**Program Approval Form**

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

**Action Requested:**
- [x] Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
- [ ] Inactivate Existing
- [x] Modify Existing (check **ALL** that apply)
  - Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
  - Concentration (Choose one): [ ] Add [ ] Delete [x] Modify
  - Degree Requirements
  - Admission Standards/ Application Requirements
  - Other Changes:

**College/School:** CHSS  
**Submitted by:** Anne Nicotera  
**Department:** Communication  
**Effective Term:** Fall 2016

**Type (Check one):**
- [x] B.A.
- [x] M.A.
- [ ] B.S.
- [ ] M.S.
- [ ] M.Ed.
- [ ] Ph.D.
- [ ] Undergraduate Certificate* (req. C3 approval)
- [ ] Graduate Certificate*
- [ ] Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's  
- [ ] Other:

Please note: For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

**Justification:** (attach separate document if necessary)

Improve methods instruction for MA students in Science Communication concentration, which mirrors the 2016 MA program updates as a whole. Allow more multidisciplinary credit hours for students in Science Communication Concentration. This form corrects errors in previous form submitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title: (Required)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/department.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science Communication</td>
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<tr>
<th>Admissions Standards / Application Requirements: (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)</th>
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<tr>
<th>Degree Requirements:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consult University Catalog for models. Attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>New/Modified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication, MA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Communication</td>
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⚠ Concentration in Science Communication (SCMN)

A maximum of 9 credit hours from outside the department can be applied to the concentration in science communication.

Two core courses (6 credits)
- **COMM 600 - Introduction to Graduate Studies** Credits: 3
- **COMM 798 - Communication Studies Project** Credits: 3

Two methods courses (6 credits)

One required course:
- **COMM 650 - Research Methodologies in Communication** Credits: 3
Then, one course chosen from:

- COMM 725 – Qualitative Methods
- COMM 750 – Research Methods II
- COMM 775 – Content Analysis
- a graduate research methods course in science, social science or science policy for which the student is qualified and which has been approved by the program director. Students should select from 500- or 600-level classes offered by CHSS, COS, CHHS, SPiGA, or CEHD.

Two theory courses (6 credits)

- COMM 639 - Science Communication Credits: 3
- COMM 642 - Science and the Public Credits: 3

One practicum course (3 credits)

- COMM 641 - Advanced Communication Skills for STEM Credits: 3

One required course (3 credits)

- COMM 640 - Controversies in Science Communication Credits: 3
- or
- COMM 644 - Analysis and Criticism of Science Journalism Credits: 3

Optional thesis (3 credits)

- COMM 799 - Master’s Thesis Credits: 1-6
  - Students who do not choose to complete a thesis will take additional credits of elective courses.

Electives (6-9 credits)

- At least one science-related course (3 credits) outside the department is required. A maximum of three outside courses (9 credits) is allowed for the concentration.
- Outside course(s) must be chosen from graduate courses in science, social science or science policy for which students are qualified and which have been approved by the program director. Students should select from 500- or 600-level classes offered by CHSS, COS, CHHS, SPIGA, or CEHD.
- The remaining elective courses in the concentration must be graduate-level COMM courses, to include the optional thesis.

**Courses offered via distance:**

(if applicable)

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:**

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<td>Total: 33 credits</td>
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*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a  
□ Full-time basis  □ Part-time basis

### Approval Signatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>College/School</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Provost's Office</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Required for Minors and Interdisciplinary Programs</td>
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If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

### For Minors and UG Certificates only (Cross-College Curriculum Committee Approval)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>Unit Approval Name</th>
<th>Unit Approver’s Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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### For Graduate Programs Only

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<tr>
<th>Graduate Council Member</th>
<th>Provost Office</th>
<th>Graduate Council Approval Date</th>
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For Registrar Office’s Use Only: Received Banner Catalog  
revised 9/1/15