

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:

- It allows students a greater understanding of the role that communication plays in shaping culture and identity.
- 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.
- 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 for, 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

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.

Requirements for the Major

The Communication Studies major requires a total of 42 units: 18 units of required courses, 21 units of elective courses and a 3-unit horizons course requirement.

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
COMM 131	PUBLIC SPEAKING	3
COMM 201	INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES	3
COMM 300	RESEARCH METHODS	3
COMM 311	RHETORICAL THEORY & CRITICISM	3
COMM 419	ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION	3
COMM 477	INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION	3
Public Discourse & Advocacy Electives		
Select two of the following:		6
COMM 220	COMMUNICATION ETHICS	

COMM 303	ADV PUBL SPEAKNG
COMM 304	PERSUASION
COMM 331	ADVOCACY & ARGUMENT
COMM 360	COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL PROTEST
COMM 365	VISUAL COMMUNICATION
COMM 390	COMMUNICATION AND POLITICS
COMM 420	COMMUNICATION LAW
COMM 470	TOPICS IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND ADVOCACY

Identity & Culture Electives

Select two of the following:		6
COMM 215	INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION	
COMM 333	INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE STUDIES	
COMM 345	SEXUAL COMMUNICATION	
COMM 368	COMMUNICATION AND POPULAR CULTURE	
COMM 382	AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNICATION	
COMM 440	COMMUNICATION AND GENDER	
COMM 442	QUEER/LGBT COMMUNICATION STUDIES	
COMM 471	TOPICS IN IDENTITY AND CULTURE	

Leadership & Organizational Communication Electives

Select two of the following:		6
COMM 216	GROUP DISCUSSION	
COMM 231	NONVERBAL COMM	
COMM 315	BUSIN & PROF COMM	
or BUSX 301	BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS	
COMM 380	LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATION	
COMM 418	COMMUNICATION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	
COMM 422	EVENT PLANNING	
COMM 472	TOPICS IN LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION	

Horizons Course

Select minimum three units from the following:		3
COMM 349	PRACTICUM I	
COMM 350	PRACTICUM II	
COMM 450	CAPSTONE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	
COMM 490	INTERNSHIP IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	
COMM 494	STUDY ABROAD	
COMM 495	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES	
IDFA 444	BRANDING YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF	
IDFA 470	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ARTS, MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION	
IDFA 471	SPECIAL TOPICS IN SOCIAL ACTION	
IDFA 493	INTERDISCIPLINARY FINE ARTS INDEPENDENT STUDY	

3 additional units of COMM course work	3
Total Units	42

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 COMM 201	3
Core 1 (or Core 2)	3 Core 2 (or Core 1)	3
Core 3	3 Core 10	3
Core 4	3 Core 11	3
Core 6	3 Core 12	3
	15	15

Sophomore

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
COMM Elective	3 COMM 300 (Core 9)	3
COMM Elective	3 COMM Elective	3
Core 7	4 Core 8	3-4
Core 13	3 Elective	3
Core 14	3 Elective	3
	16	15-16

Junior

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
COMM 419	3 COMM 311	3
COMM Elective	3 COMM Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Senior

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units
COMM 477	3 COMM Horizons Elective	3
COMM Elective	3 COMM Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Units 121-122

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