

2012 UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND STUDIES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Department of Communication Skills and Studies, which houses the Communication skills Course, dates back to 1990s with the advent of the 8-4-4 system of education. The Communication Skills project was established as result of an agreement between the Government of Britain (ODA) and Kenya for the setting up of a Communication Skills Course for the 8-4-4 students who were joining the National Universities for the academic year 1990-1991.

Communication Skills and Studies Department has since then held the sole responsibility of managing and administering the Communication Skills program. Communication skills is the single most important discipline which cuts across all subject areas. The Department therefore plays a very pivotal role of enhancing the communicative competence of students by teaching Communication Skills to all Students taking various courses in the University. It is staffed with highly qualified staff trained in English for Academic purposes, Communication Skills, General and Applied Linguistics. The British Council sponsored some members of staff in highly recognized British Universities amongst them were University of Leeds, Lancaster University, university of Reading, Birmingham: while others were highly trained by our prestigious local Universities.

The Communication Skills and Studies Department has a significant role to play in the university's organizational framework. These programs intersect with the UON's overall mission of preparing students for academic pursuits, professional development, enhanced personal lives, and responsible global citizenship. At the center of its focus is the enhancement of student's academic and professional competence in communication in a multicultural setting.

The curriculum for Communication Skills has been subjected to regular review to reflect an inter- disciplinary and market orientation in keeping with the needs of the various university students immediate academic needs and the job market The Department therefore has links with all Schools/Faculties in U.O.N. e.g. Science, Agriculture, Engineering, Architecture, Design, Journalism and Media studies, Arts, Education, Computer Science and others.

It is a course offered to first year students and yet its impact is felt even after students have left the university to join the job market.

Among its many strengths as highlighted in the strategic plan is its focus on the development of the communicative skills of students as part of scholarly and professional competence. The course focuses on competency in writing research papers and documenting sources, Academic, Professional and technical writing skills, reading skills for academic purposes, information science, report writing, proposal writing, CV writing oral presentation and public speaking skills.

2.0 COURSE(S) OFFERED.

Currently the Department offers only one important and compulsory course: Communication Skills to all first year students. However, with the dynamic Job market it has become necessary for the department to broaden its service by preparing to offer Communication Courses that go beyond academics, hence Professional Communication Studies' course is going to be launched soon.

3.0 ENROLLED STUDENTS AT BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE.

Students enroll for Communication Skills Course at only the undergraduate level in 1st Year. International Students who register in all faculties automatically do Communication Skills.

4.0 RESEARCH INTERESTS AND INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND COLLABORATIONS.

Research interests are mainly in the area of Applied Linguistics and communication.

5.0 PUBLICATIONS/CONSULTANCIES

- **Emerg2005 Security and its major Constraints: An Examination of the Eastern Africa Situation - 2005**
- **ing psychosocial needs for people living with HIV/AIDS undergoing private commercial anti-retroviral treatment in some selected Hospitals in Nairobi - Kenya - 1998**
- **The role of psychosocial support to children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS: A WOFAK Experience – 1997**
- **The role of legal education and awareness in reducing stigma and discrimination among HIV positive people. presented at the XIIth international conference on AIDS/STDs Vancouver Canada 7th - 12th July 1996 - 1996**
- **Needs Assessment for Establishing a Gender Resource Centre. CIDA (GESP) 1999. - 1999**
- **First Year Language Competence. The British Council, 1997 - 1997**
- **Interpretive Procedures in Classroom Discourse: Journal of Applied Discourse. The University of Aston in Birmingham (1994) - 1994**
- **Stigmatin the Context of HIV/AIDS. Kelin Newsletter - 2006**
- **Teaching English for Academic purposes Lancaster lines –**
- **Discourses on Civil Society in Kenya African Research & Resources Forum (ARRF) Nairobi-Kenya**

6.0 NUMBER OF GRADUANDS.

- All students who have done and passed the course in the first year and other relevant courses in their respective departments.