

Communication Studies

Chairperson: Scott D'Urso, Ph.D.

Our ability to communicate defines what it means to be human and is a central feature of our existence. People communicate in a variety of contexts: interpersonal, group, organizational, public and intercultural. This major examines the theories, concepts and skills related to human interaction. The focus is on developing personal communication skills and critiquing the communication practices of others.

The communication studies major explores organizational and managerial communication, family communication, gender and interpersonal communication, multicultural and international communication and argumentation and persuasion. Students have the flexibility to choose a specific area of focus or to combine several in ways that best meet their interests and career plans. Communication Studies majors are prepared for careers in a variety of settings including corporate, political, family and social service agencies, multinational organizations, legal, nonprofit organizations, and educational.

Communication Studies Major

A total of 33 credits of course work must be completed for the major in communication studies.

Required Courses

COMM 1000	Foundations of Human Communication, Culture and Society	3
CMST 2100	Interpersonal Communication	3
CMST 2310	Argument in Contemporary Society	3
CMST 3200	Organizational Communication	3
CMST 3300	Persuasion	3
CMST 3600	Advanced Human Communication	3
CMST 4997	Communication and Contemporary Issues	3
Additional 12 hours of CMST electives (See suggested CMST Academic/Career Emphases)		12
Total Credit Hours		33

Suggested Communication Studies Academic/Career Emphases

Students are encouraged to focus their Communication Studies degree in one of two Academic/Career emphases: Organizational and Public Communication or Relational Communication. These two Academic/Career emphases will enable students to focus their degree and point their studies toward a viable and rewarding career track. These Academic/Career emphases are suggested rather than required.

Organizational and Public Communication (12 credit hours): Focuses on communication content and practices essential to success in both for-profit and non-profit organizations as well as in public settings such as the law and politics. Combined with a carefully selected minor, this academic/career emphasis assists with career options in a range of business sectors including marketing, human resources, sales, management, law, public policy, speech writing and international business. This academic/career emphasis also complements various graduate program offerings.

Select 12 credit hours from the following electives:		12
CMST 3210	Business and Professional Presentations	
CMST 3340	Classical Rhetorical Theory	
CMST 3350	Modern Rhetorical Theory and Criticism	
CMST 3800	Communication and the Legal Process	
CMST 4220	Communication Approaches to Training and Development	
CMST 4230	Managerial Communication	
CMST 4250	Leadership and Communication	
CMST 4260	Communication Technologies in the Workplace	
CMST 4270	Communicating in Multinational Organizations	
CMST 4330	Freedom of Speech	
CMST 4360	Rhetoric of Social Movements	
CMST 4600	Communication Consulting	
Total Credit Hours		12

Relational Communication (12 credit hours): Focuses on communication content and practices essential to success in interpersonal relationships regardless of setting. Combined with a carefully selected minor, this academic/career emphasis assists with career options in a variety of relational

communication vocations including human resources, mediation, fundraising/event planning and health administration. This academic/career emphasis also compliments various graduate program offerings.

Select 12 credit hours from the following electives:

12

CMST 2000	Introduction to Small Group Communication
CMST 2010	Communication Approaches to Interviewing
CMST 3150	Communication and Conflict
CMST 3410	Intercultural Communication
CMST 4110	Family Communication
CMST 4120	Gender and Communication
CMST 4130	Communication and Urban Families
CMST 4400	Cross-Cultural Communication in the United States
CMST 4500	Health Communication

Total Credit Hours

12

Additional Electives Available to CMST Majors:

CMST 1300	Public Speaking
CMST 2800	Debate/Forensic Practicum
CMST 3240	Communication, Innovation and Progressive Change
CMST 3310	Ethics in Human Communication
CMST 4320	Philosophy of Communication
CMST 4810	Directing Speech Activities
CMST 4953	Seminar in Communication Studies
CMST 4961	Special Institute/Workshop/Project in Communication Studies
CMST 4986	Internship in Communication Studies
CMST 4995	Independent Study in Communication Studies
CMST 4999	Senior Thesis

Notes:

- Internships are recommended for each academic/career emphasis. Close advising is recommended to assist students in designing their academic/career emphases.
- The suggested academic/career emphases are complimentary to many graduate programs. For example, the Relational Emphasis is well suited to graduate study in areas of Health Administration and Dispute Resolution, and the Organizational and Public Communication Emphasis is well suited to graduate study in Human Resources and other business-related programs.

Suggested Minors for Communication Studies Majors

Students in the Diederich College of Communication with a Communication Studies major may choose any minor offered through the university; however, the following minors are suggested for the academic/career emphases.

Organizational and Public Communication - Minors in Marketing, Human Resources, Advertising, Public Relations, Criminology & Law Studies or Political Science.

Relational Communication - Minors in Human Resources, Advertising, Public Relations, Psychology, Social Welfare and Justice, Health Studies or Interdisciplinary Minor in Family Studies.

Typical Program for Communication Studies Majors

Freshman

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
COMM 1000 or 1200	3	COMM 1200 or 1000	3
COMM 1050	1	Second language or UCCS Diverse Culture	3-4
ENGL 1001	3	CMST 2100 or 3600	3
UCCS History	3	UCCS Math or Science	3
Second language or UCCS Diverse Culture	3-4	Elective	3

THEO 1001	3		
		16-17	15-16
Sophomore			
First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
COMM 1100	3	COMM 2500	3
CMST 2100 or 3600	3	UCCS Diverse Culture or Minor/elective course	3
CMST 2310	3	Major/Minor electives	6
UCCS Math or Science	3	UCCS Literature/Performing Arts	3
UCCS Diverse Culture or Minor/elective course	3		
		15	15
Junior			
First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
CMST 3200	3	CMST 3300	3
PHIL 1001	3	PHIL 2310	3
Major/Minor electives	9	Major/minor electives	9
		15	15
Senior			
First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
Major/Minor electives	12	CMST 4997	3
UCCS Theology	3	Major/minor electives	11
		15	14

Total credit hours: 120-122

Wisconsin Teaching Licensure in Speech Communication (Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence)

In addition to completing all requirements as specified by the College of Education, students must also complete all requirements listed under the communication studies major.

Wisconsin Teaching Licensure in Speech Communication (Early Adolescence/Adolescence)

In addition to completing all requirements as specified by the College of Education as well as those listed under the communication studies major, students seeking Wisconsin teaching licensure in speech communication at the early adolescence/adolescence level must also complete:

COMM 1200	Media in Society	3
CMST 4810	Directing Speech Activities	3
CMST 4400	Cross-Cultural Communication in the United States	3
Total Credit Hours		9

The latter two will count toward required electives in the communication studies major.

Communication Studies Minor

Required Courses

COMM 1000	Foundations of Human Communication, Culture and Society	3
CMST 2100	Interpersonal Communication	3
CMST 2310 or CMST 3300	Argument in Contemporary Society Persuasion	3

Additional CMST electives	9
Total Credit Hours	18