

# NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

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## Accelerated Master of Arts in Communication

### School of Communication

ACCELERATED PROGRAM: BS (Creative Media & Film, Media Studies emphasis) – MA (Communication, general/no emphasis). **Reflects catalog changes for AY 2023-24**

#### **Application and Eligibility Requirements**

Current undergraduate students majoring in Creative Media & Film with a Documentary emphasis may apply for conditional admission to the accelerated program for the MA in Communication with an emphasis in Documentary Studies after completing 60 units of undergraduate coursework with a minimum NAU cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and after completing a minimum of 12 undergraduate units in their Creative Media & Film major at NAU with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 in those courses. Receiving an Incomplete or completing a class graded as Pass/Fail or Audit will not count towards this 12-unit requirement. In addition, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 in all NAU courses and in courses within their major until they complete their bachelor's degree and formally become a graduate student in the MA in Communication.

#### **Overview**

The Accelerated Program for the BS in Creative Media & Film (Documentary emphasis) to the MA in Communication with an emphasis in Documentary Studies allows a maximum of 9 units that are used to complete both the undergraduate and the graduate requirements. Only two of the three courses for dual credit may be completed at the 400-level. Students must receive a grade of "B" or higher in this coursework used towards both degrees.

Students may not begin taking graduate courses other than the 9 units designated for dual credit until they have been awarded their bachelor's degree.

With careful planning, appropriate advising, and exceptional discipline, this accelerated program can reduce the total time for both degrees from the typical six years to as little as five years. However, completing both degrees in five years will require that students take more than the typical 30 credit hours per year in the second and subsequent years of their undergraduate program. More typically, and without such overloads or other additional units, the accelerated program allows for the possibility of completing both degrees in five- and one-half years.

#### **Undergraduate requirements for students in the accelerated program**

##### **Take the following 48 units:**

Core Requirements with grades of "C" or better (24 units):

CMF 106, CMF 121, CMF 122, CMF 129, CMF 135 (15 units)

Select one from: CMF 426C or CMF 470C (3 units)

Select two from: CMF 321, CMF 322, CMF 382, CMF 482 (6 units)

Media Studies Emphasis Requirements (24 units):

CMF 330W, COM 422 (6 units)

COM 301 (3 units)

Select two additional not used in the core from: CMF 321, CMF 322, CMF 382, CMF 482 (6 units)

COM 525 (accelerated students substitute COM 525 for COM 425) (3 units)

Select from (6 units): CST 323, CCJ 215, CCJ 314, CCS 250, ENG 266, ENG 366W, ENG 467, ES 200, ES 202, ES 204, ES 206, HUM 344, HUM 370, HUM 382, LAN 350, REL 365, WGS 180

**Graduate requirements for students in the accelerated program**

Take the following **36 units** while remaining in [good academic standing](#):

Core requirements (12 units):

COM 600 and COM 601 (6 units)

COM 698 (3 units)

Select one from: COM 602, COM 603, or COM 604 (3 units)

Communication Elective Coursework (18-21 units)

Additional graduate-level coursework chosen in consultation with a graduate faculty advisor.

Courses may include, with advisor approval, up to 9 units of coursework outside of Communication, Communication Studies, and Creative Media & Film.

No more than 6 units of individualized studies, directed readings, and research are allowed in the student's coursework.

For accelerated students, 9 of these elective units would be COM 525, CMF 422, and either CMF 426C or CMF 470C (dual use courses taken while an undergraduate); no additional 400-level courses can be applied to the requirements for the MA in Communication.

All students will select either the Thesis or Project Option (3-6 units)

Thesis Option

COM 699 (6 units). Be aware that students may end up taking more than the 6 units that count toward the degree, as enrollment in COM 699 is required each fall and spring semester once a student begins the thesis until the student graduates. Additionally, students must enroll for at least 1 unit of COM 699 the semester in which they plan to defend and graduate, including summer, regardless of the number of units already taken. (6 units)

Project Option

COM 690 (3 or 6 units). Be aware that students may end up taking more than the 3 or 6 units that count toward the degree, as enrollment for at least one credit of COM 690 may be required each semester in which a student works on a project.

Please see the next page for sample progression plan.

## **Suggested Progression Plan**

^ Denotes undergraduate course applied towards the undergraduate degree

% Denotes a course that applies towards both degrees

\* Denotes graduate course applied towards the graduate degree (must be taken after completion of bachelor's degree)

Fall Year 1 (Term 1: 16 units)	Spring Year 1 (Term 2: 15 units)
^ CMF 121	^ CMF 106 (also meets AHI Liberal Studies requirement)
^ CMF 122	^ CMF 135
^ CMF 129	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Foundation English or Math	^ Foundation Math or English

Fall Year 2 (Term 3: 15 units)	Spring Year 2 (Term 4: 15 units)
^ CMF 321, 322, 382, or 482	^ CMF 321, 322, 382, or 482
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ COM 301 (meets Ethnic Diversity requirement)
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity

Fall Year 3 (Term 5: 16 units)	Spring Year 3 (Term 6: 15 units)
^ CMF 330W	^ Media Studies elective
^ Media Studies elective	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies Lab Science Lecture	^ Liberal Studies and/or Diversity
^ Liberal Studies Lab Science Lab	^ General Elective Course
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course

Fall Year 4 (Term 7: 15 units)	Spring Year 4 (Term 8: 15 units; graduate with BS)
% COM 525 (substitute for COM 425)	% CMF 426C or 470C
^ General Elective Course	% CMF 422
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course
^ General Elective Course	^ General Elective Course

Fall Year 5 (Term 9: 9 units)	Spring Year 5 (Term 10: 9 units)
* COM 600	* COM 603 or COM 698
* COM 601	* Graduate-level elective
* COM 602, COM 604, or COM 698	* Graduate-level elective

Fall Year 6 (Term 11: 9 units; graduate with MA)	
* COM 690 or 699 (3-6 units)	
* Graduate-level elective	
* Graduate level elective (if only 3 cr. COM 690)	

This sample progression plan reduces the time to complete both the BS and MA degrees by one semester, from six years to five and a half. If students begin taking more than 30 credits per year early enough in their undergraduate career, they may be able to reduce the time to their bachelor's degree by one semester, potentially reducing the time to complete both the BS and MA degrees by a full year.