

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Description

Communication studies is a social science and humanistic field of study, research, and application. Communication competencies are among those most highly desired in professional, personal, organizational, and civic arenas. The mission of the Department of Communication Studies is to examine human symbolic activity as it shapes and is shaped by relationships, institutions, and societies. This work concerns how, why, and with what effects people communicate through verbal and nonverbal messages. Through research, teaching, and service, the Department devotes particular attention to understanding the ways in which communication erodes and sustains collaboration within and among local, national, and global communities.

A degree in communication studies will focus broadly on the production and influence of messages across the contexts of public, personal, and professional life. In this course of study, students are immersed in mastering the intellectual capacities to **advocate**, **negotiate**, and **relate**. Students who major in communication studies can choose to fulfill the general requirements of the major, or they can opt to complete courses in one of three major emphasis areas: communication, health, and well-being; diversity, culture, and global communication; or communication, public advocacy, and civic engagement.

Emphasis Areas in Communication Studies Major

Students who declare a major in communication studies will follow the general requirements for communication studies. Though not a requirement, students have the option to declare one of the three emphasis areas within the major as well.

- **Communication, Health, and Well-Being** – The health and well-being emphasis area focuses on the role of communication in understanding and explaining individual and relational health, promoting healthy behaviors, and helping persons navigate health challenges. Students interested in health administration, public health, and pre-health students interested in communication studies would benefit from this emphasis area.
- **Diversity, Culture, and Global Communication** – The diversity, culture, and global communication emphasis area focuses on the role of communication in constituting identity in a complex and diverse world. Students who engage in this emphasis area will learn how we come to identify and understand difference, how power is constituted and perpetuated in communication processes, how people organize in ways that enable and constrain voice, and how marginalized groups can (re)claim power in local/global contexts.
- **Communication, Public Advocacy, and Civic Engagement** – Students who choose an emphasis in Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement will focus on the role of communication in facilitating public participation, mediating public controversies, and organizing for social change and citizen involvement. Students emphasizing in this area will learn to become better advocates and critical thinkers. This emphasis stresses skills related to public speaking, critical thinking, writing, and message construction and analysis.

Program Assessment. In order to assist the department in evaluating the effectiveness of its programs, majors will be required to complete an

assessment of the major. This assessment will be implemented in the communication studies capstone course: COMM 495 Communication Studies Senior Capstone. Results of participation in this assessment activity will in no way affect a student's GPA, but could prevent or delay graduation if the assessment is not completed as required.

University Speech & Debate

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln offers a nationally recognized speech and debate program of participation in campus and intercollegiate debate, public speaking, and interpretation events. The program gives students the opportunity to compete at the local, state, regional, and national level. No previous debate or speech experience is required. All students who are in good standing may take part in intercollegiate debate and forensics.

Admission

College Admission

The entrance requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences are the same as the UNL General Admission Requirements. Students who are admitted through the Admission by Review process may have certain conditions attached to their enrollment at UNL. These conditions are explained under "Removal of Deficiencies."

In addition to these requirements, the College of Arts and Sciences strongly recommends a third and fourth year of one foreign language in high school. Four years of high school coursework in the same language will fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences' language requirement. It will also allow students to continue language study at a more advanced level at UNL, and provide more opportunity to study abroad.

Advising

Academic and Career Advising

The Academic and Career Advising Center in 107 Oldfather is a centrally located and easily accessed resource for students in all majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. The professional academic advisors and career coaches offer 1-1 meetings on a walk-in and appointment basis weekdays. Advisors will provide assistance choosing majors and minors, understanding degree requirements and academic policies, completing paperwork, meeting deadlines, adding/dropping courses, and planning for graduation. In addition, career coaches can help students identify career options related to their interests and connect them with experiences like internships, research, and more that will prepare them for those career options. These specially trained advisors and coaches also serve as first point of contact in the College for all incoming freshmen and transfer students during New Student Enrollment.

Students in the College who have declared a major will be assigned an academic advisor who is their first point of contact for a variety of questions. Academic advisors help students be successful in adjusting to UNL overall as well as making progress toward degree completion. The assigned advisor may be located within the department of their primary major, or in the Advising Center. Students can identify their assigned advisor in MyRED on the academics tab. In addition, faculty advisors are experts in their discipline, including advanced coursework and requirements, opportunities for research, student organizations, and considering graduate school in the discipline. Students who have declared a pre-health or pre-law area of interest will also work with advisors in the Exploratory and Pre-Professional Advising Center (Explore Center) in 127 Love Library South, who are specially trained to guide students preparing to enter a professional school.

For complete and current information on advisors for majors, minors, or pre-professional areas, contact the Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center, 107 Oldfather Hall, 402-472-4190, <http://cas.unl.edu/advising>.

College Degree Requirements

College Distribution Requirements

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (16 hours + Language)

The College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements are designed to ensure a breadth of courses within the liberal arts degree. By engaging in study in several different areas within the College, students develop the ability to learn in a variety of ways and apply their knowledge from a variety of perspectives. All requirements are in addition to University ACE requirements.

- A student may not use a single course to satisfy both an ACE outcome and a College distribution requirement.
- A student may not use a single course to satisfy more than one College Distribution Requirement.
- A student may not use a course from their primary major to satisfy the Breadth Requirement (F), but may apply an ancillary requirement of the primary major or a course from their second major toward this requirement.
- Independent study, directed readings, or internship courses cannot be used to satisfy a College Distribution Requirement.
- Cross-listed courses from interdisciplinary programs will be applied in the same area as courses from the home/cross-listed department.

College Distribution Requirements

CDR A - Written Communication 3

Select from courses approved for ACE outcome 1.

CDR B and BL - Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences with Lab 4

Select from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, geology, meteorology, mathematics, physics and statistics. Must include one lab in the natural or physical sciences. Lab courses may be selected from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, geology, meteorology and physics.

Some courses from geography and anthropology may also be used to satisfy the lab requirement above.¹

CDR C - Humanities 3

Select from classics, English, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy, and religious studies.²

CDR D - Social Science 3

Select from anthropology, communication studies, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology.³

CDR E - Language 0-16

Fulfilled by the completion of the 6-credit-hour second-year sequence in a single foreign language in one of the following departments: Classics and religious studies, or modern languages and literatures. Instruction is currently available in Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish.

A student who has completed the fourth-year level of one foreign language in high school is exempt from the languages requirement, but encouraged to continue on in their language study.

CDR F - Additional Breadth 3

Select from natural, physical and mathematical sciences (Area B), humanities (Area C), or social sciences (Area D). Cannot be a course from the primary major.

Credit Hours Subtotal: 16-32

¹ See Degree Audit or a College of Arts and Sciences advisor for approved geography and anthropology courses that apply as natural science.

² Language courses numbered 210 and below do not fulfill the CDR C.

³ See Degree Audit or College of Arts and Sciences advisor for list of natural/physical science courses in anthropology, geography, and psychology that do not apply as social science.

Scientific Base

Bachelor of Science Only (60 hours)

The bachelor of science degree requires students to complete 60 hours in mathematical, physical and natural sciences. Approved courses for scientific base credit come from the following College of Arts and Sciences disciplines: actuarial science, anthropology (selected courses), astronomy, biochemistry (excluding BIOC 101), biological sciences (excluding BIOS 100 or BIOS 203), chemistry (excluding CHEM 101), computer science (excluding CSCE 10), geography (selected courses), geology, life sciences, mathematics (excluding courses below MATH 104), meteorology, microbiology, physics and statistics.

See your degree audit or a College of Arts and Sciences advisor for a complete list including individual classes that fall outside of the disciplines listed above. Up to 12 hours of scientific and technical courses offered by other colleges may be accepted toward this requirement with approval of a college advisor.

Language Requirement

UNL and the College of Arts and Sciences place great value on academic exposure and proficiency in a second language. The UNL entrance requirement of two years of the same foreign language or the College's language distribution requirement (CDR E) will rarely be waived and only with relevant documentation. See the main College of Arts and Sciences page for more details.

Minimum Hours Required for Graduation

A minimum of 120 semester hours of credit is required for graduation from the College of Arts and Sciences. A total grade point average of at least 2.0 is required.

Grade Rules

Restrictions on C- and D Grades

The College will accept no more than 15 semester hours of C- and D grades from other domestic institutions except for UNO and UNK. All courses taken at UNO and UNK impact the UNL transcript. No transfer of C- and D grades can be applied toward requirements in a major or a minor. No UNL C- and D grades can be applied toward requirements in a major or a minor. International coursework (including education abroad) with a final grade equivalent to a C- or lower will not be validated by College of Arts and Sciences departments to be degree applicable.

Pass/No Pass Privilege

The College of Arts and Sciences adheres to the University regulations for the Pass/No Pass (P/N) privilege with the following additional regulations:

- Pass/No Pass hours can count toward fulfillment of University ACE requirements and college distribution requirements up to the 24-hour maximum.
- Most arts and sciences departments and programs do not allow courses graded Pass/No Pass to apply to the major or minor. Students should refer to the department's or program's section of the catalog for clarification. By college rule, departments can allow up to 6 hours of Pass/No Pass in the major or minor.
- Departments may specify that certain courses of theirs can be taken only on a P/N basis.
- The college will permit no more than a total of 24 semester hours of P/N grades to be applied toward degree requirements. This total includes all Pass grades earned at UNL and other U.S. schools. **NOTE:** This 24-hour limit is more restrictive than the University regulation.

Grading Appeals

A student who feels that he/she has been unfairly graded must ordinarily take the following sequential steps in a timely manner, usually by initiating the appeal in the semester following the awarding of the grade:

1. Talk with the instructor concerned. Most problems are resolved at this point.
2. Talk to the instructor's department chairperson.
3. Take the case to the Grading Appeal Committee of the department concerned. The Committee should be contacted through the department chairperson.
4. Take the case to the College Grading Appeals Committee by contacting the Dean's Office, 1223 Oldfather Hall.

Course Level Requirements

Courses Numbered at the 300 or 400 Level

Thirty (30) of the 120 semester hours of credit must be in courses numbered at the 300 or 400 level. Of those 30 hours, 15 hours (1/2) must be completed in residence at UNL.

Residency Requirement

Students must complete at least 30 of the 120 total hours for their degree at UNL. Students must complete at least 1/2 of their major coursework including 6 hours at the 300 or 400 level in their major, and 15 of the 30 hours required at the 300 or 400 level in residence. Credit earned during education abroad may be used toward the residency requirement only if students register through UNL.

ACE Requirements

Consistent with the mission and values of the University, ACE is based on a shared set of four institutional objectives and ten student learning outcomes. The ACE program was approved by faculty in all eight undergraduate colleges and endorsed by the Faculty Senate, the student government, and the Academic Planning Committee in January 2008 for implementation in the fall 2009. ACE aligns with current national initiatives in general education.

To meet the ACE Program requirement, a student will complete a minimum of 3 credit hours for each of the ten ACE Student Learning Outcomes (a total of 30 ACE credit hours). See the ACE website at: <http://>

ace.unl.edu for the most current information and the most recently certified courses.

Catalog to Use

Students must fulfill the requirements stated in the catalog for the academic year in which they are first admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at UNL. In consultation with advisors, a student may choose to follow a subsequent catalog for any academic year in which they are admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at UNL in the College of Arts and Sciences. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year. Beginning in 1990-1991 the catalog which a student follows for degree requirements may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of communication studies will be able to:

1. Develop the core competencies to advocate, negotiate, and relate across communicative contexts.
2. Proficiently create, organize, convey, and evaluate messages.
3. Understand and apply theories and methods of symbolic activity.
4. Demonstrate an ability to recognize and develop a critical framework for making ethical choices surrounding communication.
5. Showcase awareness of the complex nature of multiple communication contexts (such as public, interpersonal, group, organizational, intercultural).
6. Recognize how message channels influence the communication process.
7. Communicate empathy toward and an understanding of diverse perspectives across identity and difference.
8. Demonstrate an ability to understand and critically evaluate historical, current and/or future social issues through a communicative perspective.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Thirty-six (36) credit hours in communication studies. No more than 3 hours of internship, independent study or assistantship may count toward the 36-hour requirement in the major.

Core Requirements

COMM 101	Communication in the 21st Century ¹	3
COMM 201	Social Scientific Research Methods in Communication Studies ¹	3
or COMM 202	Rhetorical Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMM 495	Communication Studies Senior Capstone	3
Total Credit Hours		9

¹ COMM 101 and COMM 201 or COMM 202 should be completed within the first 12 hours of the communication studies major.

Specific Major Requirements

Performance Course

Select one of the following:		3
COMM 109	Fundamentals of Human Communication	
COMM 205	Performance of Literature	
COMM 209	Public Speaking	

COMM 212	Debate ²	
COMM 220	Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement ²	
COMM 286	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 295	University Speech and Debate	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		3
Foundation Courses		
Select two of the following:		6
COMM 250	Rhetoric, Media, and Civic Life ²	
COMM 271	Organizing Social Change ³	
COMM 283	Interpersonal Communication	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		6
Total Credit Hours		9

² COMM 212 or COMM 220, and COMM 250 are recommended for students pursuing the Communication, Public Advocacy, and Civic Engagement Emphasis.

³ COMM 271 is recommended for students pursuing the Diversity, Culture, and Global Communication Emphasis or the Communication, Public Advocacy, and Civic Engagement Emphasis.

Advanced Communication Studies or Emphasis

Advanced Communication Studies Courses 18

Select six COMM courses at the 300 level or above, including at least two at the 400 level.

Students may select their own combination of advanced courses, or declare one of the following emphasis areas and select from the related list.⁴

Communication, Health, and Well-Being Emphasis 18

Select six of the following courses, including two at the 400 level:⁵

COMM 354	Health Communication
COMM 368	Communication and Aging
COMM 370	Family Communication
COMM 373	Narratives and Health
COMM 380	Gender and Communication
COMM 454	Communication and Health Disparities
COMM 465	Communication and Social Identity
COMM 470	Interpersonal Communication Theory
COMM 471	The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

Diversity, Culture, and Global Communication Emphasis 18

Select six of the following courses, including two at the 400 level:⁵

COMM 311	Intercultural Communication
COMM 360	Intergroup Dialogue
COMM 378	Cultural Encounters on the Great Plains
COMM 386	Organizational Communication
COMM 454	Communication and Health Disparities
COMM 465	Communication and Social Identity
COMM 471	The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

COMM 486	Communicating Organizational Culture and Power
COMM 487	Global Organizational Communication

Communication, Public Advocacy, and Civic Engagement Emphasis 18

Select six of the following courses including two at the 400 level:⁵

COMM 312	Argumentation
COMM 330	Freedom of Speech
COMM 334	Polls, Politics and Public Opinion
COMM 371	Communication in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
COMM 375	Theories of Persuasion
COMM 386	Organizational Communication
COMM 400	Rhetorical Theory
COMM 430	Political Communication
COMM 482	Voices of Dissent and Activism
COMM 486	Communicating Organizational Culture and Power

⁴ No more than 3 hours from COMM 395 Professional Internship or COMM 397 Research Assistantship in Communication Studies may count toward the major.

⁵ Either COMM 395 or COMM 397 may be used in the emphasis areas when related and by approval of the undergraduate advisor.

Minor Requirement

An approved Plan A minor or two approved Plan B minors are required.

Additional Major Requirements

Prerequisite Requirements/Rules

COMM 101 must be completed before a student can enroll in any 400-level course. COMM 101, COMM 201 or COMM 202 must be taken before COMM 495.

Grade Rules

C- and D Grades

A grade of C or above is required for all courses in the major and minor.

Pass/No Pass

No course taken Pass/No Pass will be counted toward the major, with the exception of 3 hours of either COMM 395 or COMM 397.

Requirements for Minor Offered by Department

Plan A Minor

Eighteen (18) hours in communication studies courses including:

Required Courses

COMM 101	Communication in the 21st Century	3
Select one of the following: 3		
COMM 109	Fundamentals of Human Communication	
COMM 205	Performance of Literature	
COMM 209	Public Speaking	
COMM 212	Debate	

COMM 220	Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement	
COMM 286	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 295	University Speech and Debate ¹	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		6
Additional Communication Studies Courses		
Select 9 hours of 300/400 level COMM courses with at least 3 hours at the 400 level. ^{2,3}		9
Select one additional COMM course at any level.		3
Credit Hours Subtotal:		12
Total Credit Hours		18

¹ No more than 3 hours of COMM 295 University Speech and Debate credit can be applied to the minor.

² Excluding COMM 395 Professional Internship or COMM 397 Research Assistantship in Communication Studies.

³ Of the 9 hours, at least 3 must be at the 400 level. COMM 101 must be completed before a student can enroll in any 400-level course.

Plan B Minor

Twelve (12) hours of communication studies courses with at least 9 hours at the 200 level or above, excluding COMM 397 or COMM 395. No more than 3 hours of COMM 295 credit can be applied to the minor. A maximum of 3 hours of independent study may apply to the 12-hour requirement.

Grade Rules

C- and D Grades

A grade of C or above is required for all courses in the major and minor.

Pass/No Pass

No course taken Pass/No Pass will be counted toward the minor.

COMM 101 Communication in the 21st Century

Description: Introduction to the discipline of communication studies through a problem centered learning approach. How communication theory can be applied to solve everyday problems in public, professional, and private lives through learning how to advocate, negotiate, and relate.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Prerequisite for: COMM 400; COMM 412; COMM 440; COMM 452; COMM 454; COMM 465; COMM 470; COMM 471; COMM 485; COMM 486; COMM 487; COMM 495; COMM 498

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 101H Honors: Communication in the 21st Century

Description: Introduction to the discipline of communication studies through a problem centered learning approach. How communication theory can be applied to solve everyday problems in public, professional, and private lives through learning how to advocate, negotiate, and relate.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Prerequisite for: COMM 465

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 109 Fundamentals of Human Communication

Description: Theory and practice in communication, including discussions and practical experiences in communication process, language, self-concept, perception, interviewing, group communication, audience analysis, public speaking, feedback, and listening.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Prerequisite for: NUTR 454

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 109H Honors: Fundamentals of Human Communication

Prerequisites: Good standing in the University Honors Program or by invitation.

Description: Theory and practice of varying human communication forms. Includes discussions and practical experiences in communication process, language, self-concept, perception, interviewing, group communication, audience analysis, public speaking, feedback, and listening. Students conduct evaluative critiques, engage in mock interviews and maintain process journals.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Prerequisite for: NUTR 454

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 189H University Honors Seminar

Prerequisites: Admission to the University Honors Program or by invitation.

Notes: University Honors Seminar 189H is required of all students in the University Honors Program.

Description: Topic varies.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

ACE: ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship

COMM 198 Special Topics in Communication Studies

Description: Topics vary.

Credit Hours: 1-12

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 12

Max credits per degree: 12

Format: IND

COMM 199 Independent Study

Prerequisites: Permission.

Credit Hours: 1-3

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: IND

COMM 201 Social Scientific Research Methods in Communication Studies**Notes:** Letter grade only.**Description:** Introduction to social-scientific research methods in communication studies. Location, interpretation, and application of extant communication research.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**Prerequisite for:** COMM 495**COMM 202 Rhetorical Research Methods in Communication Studies****Notes:** Letter grade only.**Description:** Introduction to the humanistic research tradition in communication studies with a focus on understanding and applying various critical approaches to the analysis of public discourse.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**Prerequisite for:** COMM 495**COMM 205 Performance of Literature****Description:** Introduction to skills and theories in the performance of literature, including written analyses of the works performed and the demonstration of this analysis during performance for the class.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 7 Arts**COMM 209 Public Speaking****Description:** Detailed practice in composition and delivery of speeches leading to effective extemporaneous speaking. Critical analysis of contemporary speeches on vital public issues.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 2 Communication Competence**COMM 209H Honors: Public Speaking****Prerequisites:** Good standing in the University Honors Program or by invitation.**Description:** Detailed practice in composition and delivery of speeches leading to effective extemporaneous speaking. Critical analysis of contemporary speeches on vital public issues will culminate in a major research paper.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 2 Communication Competence**COMM 210 Communicating in Small Groups****Description:** Practice and theory of communication to participate in and lead small group discussion and problem solving.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 2 Communication Competence**COMM 212 Debate****Description:** Principles of argumentation and debate. Practice in analysis, briefing, use of evidence, reasoning, detection of fallacies, refutation, and delivery of argument.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 215 Visual Communication****Description:** Surveys theories of visual communication to improve critical thinking about images.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 2 Communication Competence**COMM 220 Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement****Description:** Introduction to fundamentals of public deliberation, advocacy, and civic engagement in a democratic society. Develop civic engagement campaigns using the resources of the rhetorical tradition.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship**COMM 250 Rhetoric, Media, and Civic Life****Description:** Explores the centrality of communication in contemporary, digitally-networked civic life.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 5 Humanities**COMM 271 Organizing Social Change****Description:** Examine communication processes that support organizing social change. Explore theories and case examples of how social change agents develop their voices, relationships and the organizational capacity to act on behalf of shared goals.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 280 Communication and Popular Culture****Description:** Introduction to communication and popular culture, e.g. television, music, film, popular literature, "self help" literature, etc., using rhetorical and critical methods of analysis to understand the communicative dimension of these cultural forms to explore the complex relationship of language, visual images, mediated communication, and cultural values.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC

COMM 283 Interpersonal Communication

Description: Understanding the processes and challenges of interpersonal communication across a variety of relationship types. Issues of interpersonal communication in personal and professional relationships.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 286 Business and Professional Communication

Notes: Letter grade only.

Description: An introduction to a variety of communication skills to help achieve maximum effectiveness on the job: verbal and listening skills, oral presentation techniques, small group problem solving/leadership, interviewing, and organizational communication.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Prerequisite for: CSCE 488

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 295 University Speech and Debate

Prerequisites: Limited to members of the intercollegiate forensics squad

Notes: Tournaments from September through April.

Description: Application of principles of argumentation and persuasion in intercollegiate debate, public address, and oral interpretation. Intensive research and practice.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 6

Format: LEC

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 297 Instructional Assistantship

Prerequisites: Permission.

Notes: Pass/No Pass only.

Description: Structured professional experience for training instructor assistants to tutor, evaluate communication activities, and do other instructional assistance for communication studies courses.

Credit Hours: 1-6

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 6

Max credits per degree: 6

Format: LEC

COMM 300 Nonverbal Communication

Description: Introduction to the behaviors, theories, functions, and skills relevant to the enactment and interpretation of nonverbal communication.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 311 Intercultural Communication

Crosslisted with: ETHN 311

Description: Exploration of culture as a dimension of all communicative activity. Communication between cultural groups in a variety of contexts, e.g. interpersonal relationships, groups, organizations, politics, and international relations.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence ACE 9 Global/Diversity

COMM 312 Argumentation

Description: Special forms of debate and public discussion. Adaptation of argument to various types of audiences. Analysis of principles of argumentation in great historical debates.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 325 Interviewing

Description: Primary focus: studying and applying the principles and strategies of interviewing to practical situations; defining and discussing the applications of interviewing theory as it applies to interviewers and interviewees; and participation in interviews utilizing the strategies and techniques discussed in class including employment, counseling, informational, appraisal, complaint, reprimand, and/or persuasive.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 330 Freedom of Speech

Description: Surveys philosophical debates, legal precedents, historical case studies, and contemporary controversies in freedom of speech in the United States.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Offered: FALL

ACE: ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship

COMM 334 Polls, Politics and Public Opinion

Crosslisted with: POLS 334

Description: Attitudes and behavior of citizens with respect to politics, how these attitudes and behaviors are shaped, how they are measured, and what influence they have on government.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Groups: American Government&Public Pol

COMM 354 Health Communication

Description: Overview of communication research and practice in various care contexts: client/provider interactions, provider/provider communication, communication in health care organizations, mediated messages in the marketing and promotion of health information, consumer advocacy, politics of health care.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 355 Community and Identity in the Digital Age

Description: Theories and research on communication and technology (e.g., social media). Understanding how the "digital age" is shaping our personal, relational, and social experiences. Grade only.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 360 Intergroup Dialogue

Prerequisites: Permission

Description: Overview of process for developing, facilitating, and evaluating dialogue across difference. Includes semester-long engagement in intergroup dialogue.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Offered: FALL/SPR

COMM 368 Communication and Aging

Description: Introduction to theories and concepts of intergenerational communication, perceptions of aging, and attitudes about age groups. Focus on cultural variations, media and technology, personal relationships, health and health care.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 370 Family Communication

Description: Theories and research in family communication and relationships. The complexity and consequences of defining and interacting in the family. The diversity of family forms and experiences.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

ACE: ACE 6 Social Science

COMM 371 Communication in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Description: Introductory account of the role of conflict in relationships, organizations, and communities.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 373 Narratives and Health

Description: Focus on understanding the intersections between narratives, health, and communication. Exploration of theory, research, and skills associated with narrative approaches to well-being and healthcare.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Offered: FALL/SPR

COMM 375 Theories of Persuasion

Description: An upper-division course in the theories and perspectives of persuasion, including an examination of the dimensions, scope, and role of persuasion in our society. Critical analysis of persuasive messages, becoming familiar with persuasive research, and applying to practical situations.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

ACE: ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship

COMM 378 Cultural Encounters on the Great Plains

Crosslisted with: GPSP 378

Description: Inter-cultural encounters which have occurred on the Great Plains with a focus on American Indians, African, African-American, Latino, Asian, South Asian, and European cultures.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity

COMM 380 Gender and Communication

Crosslisted with: WMNS 380

Description: Introduction to theory and research in gender and communication. Emphasis on examining the relationships among gender, language, social reality, and cultural values.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

COMM 386 Organizational Communication

Description: Introduction to the guiding theories in organizational communication field and key communication issues in contemporary organizations. Application of theories and issues through case studies.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Format: LEC

Prerequisite for: COMM 485; COMM 486; COMM 487

COMM 391 International Studies in Communication

Prerequisites: Permission of the Program Coordinator

Notes: Travel outside the United States is required. Passport to travel is required; educational visa may be required. Arrangements for payment and program costs (tuition, transportation, room and board, etc.) will vary depending on the program.

Description: Study abroad at site(s) outside the United States with topics to vary depending on the country(ies) visited and specific area of study.

Assignments link experiential learning to communication processes and theories. Students will earn 1 credit hour per every 45 hours of attendance commitments and/or assigned work.

Credit Hours: 1-6

Min credits per semester: 1

Max credits per semester: 6

Max credits per degree: 15

Format: FLD

COMM 395 Professional Internship**Prerequisites:** Permission**Notes:** P/NP only.**Description:** Structured professional experience in the field of communication studies outside of the traditional academic setting. Communication problems are confronted not as abstractions, but as specific occurrences with which the student must cope.**Credit Hours:** 1-6**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 6**Max credits per degree:** 6**Format:** FLD**COMM 397 Research Assistantship in Communication Studies****Notes:** Pass/No Pass only. Students must be invited by a faculty member leading a research project in Communication Studies to work as an assistant on that research project.**Description:** Structured research experience aimed at connecting undergraduate students with faculty-led research projects to provide undergraduate students interested in research processes with hands-on experience.**Credit Hours:** 1-3**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 6**Format:** RSC**COMM 398 Special Topics in Communication Studies****Description:** Topic varies.**Credit Hours:** 1-12**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 12**Max credits per degree:** 12**Format:** LEC**COMM 399 Independent Study****Prerequisites:** Permission.**Notes:** Students must secure the agreement of a faculty member in Communication Studies to supervise the IS project. Once this agreement has been secured, the student will receive the permission number to register. Visit comm.unl.edu to see specialization areas and contact information for faculty.**Credit Hours:** 1-3**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 6**Format:** IND**COMM 399H Honors Course****Prerequisites:** Permission.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 6**Format:** IND**COMM 400 Rhetorical Theory****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** Major writers, works, and concepts involved in the rhetorical approach to the study of human communication.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 412 Directing Forensics****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Notes:** For students interested in teaching debate and speech activities at the secondary or collegiate level.**Description:** Emphasis placed on the relationship between theory in speech communication and practice in the debate and speech contest situation.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 427 Instructional Communication****Crosslisted with:** TEAC 429, COMM 827, TEAC 829**Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** Advanced introductory course in instructional communication, focusing on understanding variables associated with the communication process in instructional settings and managing instructional communication more effectively. Provides an experimental and a cognitive understanding of the role of communication in the instructional process.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 430 Political Communication****Crosslisted with:** POLS 430, POLS 830, COMM 830**Prerequisites:** 12 hrs communication studies.**Description:** Role of communication in the political process, with emphasis on communication strategies in political campaigns.

Includes communication variables important in the political process, an application of communication theory and principles to political rhetoric, and analysis and criticism of selected political communication events.

Credit Hours: 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**Groups:** American Government&Public Pol**COMM 440 Rhetoric of Sports and Games****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** Examination of rhetorical theories and perspectives viewed through the cultural lens of sports.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 452 Media and Culture****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** Theories of mass media, digital media and culture as the basis for investigation of human communication in a variety of contexts and activities.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC

COMM 454 Communication and Health Disparities**Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** Examines the differences across groups in health, illness, and health care access and the role of communication in defining health problems and creating intervention solutions.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 465 Communication and Social Identity****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** Introduction to the theories and concepts of intergroup communication, personal and social identity, and social categorization. Communicative processes associated with defining self and others including social comparison, prejudice and discrimination, and social conflict.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 470 Interpersonal Communication Theory****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** In-depth exploration of interpersonal communication theory and research across contexts. How people interact to create, maintain, and dissolve relationships.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 471 The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** In-depth exploration of theories and research associated with interpersonal communication phenomena presumed to be destructive and dysfunctional.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 482 Voices of Dissent and Activism****Description:** Explores the advocacy efforts of groups seeking social and political change outside of mainstream political institutions. Analysis of social protest rhetoric—including letters, manifestos, speeches, performance, and artwork—to understand how activists have used communication to advocate for social change. Also focuses on the African American civil rights movement to understand how movement leaders and members used discursive means to alter democratic notions of citizenship, opportunity, and community. Additional movements of study may include the suffrage movement, GLBTQ and AIDS awareness movements, anti-globalization, and environmental movements.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 485 Small Group Communication Theory****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Description:** Overview of small group communication theory and research centered on how groups and teams are formed and enacted in interaction.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 486 Communicating Organizational Culture and Power****Prerequisites:** COMM 101 and 386**Description:** Critical and cultural theories, principles, and research related to organizational communication. Organizations as sites of culture and power.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 487 Global Organizational Communication****Prerequisites:** COMM 101 and 386**Description:** Communication challenges and issues that arise in global organizations and in an era marked by globalization. Relationships among culture, communication and ways of organizing across local and global contexts.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**COMM 495 Communication Studies Senior Capstone****Prerequisites:** COMM 101, COMM 201 or 202, and Senior Standing**Description:** Examination of essays and completion of a semester project that integrates and applies theories, concepts and processes learned throughout the communication studies major.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Format:** LEC**ACE:** ACE 10 Integrated Product**COMM 498 Special Topics in Communication Studies****Prerequisites:** COMM 101**Notes:** Topic varies. Topic announced prior to registration.**Credit Hours:** 1-12**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 12**Max credits per degree:** 12**Format:** LEC**COMM 499H Honors Course****Prerequisites:** Permission.**Credit Hours:** 1-3**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 6**Format:** IND**PLEASE NOTE**

This document represents a sample 4-year plan for degree completion with this major. Actual course selection and sequence may vary and should be discussed individually with your college or department academic advisor. Advisors also can help you plan other experiences to enrich your undergraduate education such as internships, education

abroad, undergraduate research, learning communities, and service learning and community-based learning.

Communication Studies (B.A.) Career Information

The following represents a sample of the internships, jobs and graduate school programs that current students and recent graduates have reported.

Transferable Skills

- Communicate confidently and appropriately with individuals of different cultures
- Listen actively and facilitate individual and group communication
- Collaborate with a team to develop solutions
- Advocate for marginalized or underrepresented groups
- Develop a strong awareness of self and others
- Develop and defend evidence based arguments
- Motivate others to achieve common goals
- Offer empathetic, sensitive, and patient interactions with others
- Provide a creative, inquisitive approach to problem-solving
- Coordinate people, activities, and event details
- Examine and address social problems, and implement creative solutions
- Comprehend and critically evaluate complex information
- Simplify complex information and present it to others
- Examine problems from multiple perspectives
- Contextualize political, social, and historical events

Jobs of Recent Graduates

- Truman Fellow/Policy Analyst, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services - Washington DC
- Communications & Outreach Specialist, NET TV - Lincoln NE
- Human Resources Generalist, City of Lincoln - Lincoln NE
- Account Manager/Marketing Consultant, Three Eagles Communications - Lincoln NE
- Web Design and Marketing Coordinator, Simplified Office Solutions - Omaha NE
- Program Director, Fremont Public Schools - Fremont NE
- Marketing Coordinator, Gulf Coast Events - Houston TX
- Behavioural Health Specialist, Children's Respite Care Center - Omaha NE
- Investment Specialist, Merrill Edge - Phoenix AZ
- Strategic Account and Customer Networking Associate, Crete Carrier - Lincoln NE
- Athletic Director, Rafiki International - Eustis FL
- Research Coordinator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE
- Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Fellowship, U.S. Department of State -
- Recruiter, Aureus Medical Group - Omaha NE
- Nutrition Coordinator, San Luis Obispo Food Bank - San Luis Obispo CA

Internships

- Medical Sales Associate, Kile & Associates - Lincoln NE
- Education Intern, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo - Omaha NE

- United Way Midlands Intern, United Way - Omaha NE
- Sports Analytics Intern, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE
- People Services Intern, Nelnet - Lincoln NE
- Family Support Worker, Pathfinder Family Social Services - Lincoln NE
- Marketing Intern, Hudl - Lincoln NE
- Women's Advocate Intern, Friendship Home - Lincoln NE
- Sales Representative, University Directories - Lincoln NE
- Executive Human Resources Intern, Target - Omaha NE
- Management Training Intern, Enterprise Rent A Car - Lincoln NE

Graduate & Professional Schools

- Ph.D, Communication Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE
- Juris Doctorate, Boston College - Chestnut Hill MA
- Doctor of Physical Therapy, University of Nebraska Medical Center - Omaha NE
- Master's Degree, Higher Education - Student Access and Success, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor MI
- Master's Degree, Public Administration, University of Kansas - Lawrence KS
- Master's Degree, Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center - Omaha NE
- Bachelor of Nursing, Nebraska Methodist College - Omaha NE
- Doctor of Chiropractic, Cleveland College of Chiropractic - Overland Park KS
- Master's Degree, School Psychology, University of Nebraska at Omaha - Omaha NE
- Master's Degree, Occupational Therapy, Nebraska Methodist College - Omaha NE
- Ph.D., Educational Administration, Washington University - St. Louis MO
- Master's Degree, Student Affairs, Colorado State University - Fort Collins CO
- Master's Degree, Medicine and Biosciences, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences - Kansas City KS
- Master's Degree, Science-Computer Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln NE
- Ph.D., History, Arizona State University - Phoenix AZ