

## **Mission Statement**

### **Department of Communication Studies**

The success of human endeavors rests upon communication. Pope John Paul II has said, “The means of social communication, properly used, can help create and sustain a human community based on justice and charity. Insofar as they do that, there will be signs of hope.

As citizens and as members of various communities, we depend on the flow of communication and on our ability to interpret and analyze messages. The framers of the United States Constitution recognized the importance of free and robust communication. James Madison wrote: “People who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.”

The Department of Communication Studies devotes itself to teaching within the tradition of liberal arts and professional education to produce responsible and skilled communicators. Our graduates will understand how to communicate effectively and ethically as communication professionals in all human arenas. Our students will use their communication knowledge and skills to reach beyond the University in service to the larger community. More than ever, our department must educate future leaders to be thoughtful and informed participants in a society that needs ethical public discourse.

To fulfill this mission, the department curriculum is designed to teach students:

- To understand the overall communication process in all its ethical, social, legal, and cultural dimensions.
- To know relevant communication theory, including rhetorical, legal, historical, humanistic and social-scientific perspectives of human communication.
- To understand the importance of freedom of expression and its centrality to democratic practice in a pluralistic society.
- To understand developments in communication technology and their impact on human communication practices
- To conduct communication research leading to enhanced understanding of the intersection between theory and praxis.
- To apply communication theory in an experiential setting
- To write clear and effective prose that is well-adapted to medium, audience and situation
- To speak effectively, whether interpersonally, in small groups or in public, considering religion, class, race, age, ethnicity and culture.