DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

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Why Communication Studies?

- Are you interested in public advocacy and how individuals and groups craft and respond to messages?
- Do you have an interest in how identity and culture shapes our communication interactions?
- Do you want to better understand how organizations and groups manage communication?

If so, Communication Studies may be a great fit for you!

The department seeks to contribute to a broad, liberal education for majors and non-majors by raising students' level of oral, visual, and written communication literacy, as well as their critical thinking abilities. Students develop an understanding and appreciation of human message exchanges and recognize how communication influences social, political, artistic, and cultural existence. In addition to the Communication Studies' programs, the department participates in an interdisciplinary approach to the discipline and thus offers cross-listed courses with Theatre, Cultural Studies, African American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and IDFA.

Alumni work in areas including public affairs, corporate relations, law, religion, sales, lobbying, entertainment, human resources, conference and meeting management, training, health communication, teaching and consulting. The major also prepares students well for graduate or law school.

Department faculty are committed to scholarly research and creative production in the department's areas of expertise: identity and culture, public discourse and advocacy, and leadership and organizational communication. The department provides service to TU and the larger community in a variety of ways, including through service-learning courses, annual participation in Tiger Pride Day, community engagement initiatives and with the department's affiliation with Pi Kappa Delta, the communication studies honorary society. The department also houses the Public Communication Center, a center that offers peer mentorship for students working on speeches and presentations.

Internship Program Guidelines

Communication Studies has a successful and robust internship program. Students who meet the requirements for participation are encouraged to consider selecting an internship for course credit.

In order to be eligible for an internship, students must be a major, have junior/senior status. Visit the department website for information on the internship application and approval process. All internship worksites must be approved by the internship coordinator.

Departmental Scholarships

The department is fortunate in being able to offer its majors a number of scholarship opportunities, including the Brian Billick Sports Communication Scholarship, the Jamie Parker Memorial Scholarship, and the Louis Adam Dollenger '75 Memorial Scholarship. Typically, scholarship applications are due in early February for the next academic year.

Departmental Activities

The Speak Up, Speak Out! (SUSO!) Residential Learning Community invites students to live together and learn public speaking and advocacy skills. The department supports the Public Communication Center, a center to help students improve their advocacy, public speaking, and class presentation skills, and Pi Kappa Delta, the national honorary for speech and debate. The department sponsors a Welcome Back event in the fall and two major events in the spring--a campus-wide public speaking contest and the Communication Studies Symposium. The department also provides workshops, lectures and alumni events throughout the year.

Majors

- Major in Communication Studies
- Major in Cultural Studies

Minors

- Minor in Communication Studies
- Minor in Cultural Studies
- Minor in Professional Communication

Faculty

Professors: Audra McMullen, Jennifer Potter (Chairperson)

Associate Professors: Blake Abbott, Michaela Frischherz (Associate Chair), Desirée Rowe

Assistant Professors: Comfort Tosin Adebayo, Eric Karikari, Michael Tristano Jr.

Lecturers: Michael Harrington, Cicada Inscoe, Kanika Jackson, Melanie Morris

Lecturer II: Carol Norton, Sarah Parker Hughes, Erin Witte