COMMUNICATION STUDIES
Communication Studies Department

Faculty
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Statement of philosophy
The Communication Studies program provides students with broad-based exposure to the academic discipline that examines the process of creating messages, meaning, and relationships in a broad array of contexts. In an effort to cultivate critical thinking, clear writing, articulate speaking, and proficiency with technology, our students study communication within a variety of contexts, particularly those related to professional engagement, global sustainability, and media citizenship. Through a combination of theoretical grounding and applied experience, we prepare our majors for a range of careers, enable them to participate productively in a democratic culture, and instill in them a desire for lifelong learning. Coursework is supplemented by internships, service learning experiences, co-curricular activities, and supervised independent study.

Major Communication Skills
Competency in oral communication is demonstrated through the completion of COMM 270 Public Speaking with a minimum grade of “C” for the course.

Competency in written communication skills is assessed by the evaluation of materials contained in a student’s e-portfolio and the completion of COMM 280 Communication Research and Writing with a minimum grade of “C” for the course. Communication Studies majors attaining less than this level of proficiency must retake the course until achieving a satisfactory level of performance. Students are urged to complete COMM 280 in their second year.

Communication Studies Major Requirements (40 credits)

1. Complete all of the following:
   COMM 180 Introduction to Communication Theory (3)
   COMM 270 Public Speaking (3) (minimum grade of “C” required)
   COMM 280 Communication Research and Writing (4) (minimum grade of “C” required)
   COMM 480 Senior Seminar in Communication Ethics (3)

2. Complete at least 1 credit of credit (but no more than 8 credits) from the following:
   COMM 383 Service Learning Module in Communication Studies
   COMM 397 Internship in Communication Studies
   COMM 497L Internship: Communication

3. Complete 40 total COMM credits, including a minimum of 12 credits of upper-level course work beyond the 200-level. COMM 383, 397, 497, 497L and 480 do not count toward the upper-level requirement, but do count toward the total credits required for the major. Students are urged to include one course from each of the groups below.

   Professional Engagement
   COMM 340 Public Relations (4)
   COMM 342 Negotiating Organizational Cultures (4)

   Global Sustainability
   COMM 362 Environmental Communication (3)
   COMM 365 Communicating Spiritual Ecology (3)

   Media Citizenship
   COMM 330 Media Criticism (3)
   COMM 385 Digital Media Discourses (4)

4. Compile an e-portfolio comprised of academic and related work
Communication Studies majors are required to create and maintain an assessment e-portfolio. The assessment e-portfolio provides the Communication Studies faculty with a representative sample of student work for the purpose of demonstrating proficiency in oral and written communication. Ultimately, the contents of this assessment e-portfolio constitute the foundation upon which a professional e-portfolio may be constructed during a student’s fourth year for the purpose of seeking employment or gaining entry into graduate school. The portfolio is begun the semester a student officially declares a major in Communication Studies and assembled in consultation with her or his academic advisor. Communication Studies majors are required to demonstrate progress in skills reflected in their assessment e-portfolio as a precondition of academic advising and registration for courses each semester. Departmental approval of the assessment e-portfolio is a prerequisite for graduation.
Communication Studies Minor Requirements (21 credits)
Students interested in pursuing a minor in Communication Studies should meet with a faculty member in the department for advisement early in their program.

1. Complete all of the following:
   - COMM 180 Introduction to Communication Theory (3)
   - COMM 262 Interpersonal Communication (3) or COMM 268 Intercultural Communication (3)
   - COMM 270 Public Speaking (3)

2. Complete at least 12 credits of COMM electives with a minimum of 6 credits at the 300-level. COMM 383 and 397 do not count toward the 300-level requirement, but may count as elective credit. No more than 3 credits from COMM 383 and COMM 397 may count.