly prohibited. Occurrences will be dealt with per the guidelines above and university rules. Employees, students, or applicants for employment or admission may obtain further information on this policy, including grievance procedures, from the ONAC Coordinator. The Director of the Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance is the campus Equity Coordinator responsible for concerns in all areas of discrimination. The office is located on the main campus, in Barbara Ying CMMS Building 81, Suite 101. The phone number is (407) 823-1336. Policies and guidelines are available online at <https://onac.ucf.edu/>.

## International Students

The Nicholson School of Communication and Media welcomes international students in our graduate programs. There is often additional paperwork and processes that are specific to students from other countries. The program coordinator will work closely with

students to navigate those realities. International students should also see [UCF Global](#) for additional information about living and studying in the United States and at UCF.

## Plagiarism

Graduate students are responsible for understanding plagiarism and abiding by the expectations of academic integrity in our program and field. If this information is new to you, we encourage you to participate in the College of Graduate Studies' programming about plagiarism in the Pathways to Success Program.

Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's work and presenting it as your own. Any ideas, data, text, media, or materials taken from another source (either written or verbal) must be fully acknowledged. a) A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgment. b) A student must give credit to the originality of others whenever:

1. Directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
2. Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
3. Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
4. Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
5. Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment.
6. Using material generated by large language models (AI).

The Office of Student Conduct has a set of criteria that determines if students are in violation of plagiarism. This set of criteria may be set to a higher standard in graduate programs. Therefore, a student may not be found in violation of plagiarism by the Office of Student Conduct, but a professor or program requiring higher standards of attribution and citation may find a student in violation of plagiarism and administer program-level sanctions. The standard in master's programs should be the highest, as students earning these degrees are expected to be experts in their fields and produce independent work that contributes to their discipline.

NOTE ABOUT AI: Currently, faculty members have various rules about the use of AI in their course assignments. Students are responsible for carefully following the guidelines laid out in each course.

## Probation

If a student is not meeting program and institutional expectations for maintaining good academic standing, they may face probation or dismissal. Students should become

familiar with information on [Academic Progress and Performance](#) to understand GPA and other requirements for maintaining good standing.

## Time Limits to Degree Completion

A student has seven years from the date of admission to the master's program to earn their degree.

Extenuating circumstances may arise that hinder a student's progress towards program completion and the ability to maintain continuous enrollment. If such a need arises, the student may petition for a Special Leave of Absence. Leaves are considered for medical (e.g., illness, injury) or non-medical (e.g., family needs, military deployment). Students should be proactive in maintaining accurate records with the university and petition for a Special Leave of Absence prior to the need. When this is not possible, students should do so promptly after the need arises. Students are required to complete and submit the Leave of Absence form with all relevant supporting documents. See the [Graduate Catalog](#) for more information.

## Transfer Credit

Students should see the [Graduate Catalog](#) for information about the University limits on Transfer Credits. All transfer credits require approval from the graduate program coordinator.

## Review for Original Work (iThenticate)

The university requires all students submitting a thesis or dissertation as part of their graduate degree requirements to first have their electronic documents submitted through iThenticate for advisement purposes and review of originality. The thesis or dissertation chair is responsible for scheduling this submission to iThenticate and for reviewing the results from iThenticate with the student's advisory committee. The advisory committee uses the results appropriately to assist the student in the preparation of their dissertation.

Before the student may be approved for final submission to the university, the dissertation chair must indicate completion of the Review for Original Work through iThenticate by signing the Dissertation Approval Form.

## Additional Program Details

### Financial Aid Funding

The Nicholson School of Communication and Media is given a set number of tuition waivers each year. Distribution of the tuition waivers is based on fellowship/scholarship, the match between the special skills of the student and the needs of the NSCM. The Nicholson School offers a number of Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) each year (the number offered will vary depending on the budget situation of the department). Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) may also be offered through faculty members' grants.

For more information about Graduate Education Funding, visit

<https://graduate.ucf.edu/funding/>

### Graduate Assistantship Details

To be employed and to maintain employment in a graduate assistantship, the student must be enrolled [full-time](#) and meet all of the training requirements and/or conditions of employment noted within the [current graduate catalog](#). Additionally, students on a graduate teaching assistantship are required to participate in training seminars hosted by the Nicholson School of Communication and Media and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. These seminars are detailed when the GTA is presented with his/her contract.

NSCM will communicate training requirements to students at the time of hire, but the onus to fulfill all requirements by university deadlines is solely the student's responsibility. A failure to meet the requirements will result in the loss of an assistantship and all corresponding tuition waiver funds. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress can also result in the loss of financial support. Although GTA funding depends on the annual budget of the graduate program, assistantships are usually awarded for a two-year period. All employment of graduate teaching assistants is overseen by the Director of the NSCM.

After each semester, GTAs (graders, assistants, and associates) are required to be evaluated by the Associate Director of Communication. The Associate Director will consult with the faculty to whom the student was assigned. If the student is serving as the instructor of record, the Associate Director or a representative will review Student

Perceptions of Instruction and be involved in the assessment process. These assessments will be used to review strengths and weaknesses in the student's performance in preparation for future employment. Multiple negative evaluations may cause the student to lose future assistantships. Additionally, a failure to submit an annual performance evaluation will also result in a loss of future assistantships.

## Professional Membership

Graduate students in the Nicholson School of Communication and Media are welcome to pursue membership in any NSCM-endorsed student organization and events. Some of these include: Radio-TV Digital News Association (RTDNA), WNSC, Lambda Pi Eta, Quotes, and Debate and Speech teams.

Graduate students are encouraged to present their research at different UCF, local, regional, national, and international conferences.

## Graduation Requirements

Please refer to the [Commencement](#) details for official procedures, forms, and timelines.

In order to graduate, you must have successfully completed coursework, including no less than a B- in any core course, and overall must have a 3.0 GPA. A culminating experience, as described above, must be complete and updated on a student's Program of Study.

## Student Associations

There are many ways to be involved on campus. Please refer to this website to get started. [Student Involvement. Other opportunities will be made available on the Communication Ma WebCourses page.](#)

## Graduate Student Center

UCF is fortunate to have its own Graduate Student Center on the main campus. It is a great place to relax, practice a presentation in one of the conference rooms, have your lunch, and meet other graduate students. Check out the [Graduate Student Center](#) for more information.

## Student Research Week/Student Scholar Symposium

The College of Graduate Studies hosts an annual Student Scholar Symposium to provide a conference setting for our own students to showcase their work either with poster presentations or a face-to-face presentation. This is a great opportunity to get valuable feedback and practice for larger national or international conferences. See [Student Research Week](#) for more information.

## 3 Minute Thesis (3MT)

The College of Graduate Studies hosts a [3MT](#) competition for graduate students in both the Fall and Spring Semesters. Thesis research is presented in a novel and exciting way at UCF's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. Thesis students communicate their research in just three short minutes and with only one PowerPoint slide to non-expert judges while competing to win scholarship awards.

## Forms

There are many different forms associated with being in your program and a graduate student at UCF. This is the administrative side of completing a degree. Essential forms will be available in your Communication M.A. webcourse. Additionally, you can find many forms from the College of Graduate Studies at this link: [Forms](#).

## Useful Links/Resources

- [Bookstore](#)
- [Campus Map](#)
- [Graduate Catalog](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Parking Services](#)
- [Shuttles](#)
- [Recreation Center](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- [Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Calendar\]](#)

## Graduate Faculty

### **Dr. Rufus Barfield, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Health disparities, technology in health intervention, group communication, mixed methods

Contact Info: [rufus.barfield@ucf.edu](mailto:rufus.barfield@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Tim Brown, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Media and Society, New Media in Journalism, New Media in Education, Industry/Academy Relationship

Contact Info: [timbrown@ucf.edu](mailto:timbrown@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Melissa Dodd, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Activism, Corporate Communication, Public Relations, Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Media, Social Capital

Contact Info: [melissa.dodd@ucf.edu](mailto:melissa.dodd@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Christine Hanlon, Senior Lecturer**

Research interests: Advertising, Gender, LGBTQ+, Military Recruitment and Integration

Contact Info: [Hanlon@ucf.edu](mailto:Hanlon@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Sally Hastings, Professor**

Research interests: Communication and Bereavement, Communication and Marginalization, Intercultural, Interpersonal

Contact Info: [Sally.Hastings@ucf.edu](mailto:Sally.Hastings@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Erica Kight, Associate Lecturer**

Research interests: Hispanic Media, Spanish-language Media, Hispanic/Latinx audiences, Diversity in Media, Representation of People of Color in Media

Contact Info: [Erika.Kight@ucf.edu](mailto:Erika.Kight@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Jihyun Kim, Professor**

Research interests: Communication and Technology, New Technology, Quantitative Methods

Contact Info: [Jihyun.Kim@ucf.edu](mailto:Jihyun.Kim@ucf.edu)

**Dr. William Kinnally, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Mass Media Effects, Effects and News Content, Social Judgement, Media Enjoyment

Contact Info: [William.Kinnally@ucf.edu](mailto:William.Kinnally@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Renata Kolodziej-Smith, Lecturer**

Research interests: Organizational and Intercultural Communication

Contact Info: [Renata.Kolodziej-Smith@ucf.edu](mailto:Renata.Kolodziej-Smith@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Xialing Lin, Assistant Professor**

Research interests: intersections of risk, crisis communication, and communication technology.

Contact info: [Xialing.Lin@ucf.edu](mailto:Xialing.Lin@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Robert Littlefield, Professor**

Research interests: Intercultural, Risk/Crisis, Forensic Pedagogy

Contact Info: [Robert.Littlefield@ucf.edu](mailto:Robert.Littlefield@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Ann Miller, Professor**

Research interests: Health Communication, Instructional Communication

Contact Info: [Ann.Miller@ucf.edu](mailto:Ann.Miller@ucf.edu)

**Dr. George Musambira, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Bereavement and Communication, International and Intercultural Communication, Non-Government Organizations, Communication and Development in African Countries

Contact Info: [George.Musambira@ucf.edu](mailto:George.Musambira@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Adam Parrish, Lecturer**

Research interests: Health Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Persuasion, Risk and Crisis Communication

Contact Info: [Adam.Parrish@ucf.edu](mailto:Adam.Parrish@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Bridget Rubenking, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Media Processing and Effects, New Media, Entertainment, Quantitative Methods

Contact Info: [Bridget.Rubenking@ucf.edu](mailto:Bridget.Rubenking@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Jennifer Sandoval, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Identity, Intercultural Communication, Health Policy, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Contact Info: [Jennifer.Sandoval@ucf.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Sandoval@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Patric Spence, Professor**

Research interests: New Technology, Risk and Crisis Communication

Contact Info: [Spence@ucf.edu](mailto:Spence@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Michael Strawser, Associate Professor**

Research interests: Instructional and Organizational Communication

Contact Info: [michaelstrawser@ucf.edu](mailto:michaelstrawser@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Kimberly Voss, Professor**

Research interests: Women's Studies, Women and the Media, Journalism History, Food History, Media Law, Social Media

Contact Info: [Kimberly.Voss@ucf.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Voss@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Harry Weger, Professor**

Research interests: Interpersonal, Family Communication, Persuasion, Nonverbal Communication

Contact Info: [Harry.Weger@ucf.edu](mailto:Harry.Weger@ucf.edu)

**Dr. Nan Yu, Professor**

Research interests: New Media, Health Communication, Science Communication, Quantitative Methods

Contact Info: [Nan.Yu@ucf.edu](mailto:Nan.Yu@ucf.edu)

**Nicholson Grad Contact Info**

Michael Haney  
NSCM Graduate Student Service Coordinator  
Communication and Media Building 202A  
407-235-3576  
E-mail: [nicholsongrad@ucf.edu](mailto:nicholsongrad@ucf.edu)