BALL STATE UNIVERSITY®

Create + Learn

Master of Arts in Telecommunications, emphasis in Digital Storytelling

About the program

The **MA in Telecommunications, emphasis in Digital Storytelling**, is a two-year program in which students explore the rich process of story creation for digital media.

By completing this program you gain:

- proficiency in digital media and transmedia design and production;
- an understanding of the nuances of narrative substance and structure;
- an understanding of the challenges, implications and ethics of storytelling in a media-saturated age;
- competent analysis and research skills.

The curriculum includes:

- Core courses (foundations of digital storytelling, creativity, story design and development, intercultural immersion) (17 hrs)
- Research methods course (3 hrs)
- Two additional design courses (6 hrs)
- Two electives (6 or 7 hours)
- Thesis or Creative Project (6 hours)

Total: 38 or 39 hours; up to 8 of these hours can be fulfilled with "immersive learning" independent study or special project hours.

Who should apply?

Students with bachelor's degrees from fields such as telecommunications, media studies, journalism, public relations, communication studies, game studies, instructional media, creative writing, or technical writing.

Graphic artists, creative writers, film or theatre professionals, marketers, Web designers, game designers or other professionals seeking career enhancement or a career change.

Career options

Our program serves two general career paths: entry into a media industry career or preparation for a career in higher education.

The program addresses the need for communication professionals who have the multidisciplinary perspectives, conceptual foundations, and creative and technical skills to produce and manage content for a variety of digital media. Students with industry career plans typically chose the creative project option.

Our graduates are working as a wide range of media industry careers. Examples include producer, editor, videographer, illustrator, web developer, project manager, corporate media director/manager, multimedia journalist, instructional designer, social media marketer, and marketing research analyst.

There are two paths pursued by students interested in faculty positions in higher education:

- Non-tenure-track "contract" faculty positions teaching media production in a college or university setting;

- Doctoral study for students intending a tenure-track professorial career in higher education teaching and research.

Students pursuing a faculty career typically choose the thesis option.

Application and Admissions

Application steps Application is a two step process: **applying to the BSU Graduate School** and **applying to the department**.

Applying to the Graduate School The Graduate School checks to see that you meet its minimum qualifications:

- A **bachelor's degree** (awarded or to be awarded before entry) from a college or university accredited by its regional accrediting association;

- A **cumulative grade point average** of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale at the baccalaureate level or a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 in the latter half of the baccalaureate level.

Visit **www.bsu.edu/gradschool** for more information. You can begin the Graduate School application process at their **Apply Now** page.

Applying to the department The department of telecommunications admission decision is based on your departmental application portfolio. Departmental admission is competitive and is not guaranteed by clearance by the Graduate School.

Departmental applications are submitted to the program's Director of Graduate Studies, either emailed to **mholmes@bsu.edu** or mailed to:

Prof. Michael Holmes
Department of Telecommunications
Ball State University, BC 201
2000 W. University Ave.
Muncie, IN 47306

Application portfolios are reviewed after you have been cleared by the Graduate School.

Application portfolio (required items) Required items for the departmental application portfolio:

1. A cover letter which explains the program's match to the your personal and/or career goals and summarizes your creative portfolio;

2. Academic or professional writing sample of at least 1500 words in length;

3. Documentation of completion of oral communication performance class, such as public speaking, with a grade of "B" or better (an official course description must be provided);

4. A list of media software packages in which you are fluent (e.g., image editing, illustration, video editing, audio editing, scriptwriting, animation, web design and scripting, mobile app programming, etc.);

5. A creative portfolio containing at least one project demonstrating your skill in visual communication (such as web design, graphic design, publication design, video design and production, broadcast design, game design, scriptwriting, storyboarding, theatrical design or architectural design). For collaborative projects, please describe your role in the project. Creative portfolio items can be provided in physical form or via links to online materials.

The GRE (Graduate Record Exam) is **NOT** required but scores will be considered if provided.

Application portfolio (optional items)

Recommended items for the application packet:

1. Your current résumé;

2. One or more letters of recommendation addressing academic skills and/or creative talent (these can be mailed or emailed directly to the Director of Graduate Studies if the recommender prefers);

3. [TCOM Graduate Assistantship application form](#), if applicable.

Please contact the [director of graduate studies](#) if you have any questions about your application portfolio.

Application review process

We review complete application portfolios as soon as they are received; our goal is to reply with a decision (accept, reject, wait list) within two weeks of receipt. Applications are accepted until an incoming cohort is filled; however, applying no later than mid-March is recommended, especially if you are also applying for a graduate assistantship.

Admitted students will have, at minimum:

- A well-written cover letter which explains the program's match to the applicant's personal or career goals and provides an introduction to the student's creative portfolio.

- An academic or professional writing sample demonstrating the applicant's ability to produce graduate-level academic writing.

- Demonstrated skills in one or more digital media production/editing platforms (visual, audio, and/or interactive content creation).

- A record of success in individual and collaborative research and/or creative production projects.

Graduate assistantships	The department has a limited number of graduate assistantships available. Regular assistantships require 20 hours per week in a teaching, studio or research support role and carry a stipend and tuition waiver. Ten-hour assistantships, available to Indiana residents only, provide a tuition waiver but no stipend. While the department cannot provide assistantships to all qualified applicants, we have a history of success in helping our students find assistantships in other departments and units on campus. If you are interested in being considered for an assistantship, please return the Graduate Assistantship Application with your application portfolio.
International applicants	We welcome your application. International students should first contact Ball State's Rinker Center for International Programs. The center's staff will guide you through the application process. You may contact the center at 765-285-5422 or intadmit@bsu.edu.
For more information	Our web site: **www.bsu.edu.gradschool/tcom** BSU Graduate School: **www.bsu.edu/gradschool** Questions? Contact: Prof. Michael Holmes, Interim Director of Graduate Studies mholmes@bsu.edu 765-285-1491 *or* Department of Telecommunications office: BC 201 welovetcom@bsu.edu (765) 285-1480
Please visit!	Contact Prof. Holmes to schedule a visit and tour and to get travel and parking directions.

The David Letterman Communication and Media Building

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