The Master of Arts in Communication program is a 36 semester hour program designed to offer a wide range of options for students who are interested in advancing in leadership, management, public relations and media in South Texas and beyond, or who aspire to enroll in a doctoral program. Students may elect to take an Applied Research Project Track or a Thesis Track. All students are required to take a sequence of core curriculum coursework that emphasizes major academic areas within the discipline of communication. In addition, students take specialized coursework to either prepare them for the professional application of communication principles (Applied Research Project Track) or to conduct communication research (Thesis Track). Upon admission, each student will meet with the Graduate Academic Advisor to develop a degree plan, and will then be assigned a faculty advisor who will assist them with academic decisions during the course of their degree program.

Applied Research Project and Thesis Track Options:

**Applied Research Project:**

This 36 hour degree option allows students to take required graduate courses, explore a variety of courses and identify an applied research project that will help them advance their career or be competitive candidates for leadership and management positions.

**Thesis Track Option:**

This 36 hour degree option allows students to develop an area of research interest and eventually produce a comprehensive research contribution to that area. Students must apply for the thesis degree option. In addition to the required course work, students will write a master’s thesis under the direction and supervision of the student’s thesis committee. While this option is open for all students to apply, it is designed to prepare and qualify students for doctoral programs.

**For information on this program contact:**

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