Department: Department of Communication  
Department Head: Dr. Kingsley O. Harbor  
Phone: (256) 782-5083  
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Degrees Offered: Bachelor of Arts in Communication

Department Summary:

The Communication Department at Jacksonville State University is dedicated to providing a high quality of education within a public institution that serves the best interest of its constituents. The department focuses on hands-on professional training. As an accredited comprehensive university, we emphasize quality teaching, not to mention the fact that JSU is one of the best educational buys in the state of Alabama. The Department was awarded accreditation by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) in May 2008, making JSU one of three programs in Alabama with such distinction and one of 109 nationally. We have recently updated our computer lab facilities and installed SMART Board technology in every classroom. We have a departmental library in the communication building.

Graduates routinely embark upon rewarding and prosperous careers such as advertising, print journalism (newspapers and magazines), public relations, radio and television (broadcast) journalism, and web design or site maintenance.

Department Facts and Statistics:

Practical Training: mandatory internal and external practica (internships) for all students (3+350 hours).

Scholarships: there are scholarships awarded for freshmen and continuing communication students.

Job Placement: A 2008-2009 survey shows the following:
  51% of our graduating communication students had a job offer prior to graduation (N=37).
  Of the 49% (18) without a job offer prior to graduation, half reported that their chance of a job offer in six months was between 80% to 100%.
  81% reported they would attend graduate school at JSU if a communication graduate degree existed.

Faculty: 67% of our faculty have a Ph.D. in Communication (100% professional experience).

Department Statistics:

Average number of students in an academic year: 220  
Ratio of students to faculty: 18:1
Faculty & Field of Expertise:

Kingsley O. Harbor, Ph.D.; Mass Media Research, Mass Media Ethics, Comm. Theory
kharbor@jsu.edu

Patrick McGrail, Ph.D.; Broadcasting and Film
jmcgrail@jsu.edu

Jeffrey B. Hedrick, Ph.D.; News Media, Public Relations
jhedrick@jsu.edu

Jerry Chandler; Broadcasting, Writing and Radio Production, Feature Writing
jchandler@jsu.edu

Augustine Ihator, Ph.D.; Public Relations
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Mike Stedham (part-time); News Writing, Publication Design
mstedham@jsu.edu

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