

# COMMUNICATION MAJOR

Communication involves the study of verbal and nonverbal messages across a variety of contexts. These contexts include relationships, organizations, healthcare, and the media. Content is driven by research, and students will leave having formed their own evidence-based recommendations for practice. Ideally, coursework in communication will enhance students' personal, professional, and public lives. As one aspect of a liberal education, undergraduate work in communication helps students:

- Become more aware of factors that influence and are influenced by human communication behavior and media practices.
- Develop intellectually by providing a basis from which to analyze, synthesize, and critically evaluate messages from varied sources, including the media.
- Learn techniques and strategies to propose policies, advocate positions, and persuasively express themselves in various contexts in the pursuit of a more just society.

Communication courses engage students actively in understanding interaction in interpersonal, organizational, health, public, mediated, and cultural contexts. Students who successfully complete the Communication major will be able to:

1. Recognize the centrality of communication in constructing, sustaining and transforming meaning, identities, relationships, communities and cultures.
2. Apply communication theories and concepts to everyday face-to-face and computer-mediated interactions.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking in argumentation, research, and message creation.
4. Demonstrate oral and written competencies in building and evaluating arguments, and designing, conducting, and reporting original communication content and research.

## Requirements

To earn a 33-credit major in Communication, students follow a program of study designed to develop breadth and depth of knowledge about communication processes in a variety of contexts. The Communication major consists of 11 three-credit courses. All Communication majors complete a set of six required courses known as Communication Foundations. With the aid of the Communication faculty, students have the ability to focus their studies in several areas of interest and to develop a personalized trajectory that best suits their theoretical and applied interests. Communication majors are strongly encouraged to complete minors related to their areas of interest, to continue their modern language beyond the intermediate level, to study abroad, enroll in community engaged learning courses, and to pursue internships that allow for applied learning of theoretical material.

Students are encouraged to meet with faculty advisors to design a comprehensive academic plan that takes advantage of the varied offerings in the Communication Department as well as from complementary majors, minors and programs across the University.

Possible interest areas that can be pursued through a major in Communication include media studies, organizational communication, communication and the human condition, intercultural communication, critical and cultural studies, interpersonal communication, health

communication, and other interest areas determined in consultation with a faculty advisor. Students should note that course offerings vary from semester to semester. Additionally, special topics courses as well as new course offerings may be developed from semester to semester that would complement particular areas of interest.

The requirements of the communication foundations and the areas of interest are detailed as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Communication Foundations</b>		
COMM 1100	Human Communication Theories <sup>1</sup>	3
COMM 1101	Argument and Advocacy <sup>1</sup>	3
COMM 1130	Mass Media and Society <sup>2</sup>	3
COMM 2200	Interpersonal Communication Theories <sup>2</sup>	3
COMM 2299	Communication Research Methods <sup>5</sup>	3
COMM 4999	Capstone: Research Projects in Communication <sup>3</sup>	3
<b>Communication Interests</b>		
Select five additional communication courses, including at least one 3000- or 4000-level course <sup>4</sup>		15
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>33</b>

<sup>1</sup> COMM 1100 and COMM 1101 are the foundational courses in the communication major. Students should plan to take both courses during the same semester, preferably during their first or second year. COMM 1100 and COMM 1101 should be completed before taking 2000-level and higher courses.

<sup>2</sup> Students should plan to enroll in COMM 1130 and COMM 2200 after successful completion of COMM 1100 and COMM 1101. COMM 1130 and COMM 2200 need not be taken during the same semester.

<sup>3</sup> Students complete COMM 4999, the required capstone course, during their senior year.

<sup>4</sup> The upper-level course may not include COMM 4980 Internship or COMM 4990 Independent Study.

<sup>5</sup> Students should enroll in Research Methods during their Sophomore year.

## Notes

- Under special circumstances, and with the approval from the Department Chair, double majors may "double count" up to two courses from their second major as Communication electives. Some second major and minor programs may also choose to "double count" Communication courses to satisfy the second major or minor requirements. Students should check with those second major or minor chairs for approval.
- COMM 4980 Internship may be counted toward the major once only. Although two internships may be completed for academic credit (up to six credits), only three credits will count toward the communication major.
- Independent studies do not count toward the communication major.
- Special topics courses (COMM 4339 and COMM 4900) may each be taken twice for credit if the titles of the courses are different.