

Communication Studies, BA

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in communication studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 39 s.h. of work for the major. No more than five courses taken for the major may be numbered below 2000. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students may not use a course to fulfill more than one requirement for the major.

Students may count up to 56 s.h. of Department of Communication Studies coursework 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 advisors 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 30 s.h. or more and have declared the communication studies major are advised in the department by the communication studies academic advisors.

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

The BA with a major in communication studies requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Foundations of Communication Courses	9
Intermediate Courses	15
Advanced Courses	6
Capstone Experience Course	3
Major Elective Courses	6

Foundations of Communication

Foundation courses cover introductory concepts in the field of communication. Students begin the communication studies major with three foundation courses (9 s.h.), taking one course from each of the department's three thematic areas: interpersonal communication and relationships; media, history, and production; and rhetoric, culture, and engagement. The following foundation courses are appropriate for first- or second-year students. They do not require a minimum grade-point average for enrollment and do not have prerequisites. Students complete the three foundation courses as follows.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
COMM:1112	Interpersonal Communication	3
or COMM:1170	Communication Theory in Everyday Life	
COMM:1117	Advocacy and Argument	3

or COMM:1130	The Art of Persuading Others	
COMM:1168	Music and Social Change	3
or COMM:1174	Media and Society	

Intermediate Courses

Students must complete 15 s.h. in communication studies courses (prefix COMM) numbered 2000–2999. Intermediate courses cover detailed aspects of the study of communication. Students usually complete these courses during their third and fourth years of study.

Advanced Courses

Students must complete 6 s.h. in communication studies courses (prefix COMM) numbered 3000–3999. Advanced courses cover specialization-building classes taught by faculty that expect students to engage with communication theory through research, synthesis, and applied projects. These smaller enrollment courses extend foundational concepts and prepare students for capstone courses and internships. Students usually complete these courses during their third and fourth years of study.

Capstone Experience

Students must complete one 3 s.h. capstone course (prefix COMM) numbered 4000–4999. Capstone courses 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.

In order to enroll in a capstone course, students must have completed at least two of the three foundations of communication courses and at least two intermediate courses.

Major Elective Courses

Students must complete 6 s.h. in communication studies courses (prefix COMM) numbered 1100–4999 not already taken for the major.

Internships and Professional Experiences

Internships and work experience allow students to apply their coursework in professional settings connected to communication careers. Students may complete traditional internships or participate in department-based opportunities such as serving as a Communication Studies Ambassador, gaining hands-on experience in leadership, event planning, outreach, and assessment.

Students earn academic credit for internships through COMM:2828 Experiential Learning in Communication Studies, an online course open only to declared majors who have completed at least 12 s.h. in communication studies. COMM:2828 may be repeated twice for up to 6 s.h.

Visit the department's website for more information about communication studies internships and experiential learning.