Are you ready for an exciting career in PUBLIC AFFAIRS?

The School of Public Affairs supports the Culture of Excellence at Methodist University by providing a career-oriented educational experience that cultivates the mind, the body, and the spirit. The knowledge, values, and critical thinking skills developed in the liberal arts core enable programs to expand and apply that knowledge to specialized fields of study. Our mission is to provide a high-quality education that prepares students for graduate school and fulfilling careers in their areas of study. We desire our students to engage, enrich and empower others as responsible leaders and citizens in a democratic society.
Effective communication is a necessary part of everything a person does at home, play, and work. It depends on a particular skill set and various competencies that fit the demands of the situation along with organizational abilities, time-management skills, critical thinking, and the ability to make good decisions; being an effective communicator is central to these important activities. Within Applied Communication there are several distinct disciplines such as technology, critical thinking, health, intercultural, interpersonal, small group, mass communications, organizational, political, rhetorical, and environmental communication.

**MISSION**

Faculty in Applied Communication educate, equip, and enrich future leaders for success in careers in public affairs, organizations, and health care through theory and practice of effective communication and leadership behaviors.

**DEGREES AWARDED:** Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

“As a Non-Commissioned Officer in the military, I was looking for a major that would help me develop my leadership capabilities, and also to learn more effective ways in which I could communicate with my peers and subordinates. Not only did I learn different ways to lead and communicate with people, but I also learned how to manage conflict and become a better speaker, whether facing small or large audiences. There is no doubt that this program has prepared me for a bright future.”

— Vince Brackett ‘17

Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army
This exciting hands-on program perfectly blends theory and knowledge with the abilities to perform key and essential actions at crime scenes and crime reconstruction scenes to perform physical evidence analysis. Students are trained to work in all aspects of law enforcement, crime scenes, and forensic science. This training prepares students for the potential to strive for advanced degrees as well as employment within the forensic science and law enforcement professions.

MISSION

The Applied Forensic Science major affords students the opportunity for employment in forensic science at the local, state and federal law enforcement levels. The program prides itself on high quality classroom instruction, hands-on practical laboratory exercises, access to the weapons firing range and indoor, outdoor and vehicle based mock crime scenes. Students are provided networking opportunities via internships and attendance at local, state and national forensic science professional-educational conferences. These experiences maximize opportunities for AFS graduates to gain employment in the rapidly growing, exciting, sustainable, and meaningful forensic science career field.

DEGREE AWARDED: Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

“The exciting field of forensic science is a premier program at Methodist and I am proud to be a part of it. I have traveled to Seattle and Washington, D.C. to network with professionals in the field. The program uses the latest technology and we gain hands-on experience. The forensic science faculty at MU are nationally recognized.”

— Scottie Gendron ’15
Justice Studies, concentration in Forensic Science Fayetteville, N.C.
The Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity Program combines criminal justice and information security technology courses from the Justice Studies curriculum to provide students with the foundational, technical and legal knowledge to investigate and conduct digital forensics investigations as well as to protect and defend against cyber/network intrusions. Students apply their knowledge by implementing learned technical skills across all Justice Studies courses and conducting hands on exercises that help to reinforce curriculum content. Students gain skills and expertise in the following areas: operating systems, networking, penetration testing, vulnerability scanning, incident response, digital/network forensics and virtualization.

MISSION

The mission of the Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity program at Methodist University is to increase the Global Information Security Workforce by educating, preparing and certifying technically competent graduates who will be able to conduct forensic investigations on electronic media, defend against theft of critical information and combat the escalating cyber threat landscape.

DEGREE AWARDED: Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

“The education I received was more than memorizing pages out of books. It was a learning experience that provided hands-on opportunities for real-world concepts and prepared me to enter the workforce. I would recommend Methodist University’s DFCS program to all students who aspire to work in the information security field.”

– Aaron Randolph ’16
Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Lansing, Mich.
Both the Environmental and Occupational Management (ENM) fields are rapidly growing. There are more and more regulations put in place by government every day and many of these new regulations require qualified individuals to fill the safety and compliance roles. Since its inception, the program has maintained a 100 percent job placement rate within six months of graduation. Many ENM students graduate with jobs already lined up. This is due to the mandatory 100-hour internship every student must complete as part of his or her graduation requirement.

MISSION
The Environmental and Occupational Management Program will train graduates who are in high demand to work at the entry to administrative levels in these and other areas.

DEGREE AWARDED: Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
The purpose of the Justice Studies Program is to provide students with a systems orientation to the field of criminal justice and a holistic view of behavior, conditions, and circumstances that produce crime and criminality. Crime, criminality, and the criminal justice system are studied from a social science perspective.

**MISSION**

Justice Studies will provide students a knowledge base and comprehensive understanding of criminological theory as it applies to the causation, prevention, control, and treatment of criminal behavior.

**DEGREES AWARDED:**

- Associate of Arts (A.A.)
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

"During my time in the Justice Studies Program, I was able to meet and network with many people across the United States. In 2016, I achieved my ultimate dream job with the United States Secret Service. As a Uniformed Division Officer, I do what I love and travel all over the world to serve my country and this agency. The Justice Studies Program prepared me for my future and provided the foundation to learn the law and excel through the Federal Police Academy. I am forever grateful for my experience at MU and strongly recommend the Justice Studies Program."

– Oriana Clayton ’14
Uniformed Division Officer, U.S. Secret Service
The Legal Studies Program is approved by the American Bar Association, and students who graduate from the Legal Studies program are eligible to take the North Carolina Bar Association Paralegal Certification Exam. Paralegal work is a fast growing field which is increasingly using college graduates. The field is expanding because lawyers use paralegals as a cost-effective way of providing excellent services to their clients. The Legal Studies minor also provides valuable preparation for aspiring law school students.

MISSION
The mission of Legal Studies is to prepare students in the Legal Studies Program for careers in the legal profession.

DEGREE AWARDED: Minor only

“If you are planning to pursue a career with an investigative agency, it is so important to know the procedures that go along with search and seizure and interrogation. Dr. Vonnegut’s legal studies classes have helped me so much in my career with the SBI. The minor in Legal Studies has assisted with keeping me safe from a legal perspective in my job and it taught me how to read cases and complete multiple case briefs.”

– Austin Warren ’16
Special Agent, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation
The Mass Communications Department is a unique combination of talents and disciplines that take advantage of the flexible nature of modern communication technology and the benefits of a small private university. The Mass Communications program is intended to be flexible enough to accommodate a wide variety of paths. Students take a core of general theory classes and may choose from a number of electives. Mass Communications students study advertising, video production, web page and multimedia design, graphics and animation, performance for the camera, radio production, journalism, and much more.

**MISSION**

Mass Communications’ mission is to prepare students to thrive in the ever-changing world of film, journalism and multimedia through theoretical and practical training that utilizes cutting edge technology and promotes student involvement.

**DEGREES AWARDED:** Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

“The Mass Communications Program has prepared me to establish a successful career and further my education in Mass Communications. I really enjoyed working with others on assignments and being able to display my skills. I credit my success to the small class sizes, hands-on learning, and the professors’ professional expertise. My time at MU was time well spent, because I was given unforgettable knowledge and experiences.”

– Mia See-Wai ’17
Fayetteville, N.C.
Army ROTC is a university elective that teaches skills needed for a successful career. Students combine classroom time with hands-on experience, and learn leadership and management skills. A four-year program, the first two years are taken during freshman and sophomore years (Basic Course). The second two years are taken during junior and senior years (Advanced Course). Only contracted Army ROTC cadets may enroll in the advanced course of military science.

MISSION
The U.S. Army Cadet Command partners with universities to recruit, educate, develop, and inspire Senior ROTC Cadets in order to commission officers of character for the Total Army.

DEGREE AWARDED: Minor only

“I chose Army ROTC because it is a program that challenges me both physically and mentally. It does so while preparing me to be a strong, confident leader whether it be for the military or in the civilian world.”

— Heather McDaniel ’19
Fredericksburg, Va.
Political Science is the study of governments, public policies, and political action. Political Science uses both humanistic and scientific approaches to examine the origins, structures, and operations of government in America and in other countries and regions of the world. In addition to the major in Political Science, concentrations are offered in International Relations and Public Administration.

MISSION

The mission of the Political Science Program is to educate students in American political thought, governance, and citizenship, and to inspire them to participate in the political process. Political Science majors will be prepared for professional employment and/or advanced study, and to stimulate them in anticipating their future careers.

DEGREES AWARDED: Associate of Arts (A.A.)
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

“I chose Political Science originally out of fascination with how the process worked. This fascination, with the guidance of the best staff members on campus, quickly became an addiction that I look forward to spending the rest of my life trying to sustain. Political Science is an ever-evolving field with employment opportunities in countless facets around the world and is a field I strongly recommend to anyone interested in global affairs.”

— Chris Giacomini ’17
Burlington, N.C.
The Social Work Program is designed to prepare individuals with the knowledge, values, and skills for entry-level generalist practice with individuals, families and groups, organizations, and communities. The program prepares graduates who are committed to social and economic justice for all people, particularly those who are oppressed and at-risk. In addition, the program prepares students to work with diverse populations in a variety of settings.

MISSION
The mission of the Social Work Program at Methodist University is to pursue human well-being and the alleviation of oppression and poverty through the education of competent entry-level professional generalist social workers for service to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities, with special attention to the people of Cumberland County, North Carolina and its adjacent areas.

DEGREE AWARDED: Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.)

“I am majoring in social work because I answered the call to dedicate my life to the service of others. That is my life’s purpose. I was greeted with an immense amount of support from my MU family, who continuously nurture my passion. The social work profession embodies selflessness, inclusiveness, compassion, empowerment, accountability, and love. It is the glue that is often unseen that holds our society and society members together. My goal in life is to provide more glue.”

— Ieshia West ’18
Largo, Md.
The Master of Justice Administration provides students with a strong foundation in the administration of justice, focusing on values, and ethical principles such as truth, virtue, and justice. The Master of Justice Administration program is specifically geared to focus on the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to effectively address complex problems and issues currently facing the criminal justice system.

MISSION
The MJA Program provides a graduate education to further a knowledge and understanding of criminal justice organizations within the context of the criminal justice system in North Carolina; to develop knowledge, skills, and abilities that will allow graduates to lead and manage criminal justice organizations more effectively; and to encourage ethical decision-making for the purpose of improving the quality of life and justice in North Carolina.

DEGREE AWARDED: Master of Justice Administration (M.J.A.)

“I had a captain and a lieutenant who went through this program and they recommended it to me. My favorite part of the MJA Program is that it has both aspects of online classes, so you can work full time and still have class, but also have face-to-face time once a month. You get to meet other people who are in the same field as you and you get to talk to your professors and know that they’re not a robot on a computer. You learn a lot from everybody, your peers and your professors.”

– Cassandra Ferraro ’17
Patrol Officer, Carrboro Police Department
The new Mass Communications Lab, which opened in the fall of 2016, features the radio station, editing labs, a screening area, and meeting space.

The Cyber Lab allows students to set up independent networks for vulnerability assessments and penetration tests. The lab also includes digital forensics equipment.

Two Applied Forensic Science Labs are fully equipped with high-end forensic science equipment.
Methodist University at a glance:

**ACADEMICS**

*2,445 total enrollment*

*35 states are represented*

*86 diverse majors, minors, and areas of concentration*

*94% of classes have less than 30 students*

*11:1 Undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio ensures you receive the personal attention you deserve*

*Top Tier ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*

**OUTCOMES**

*3.8 years was the average time it took for 2016-2017 graduates to finish a bachelor’s degree in the School of Public Affairs*

*90% of Social Work graduates receive employment and/or are admitted to graduate programs*

*75% of surveyed students applying to law schools have been admitted in the last decade*