Communication Studies, B.A.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in communication studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 40 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

The curriculum is designed to encourage learning that progresses from foundation courses that teach the basics of communication to intermediate and advanced (capstone) courses. Students may choose to build creative combinations of course work that suit their individual learning and career goals.

Students may count up to 56 s.h. of Department of Communication Studies course work (prefix COMM) toward credit required for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Transfer courses may be applied toward the requirements of the major, with the department's approval. A maximum of 15 s.h. of transfer credit may be counted toward the major.

Students work with the communication studies academic advisor to develop study plans that meet the requirements of the major. Students may check their progress toward the degree on MyUI.

First-year students interested in completing a major in communication studies are advised at the Academic Advising Center. Students who have earned 24 s.h. or more and have declared the communication studies major are advised in the department by the communication studies academic advisor.

Students are encouraged to discuss their career goals and interests with faculty members.

Communication studies majors may count up to 6 s.h. of course work used to satisfy their major toward the Certificate in Media Entrepreneurialism.

The 40 s.h. required for the communications studies major consists of foundation courses, intermediate courses, a capstone course, and additional course work which may be earned in courses listed under "Intermediate Courses," "Capstone Experience," and/or "Additional Courses," below. Students may not use a course to satisfy more than one requirement of the major.

The B.A. with a major in communication studies requires the following course work.

| Foundations of Communication Courses | 16 |
| Intermediate Courses | 12 |
| Capstone Experience Course | 3 |
| Additional Courses | 9 |
| Total Hours | 40 |

Foundations of Communication

Foundation courses cover introductory concepts in the field of communication. Students must complete five foundation courses (16 s.h.) and should take them early in their studies. The following foundation courses are appropriate for first- or second-year students. They do not require a minimum grade-point average for enrollment and most do not have prerequisites. Students complete the first three foundation courses as follows.

- COMM:1112 Interpersonal Communication
- or COMM:1170 Communication Theory in Everyday Life
- COMM:1117 Theory and Practice of Argument
- or COMM:1130 The Art of Persuading Others
- COMM:1168 Media, Music, and Culture
- or COMM:1174 Media and Society

The fourth and fifth foundation courses are appropriate for first- or second-year students. Enrollment in COMM:1305 Studying Communication: Methods and Critiques requires completion of 30 s.h.

- COMM:1301 Core Concepts in Communication Studies
- COMM:1305 Studying Communication: Methods and Critiques

Intermediate Courses

Intermediate courses (those numbered 2000-2799) cover detailed aspects of the study of communication. Students must complete four intermediate courses (12 s.h.), usually during their third and fourth years of study.

At least four of these:

- COMM:2010 Communication and Organizational Culture
- COMM:2011 Group Communication
- COMM:2040 Communication and Conflict
- COMM:2041 Gender, Communication, and Culture
- COMM:2042 Intercultural Communication
- COMM:2044 Political Communication
- COMM:2048 Transforming Media: From Telegraph to Internet
- COMM:2051 Politics of Popular Culture
- COMM:2052 Latin American Media
- COMM:2053 Secrets, Confidences, and Lies: Privacy Management in Interpersonal Relationships
- COMM:2054 Movements, Protest, Resistance
- COMM:2057 Introduction to Computer-Mediated Communication
- COMM:2058 Rhetoric and Past Public Controversy: The Sixties
- COMM:2064 Media, Advertising, and Society
- COMM:2065 Television Criticism
- COMM:2069 Black TV Drama: The Wire
- COMM:2075 Gender, Sexuality, and Media
- COMM:2076 Race, Ethnicity, and Media
- COMM:2077 Writing and Producing Television
- COMM:2079 Digital Media and Religion
- COMM:2080 Public Life in the U.S.: Religion and Media
In order to enroll in a capstone course, students must have completed at least four of the five foundation courses and at least two intermediate courses.

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**Capstone Experience**

Capstone courses (those numbered 3000-4999) provide a faculty-led experience in which students participate directly in producing knowledge, research, or creative work about communication. The capstone experience gives students a chance to synthesize what they have learned about the study of communication. Students must complete one capstone course (3 s.h.).

In order to enroll in a capstone course, students must have completed at least four of the five foundation courses and at least two intermediate courses.

**Additional Courses**

Students earn an additional 9 s.h. to complete the 40 s.h. in communication studies courses required for the major. They may choose from the courses listed below and/or from the lists of intermediate and capstone experience courses above. However, students may not use one course to fulfill more than one requirement for the major, so in selecting the additional 9 s.h. of course work, they may not choose a course they already used to fulfill the intermediate or capstone experience course requirement.

**Internships**

Internships enable students to supplement their course work with professional experiences relevant to careers in communication-related fields. The department’s internship program is open only to communication studies majors.

To earn academic credit for internships, students must obtain approval for their internship experience and site before they register for COMM:2828 Experiential Learning in Communication Studies. Internship academic credit is awarded for an analytical paper and daily log submitted at the end of the internship and for the number of hours worked. Internships can be completed during fall semester, spring semester, or summer session.
Honors in the Major

Students majoring in communication studies have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students begin work toward graduation with honors by choosing a faculty member to supervise their honors project and act as their honors advisor. They must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and must complete the following courses.

COMM:2898 Honors Workshop 1
COMM:2899 Honors Thesis 3

In special cases, an independent study course may be substituted for COMM:2898 Honors Workshop, with the honors advisor's permission. The advisor may require additional course work.

Honors students may add an honors designation to a departmental course by completing an agreement with the course instructor.

Learn more about graduating with honors in the major; visit Honors on the department's website.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University of Iowa Honors Program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the communication studies major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Students should consult the department for details.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least two courses in the major

Before the seventh semester begins: at least six courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: at least eight courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate
Iowa Degree in Three

University of Iowa majors who are strongly motivated can graduate with a degree in three years under the Iowa Degree in Three. The program is available to students who can complete more semester hours each term than they would on the Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Students sign an agreement during their first semester of enrollment; meet with an advisor at least once a semester to review their plans and progress; take courses during summer sessions, if necessary; meet specific course checkpoints; and maintain the grade-point average required for the major.

Students are allowed to bring Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or transfer credit upon admission to reduce the number of semester hours required for their degree. They should consult their advisor about the program.

Academic Plan

Students entering the University of Iowa with additional credit hours may be able to reduce their semester and summer session course load. Students may be able to study abroad with proper planning and in some cases could earn credit for a General Education requirement.
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 2

| Hours | 18 |

**Spring**

Major: capstone-level communication studies course 3
Major: elective communication studies course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

| Hours | 18 |

**Total Hours** 120

1. General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2. Students may use their elective courses to complete requirements for the major.

3. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

**Career Advancement**

Communication studies graduates have numerous career options. The major provides solid preparation for employment in almost any job that requires effective critical thinking and communication skills. Graduates find work in fields such as the arts, entertainment, and media industries; consulting; sales and marketing; human resources; and public advocacy.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.