Graduate Program
Communication, Media, and Theatre Studies

Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree Program

The Master of Arts graduate program in Communication, Media, and Theatre (CMT) Studies at Northeastern Illinois University links three creative and demanding disciplines, all of which focus on social interaction, technology, and performance.

The coursework in this program is largely historical and theoretical in nature and is designed to provide advanced study in these disciplines. Students will further their understanding of interpersonal, intercultural, and organizational relationships; confront complex social problems; think critically about new media technologies; and understand the role of film, television, and the dramatic arts in contemporary social life. The program is designed for students interested in advanced corporate, non-profit, or public service positions; teachers at the elementary or secondary level; and those preparing for positions in higher

Admission Requirements

Students are only admitted during the fall semester. Students must meet the minimum requirements for admission to the NEIU Graduate College before application materials will be forwarded to the CMT department. The Graduate College requires the following:

- **Application Form** (www.neiu.edu/academics/graduate-college)
- **Statement of Goals and Objectives** describing why you want to pursue graduate study and join the CMT program.
- **Application Fee** ($30)
- **Transcripts** from **all** undergraduate institutions.
- **Two (2) Letters of Recommendation** that describe your ability to excel in graduate school and the CMT graduate program. (If you graduated from NEIU, one letter must be from a CMT graduate faculty member [see next page].)

In addition to the requirements of the Graduate College, the following requirement is specific to the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre:

- A **Writing Sample** (e.g., a research paper, Honors Thesis, creative essay, a substantial professional report)

Submit all application materials to the NEIU Graduate College. The CMT graduate committee will only determine acceptance once all materials have been received.

July 15, 2026
Deadline to apply for **Fall 2026** admission

Northeastern ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Graduate Program Course Plan

All incoming students are required to enroll in CMTC 401 (Introduction to Graduate Study) in their first semester. Students also have the option to take up to two graduate (400-level) courses in other departments at NEIU. In addition to course work, students must either (a) take comprehensive exams or (b) apply to write a thesis in order to graduate.

Required courses (5 courses; 15 credits)

CMTC 401:	Introduction to Graduate Study
CMTC 402:	Seminar in Research Methods
CMTC 404:	Communication Theory
CMTM 465:	Mass Communication Theory
CMTT 430:	Performance Theory

Elective courses (5 courses; 15 credits)

CMTC 400:	Special Topics in Communication
CMTC 414:	Seminar in Organizational Communication
CMTC 416:	Seminar in Interpersonal Communication
CMTC 434:	Independent Study in Communication
CMTM 410:	Independent Study in Media
CMTM 466:	Media and Cultural Studies
CMTM 467:	Special Topics in Film and Television
CMTM 468:	Seminar in New Media
CMTT 423:	Independent Study in Theatre
CMTT 446:	Arts Administration
CMTT 473:	Special Topics in Theatre
CMTE 490:	Instructional Communication
CMTE 492:	Teaching College Speech

Graduate Faculty

Maura Baron (Cherney)
Graduate Advisor, Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Seung-Hwan Mun
Professor
Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

Sarah J. Fabian
Associate Professor
MFA, Northwestern University

Adam Goldstein
Associate Professor
MFA, Northwestern University

Cyndi Moran
Department Chair, Professor
MFA, Northwestern University

Shayne Pepper
Professor
Ph.D., North Carolina State University

Edie Rubinowitz
Professor
MPA, Harvard University

Yejin Shin
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of Arizona

For more information about the Graduate Program in CMT Studies,
visit **www.neiu.edu/cmt** or contact Dr. Maura Baron at **m-cherney@neiu.edu**