Communication Studies, B.A.

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 coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core 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.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Communication Studies, B.A.

Course Title Hours

Academic Career

Any Semester

GE CLAS Core: Sustainability

Hours 0

First Year

Fall

COMM:1174 or COMM:1168 Media and Society or Music and Social Change 3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric 3 - 4

Spring

COMM:1130 or COMM:1117 The Art of Persuading Others or Advocacy and Argument 3
COMM:1112 or COMM:1170 Interpersonal Communication or Communication Theory in Everyday Life 3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives 3
Elective course 2

Hours 14-15

Second Year

Fall

COMM:1305 Understanding Communication: Social Scientific Approaches 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course 1

Hours 14-15

Spring

COMM:1306 Understanding Communication: Humanistic Approaches 3
Major: intermediate-level communication studies course (prefix COMM numbered 1800-2799) 3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course 1
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning 3

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

COMM:1898 Introduction to Latina/o/x Communication and Culture 3
Major: intermediate-level communication studies course (prefix COMM numbered 1800-2799) 3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues 3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course 1
Elective course 3

Hours 16-17

Spring

Major: intermediate-level communication studies course (prefix COMM numbered 1800-2799) 3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course 1
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences 3
Elective course 3

Hours 16-17
Fourth Year

Fall
Major: capstone-level communication studies course (prefix COMM numbered 3000-4999) 3
Major: elective communication studies course (prefix COMM numbered 1800-4999) 3
Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3

Hours 15

Spring
Major: elective communication studies course (prefix COMM numbered 1800-4999) 3
Major: elective communication studies course (prefix COMM numbered 1800-4999) 3
Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3
Elective course f 3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

Hours 15
Total Hours 120-126

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.
b Typically COMM:1174 is offered in fall semesters only and COMM:1168 is offered in spring semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
c Students should take foundation courses early in their studies. Foundation courses are appropriate for first- or second-year students.
d Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
e GE CLAS Core 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.
f Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
g Typically COMM:1117 is offered in spring semesters only and COMM:1130 is offered in fall semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
h Typically this course is offered in spring semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
i Typically COMM:1170 is offered in spring semesters only and COMM:1112 is offered in fall semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
j Typically this course is offered in fall semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
k Students who have previously completed COMM:1898 have already satisfied the GE CLAS Core Diversity and Inclusion requirement.
l Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Language requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
m Students who have previously completed COMM:1117 have already satisfied the GE CLAS Core Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement.
n Students who have previously completed COMM:1174 have already satisfied the GE CLAS Core Values and Culture requirement.
o Students who have previously completed COMM:1170 or COMM:1174 have already satisfied the GE CLAS Core Social Sciences requirement.
p Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.