

CGSP Resolution 2002-03D
Resolution for Establishment of a Master of Arts (MA) in Communication
Degree Program in the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Approved by Commission on Graduate Studies:	April 2, 2003
First Reading at University Council:	April 21, 2003
Approved by University Council:	
Approved by the President:	
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	
Effective:	Fall 2003

WHEREAS, communication as an academic discipline, as an economic sector, and as an area of emphasis for students has experienced significant growth over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, many management positions in the communication and media professions require or strongly favor advanced research degrees for employment and advancement; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of Ph.D. candidates in communication for college-level teaching positions indicates a need for more feeder programs at the Master's level; and

WHEREAS, there are few communication Master's programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and none that focus on communication research in both public and mass communication contexts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed communication Master's program supports the strategic goals of Virginia Tech, specifically to increase the number and breadth of graduate programs in the humanities, fine arts, and social sciences; and

WHEREAS, the great majority of Virginia Tech's peer institutions have significant graduate programs in communication; and

WHEREAS, the current program, a communication studies option in the M.A. program in English in existence since Fall 1999, has successfully graduated students and placed them in Ph.D. programs and employment, and has experienced a significant increase in applications; and

WHEREAS, the current English diploma granted by the option restricts the attractiveness of the program for students specifically interested in communication programs; and

WHEREAS, the spin-off program would require no new resources to maintain at the current level;

THEREFORE be it resolved, that the proposal for a Master of Arts in Communication degree program be approved.