

MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Communication Studies courses give students a foundation in communication theories and their interrelated contexts, the application of theories to contemporary issues and the scholarly methods of studying communication. The Communication Studies major has a three-fold function:

1. It allows students a greater understanding of the role that communication plays in shaping culture and identity.
2. It looks at the ways in which the process of meaning-making (whether through the use of words, images, symbols or technology) is used strategically to influence human judgment and actions.
3. It sharpens students' critical thinking abilities, thus enabling them to become ethical producers and consumers of messages.

This three-fold function is accomplished through a theoretical and practical focus on argument development and through a close examination of the ways ideas are discussed, advocated and circulated in public and private life. These emphases give students the opportunity to develop speaking, writing and analytical thinking skills that will allow them to become better ethical participants in the process of creating, critiquing and disseminating meaning.

Graduates with majors in Communication Studies have found careers in the public sector, private industry, non-governmental organizations and education. Communication Studies alumni work in areas such as public affairs, corporate relations, law, religion, sales, lobbying, entertainment, human resources, conference and meeting management, training and development, health communication, teaching and consulting.

Graduation Requirements

All major requirements must be completed with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher. The Pass grading option is not available for courses applicable toward the major.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Option

Students may earn a Bachelor of Arts degree by completing the intermediate (202) level of a foreign language.

Transfer Credit Policy

The department will accept up to 15 credits of compatible transfer courses.

Requirements for the Major

The Communication Studies major requires a total of 39 units; 9 units of lower-level courses, 18 units of upper-level courses and 12 units of electives as listed below.

Code	Title	Units
Required Core Courses		
Lower-Level Courses:		
COMM 131	PUBLIC SPEAKING	3
COMM 201	INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES	3
COMM 215	INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION	3
Upper-Level Courses:		

COMM 300	RESEARCH METHODS	3
COMM 311	RHETORICAL THEORY & CRITICISM	3
COMM 331	ADVOC & ARGUMT	3
COMM 377		3
COMM 419	ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION	3
COMM 450	CAPSTONE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	3
Electives		
Select 12 units from the following:		12
COMM 231	NONVERBAL COMM	
COMM 249	SPEECH AND DEBATE I	
COMM 250	SPEECH AND DEBATE II	
COMM 303	ADV PUBL SPEAKNG	
COMM 304	PERSUASION	
COMM 315	BUSIN & PROF COMM	
COMM 333	INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE STUDIES	
COMM 349	PRACTICUM I	
COMM 350	PRACTICUM II	
COMM 440	COMMUNICATION AND GENDER	
COMM 418	COMMUNICATION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	
COMM 420	COMM/LEGAL PROCEDURES	
COMM 422	CONFERENCE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	
COMM 470	TOPICS IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND ADVOCACY	
COMM 490	INTERN COMM STUDY ¹	
COMM 495	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES ¹	
MCOM 352	MEDIA CRITICISM	
IDFA 480		
Total Units		39

¹ No more than 3 units of independent study and/or internships can be applied toward the Communication Studies major.

Suggested Four-Year Plan

Based on course availability and student needs and preferences, the selected sequences will probably vary from those presented below. Students should consult with their adviser to make the most appropriate elective choices.

Freshman		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
COMM 131 (Core 5)	3 TSEM 102 (Core 1)	3
ENGL 102 (Core 2)	3 COMM 201	3
Core	3 Core	3
Core	3 Core	3
Core	3 Core	3
		15
15		
Sophomore		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
COMM 215	3 COMM 300	3
Core	3 Elective	3
Core	3 Elective	3
Core	3 Elective	3
Core	3 Elective	3
		15
15		

Junior		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
COMM 331	3 COMM 311	3
COMM Elective	3 COMM Elective	3
Core 9	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
15		15

Senior		
Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
COMM 477	3 COMM 450	3
COMM 419	3 COMM Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
15		15

Total Units 120

1. The student should understand the principles of communication in interpersonal, organization and public settings.
2. Student should demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, structuring and delivery in interpersonal and public settings.
3. Student should demonstrate an ability to conduct communication research.