

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. 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 also must 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.

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 coursework that suit their individual learning and career goals.

Students may count up to 56 s.h. of Department of Communication Studies coursework (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 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
Capstone Experience Course	3
Major Elective Courses	12

Foundations of Communication

Foundation courses cover introductory concepts in the field of communication. Students must complete three foundation courses (9 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 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

Intermediate courses cover detailed aspects of the study of communication. Students usually complete these courses during their third and fourth years of study.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least five of these:		
Communication studies courses (prefix COMM) numbered 1300-2899		15

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 two of the three foundations of communication courses and at least two intermediate courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
COMM:3118	Politics of Reproduction	3
COMM:4040	Practical Research Applications: Communication and Community	3
COMM:4044	Political Marketing: Media, Campaigns, and Persuasion	3
COMM:4111	360 Radio Experience	3
COMM:4131	Globalization and Culture	3
COMM:4140	Communication and Relationships	3
COMM:4147	Family Communication	3
COMM:4148	Advanced Health Communication	3
COMM:4154	Magic Machines: Technology and Social Change	3
COMM:4157	Advanced Topics in Communication Studies	3
COMM:4163	The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication	3
COMM:4168	Rhetoric of the Body	3
COMM:4169	Black Feminist Rhetorics	3
COMM:4171	Community Media	3
COMM:4174	Communication, Technology, and National Security	3
COMM:4183	Networking America: The Cultural History of Broadcasting	3

Major Elective Courses

Students must complete 12 s.h. in communication studies courses (prefix COMM) numbered 1100-4999 not already taken for the major.

Internships and Professional Experiences

Internships enable students to supplement their coursework 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. 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.

Visit the department's website for information on communication studies internships.

Course #	Title	Hours
COMM:2828	Experiential Learning in Communication Studies	1-3