

Masters in Communication Studies (MACS) Communication Studies Program Arizona State University

Focus

Advocacy is the integrating theme of our MA coursework. Advocacy is the process of representing positions, people, and organizations. It includes creating the conditions that allow disadvantaged persons and populations to speak “in their own voices.” Students ground their study in a social context, such as the workplace, technology-mediated environments, personal relationships, local communities, or subcultures.

Educational Philosophy

MA students study the ethical, rhetorical, and social science foundations of advocacy. The faculty and the curriculum embrace methodological and theoretical diversity and interdisciplinary study. The program is strongly grounded in the liberal arts. Students are encouraged to read original texts, engage in research, and present their work in academic, public, and professional settings. Faculty mentoring, involvement in departmental teaching and research initiatives, and peer interaction are important features of the program.

Faculty Strengths

All graduate faculty are leading researchers who publish scholarly books and journal articles and serve as editors or editorial board members of leading journals. Particular areas of research strength are communication in personal relationships, social implications of communication technologies, and the role of communication practices in sustaining cultural identities. The faculty are committed to excellence in teaching as indicated by a sustained pattern of strong student teaching evaluations, teaching-related publications, and teaching awards.

Initiatives and Partnerships

MACS students play instructional or research roles in such initiatives as the *Communication Assessment and Learning Lab (CALL)*, *Family Communication Consortium (FCC)*, *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*, *the Osher Reentry Scholars Program*, and the multi-section public speaking course. In 2009, the *Academic Coaching* program will employ MACS students as mentors for undergraduate students, an initiative designed to enhance undergraduate retention and academic performance and increase graduate student engagement in our teaching mission.

Recent Student Accomplishments (see attached publication list)

- 10 publications co-authored with department faculty (since 2005)
- 7 single-authored student publications (2008 and in-press)
- 5 co-authored authored publications under review (fall, 2008)
- 13 scholarly presentations co-authored with faculty (since 2003)
- 34 single-authored student presentations (2007-2008)
- 10 students admitted to Ph.D. programs (since 2004)

Alumni Success

In recent years MACS students have accepted positions in the communication professions, management, public service, education, human resources, and numerous other career areas (see Careers). Employers of recent graduates include the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team, City of Peoria public information office, Maricopa Community College District, KTVK television, Chevron Corporation, Hartford Insurance, Arizona Public Service, Arizona Training and Evaluation Center, and Arizona State University. In recent years, 10 of our graduates have been accepted to leading Ph.D. programs.