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 the 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 489. 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 levels. No previous debate or speech experience is required. All students who are in good standing may take part in intercollegiate debate and forensics.

College Admission
The entrance requirements for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), including any of the majors or minors offered through the college, are the same as the University of Nebraska–Lincoln General Admission Requirements. 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 the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and provide more opportunity to study abroad.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER Advising

Academic and Career Advising Center
The Academic and Career Advising Center in 107 Oldfather Hall is the undergraduate hub for CAS students in all majors. Centrally located and easily accessed, students encounter friendly, knowledgeable people who are eager to help. Students visit the Advising Center in 107 Oldfather Hall to:

• Choose or change their major, minor, or degree program.
• Check in on policies, procedures, and deadlines.
• Get a college approval signature from the Dean’s representative, Sr. Director of Advising and Student Success.

While the assigned academic advisor should be the student’s primary contact, there are daily walk-ins from 12-3 where a general academic advisor can answer a quick question. In addition, the CAS Career Coaches are located here. They help students explore majors and minors, gain experience, and develop a plan for life after graduation. Not sure where to go or who to ask? The Advising Center team can help.

Assigned Academic Advisors
Academic advisors are critical resources dedicated to students’ academic, personal, and professional success. Every CAS student is assigned an academic advisor based on their primary major. Since most CAS students have more than just a single major, it is important to get to know the advisor for any minors or additional majors. Academic advisors work closely with the faculty to provide the best overall support and discipline-specific expertise.

Assigned advisors are listed in MyRED (https://its.unl.edu/myunl/) and their offices may be located in or near the department of the major for which they advise or in the Academic and Career Advising Center. 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 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 (http://cas.unl.edu/advising/).

Career Coaching
The College believes that Academics + Experience = Opportunities and encourages students to complement their academic preparation with real-world experience, including internships, research, education abroad, service, and leadership. Arts and sciences students have access to a powerful network of faculty, staff, and advisors dedicated to providing information and support for their goals of meaningful employment or advanced education. Arts and sciences graduates have unlimited career possibilities and carry with them important career competencies—communication, critical thinking, creativity, context, and collaboration. They have the skills and adaptability that employers universally value. Graduates are not only prepared to effectively contribute professionally in the real world, but they have a solid foundation to excel in an increasingly global, technological, and interdisciplinary world.

Students should contact the career coaches in the Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center in 107 Oldfather, or their assigned advisor, for more information. The CAS career coaches help students explore career options, identify ways to build experience, and prepare to apply for internships, jobs, or graduate school, including help with resumes, applications, and interviewing.

ACE Requirements
Students must complete one course for each of the ACE Student Learning Outcomes below. Certified course choices are published in the degree audit, or visit the ACE website (http://ace.unl.edu) for the most current list of certified courses.

ACE Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACE 1: Write texts, in various forms, with an identified purpose, that respond to specific audience needs, integrate research or existing knowledge, and use applicable documentation and appropriate conventions of format and structure.</th>
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</table>

ACE 2: Demonstrate competence in communication skills.

ACE 3: Use mathematical, computational, statistical, logical, or other formal reasoning to solve problems, draw inferences, justify conclusions, and determine reasonableness.

ACE 4: Use scientific methods and knowledge to pose questions, frame hypotheses, interpret data, and evaluate whether conclusions about the natural and physical world are reasonable.

ACE 5: Use knowledge, historical perspectives, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation, and the standards of evidence appropriate to the humanities to address problems and issues.

ACE 6: Use knowledge, theories, and research perspectives such as statistical methods or observational accounts appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate social systems or human behaviors.

ACE 7: Use knowledge, theories, or methods appropriate to the arts to understand their context and significance.

ACE 8: Use knowledge, theories, and analysis to explain ethical principles and their importance in society.

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<th>ACE 9: Exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue.</th>
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<tr>
<th>ACE 10: Generate a creative or scholarly product that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation, and reflection.</th>
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College Degree Requirements

College Distribution Requirements – BA and BS
The College of Arts and Sciences distribution requirements are common to both the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees and are designed to ensure a range of courses. 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, and no course can be used to fulfill 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, with the exception of CDR Diversity. Courses used to meet CDR Diversity may also meet CDR Writing, CDR Humanities, or CDR Social Science.
- Independent study or reading courses and internships cannot be used to satisfy distribution requirements.
- Courses from interdisciplinary programs will be applied in the same area as courses from the home/cross-listed department.

College Distribution Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDR: Written Communication</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Select from courses approved for ACE outcome 1.</td>
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<tr>
<th>CDR: Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences with Lab</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, geology, meteorology, mathematics, and physics. Must include one lab in the natural or physical sciences. Lab courses may be selected from biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, geology, meteorology, and physics.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Some courses from geography and anthropology may also be used to satisfy the lab requirement above. 1</th>
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<th>CDR: Humanities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Select from classics, English, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy, and religious studies. 2</td>
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<tr>
<th>CDR: Social Science</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Select from anthropology, communication studies, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology. 3</td>
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<tr>
<th>CDR: Human Diversity in U.S. Communities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Select from a set of approved courses as listed in the degree audit.</td>
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<tr>
<th>CDR: Language</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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2
3
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.

Credit Hours Subtotal: 13.32

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 220 and below do not fulfill the CDR Humanities.
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.

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

Scientific Base - BS Only
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 BIOL 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 (excluding MBIO 101), and physics.

See your Degree Audit or your assigned academic 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 the approval of the College of Arts and Sciences. See your assigned academic advisor to start the approval process.

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 cumulative 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 University of Nebraska–Lincoln 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 the 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 the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 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 to 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 the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Residency Requirement
Students must complete at least 30 of the 120 total hours for their degree at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. 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 the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

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 the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. 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 the University of Nebraska–Lincoln 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 communicate ethically across communication contexts.
5. Showcase awareness of the complex nature of multiple communication contexts (such as public, interpersonal, group, organizational, and 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. Students may choose to declare one of three emphasis areas: Communication, Health, and Well-being; Diversity, Culture, and Global Communication; Communication, Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement; or follow their own interests for advanced coursework.

**Core Requirements**

- **Required Courses**
  - COMM 101 Communication in the 21st Century  
  - COMM 489 Communication Studies Capstone
  - Credit Hours Subtotal: 6

- **Research Methods Course**
  - COMM 201 Social Scientific Research Methods in Communication Studies  
  - or COMM 202 Rhetorical Research Methods in Communication Studies
  - Credit Hours Subtotal: 3

- **Performance Course**
  - Select one of the following:  
    - 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 290 University Speech and Debate Seminar
  - Credit Hours Subtotal: 3

- **Foundation Courses**
  - Select two of the following:  
    - COMM 250 Rhetoric, Media, and Civic Life  
    - COMM 271 Organizing Social Change
  - Credit Hours Subtotal: 6

**Advanced Communication Studies or Emphasis Areas**

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**Advanced Communication Studies Courses**

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.

- **Credit Hours Subtotal:** 18

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**Communication, Health, and Well-Being Emphasis**

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

- COMM 354 Health Communication  
- COMM 364 Communication, Medicine, and Health Equity  
- COMM 368 Communication and Aging  
- COMM 370 Family Communication  
- COMM 373 Narratives and Health  
- COMM 380 / WMNS 380 Gender and Communication

- **Credit Hours Subtotal:** 18

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**Diversity, Culture, and Global Communication Emphasis**

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

- COMM 311 / ETHN 311 Intercultural and Intergroup Communication  
- COMM 360 Intergroup Dialogue  
- COMM 364 Communication, Medicine, and Health Equity  
- COMM 378 / GPSP 378 Cultural Encounters on the Great Plains  
- COMM 380 / WMNS 380 Gender and Communication  
- COMM 386 Organizational Communication  
- COMM 452 Media and Culture  
- COMM 465 Communication and Social Identity  
- COMM 471 The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

- **Credit Hours Subtotal:** 18
COMM 482  Voices of Dissent and Activism  1
COMM 486  Communicating Organizational Culture and Power  1
COMM 487  Global Organizational Communication  1

Credit Hours Subtotal: 18

Communication, Public Advocacy, and Civic Engagement Emphasis
Select six of the following courses, including two at the 400 level: 5
COMM 312  Argumentation  1
COMM 330  Freedom of Speech  1
COMM 334 / POLS 334  Polls, Politics and Public Opinion  1
COMM 371  Communication in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution  1
COMM 375  Theories of Persuasion  1
COMM 386  Organizational Communication  1
COMM 400  Rhetorical Theory  1
COMM 430 / POLS 430  Political Communication  1
COMM 482  Voices of Dissent and Activism  1
COMM 486  Communicating Organizational Culture and Power  1

Credit Hours Subtotal: 18

No more than 3 hours from COMM 395 or COMM 397 may count toward the major.

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 201 or COMM 202 must be taken before COMM 489.

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 as follows.

Required Courses
COMM 101  Communication in the 21st Century  3

Select one of the following: 3

COMM 109  Fundamentals of Human Communication  1
COMM 205  Performance of Literature  1
COMM 209  Public Speaking  1
COMM 212  Debate  1
COMM 220  Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement  1
COMM 286  Business and Professional Communication  1
COMM 290  University Speech and Debate Seminar  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
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 290 credit can be applied to the minor.
2 Excluding COMM 395 or COMM 397.
3 Of the 9 hours, at least 3 hours 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 290 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Prerequisite for: COMM 400; COMM 412; COMM 440; COMM 452; COMM 465; COMM 470; COMM 471; COMM 485; COMM 486; COMM 487; COMM 489; COMM 492
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

4 No more than 3 hours from COMM 395 or COMM 397 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.
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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Prerequisite for: COMM 440; COMM 452; COMM 465; COMM 470; COMM 489
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
Grading Option: Graded
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
Grading Option: Graded
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
Grading Option: Graded
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 192 Special Topics in Communication Studies
Description: Topics vary.
Credit Hours: 1-6
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 6
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 194 Independent Study in Communication Studies
Prerequisites: Permission.
Description: Independent reading or research under direction of a faculty member.
Credit Hours: 1-3
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded
Prerequisite for: COMM 489

COMM 202 Rhetorical Research Methods in Communication Studies
Prerequisite for: COMM 489

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
Grading Option: Graded

COMM 208 Intercultural Communication: The Global Classroom
Notes: Grade Only
Description: How to effectively interact with diverse cultures and how to engage in discussions of global issues. Communication across intercultural and international boundaries.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded

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
Grading Option: Graded
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
Grading Option: Graded
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
Grading Option: Graded
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
Grading Option: Graded

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded
Prerequisite for: CSCE 488
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 290 University Speech and Debate Seminar
Prerequisites: Permission.
Notes: Limited to members of the intercollegiate forensics squad. Tournaments from September through April.
Description: Intensive research, practice, and application of principles of argumentation and persuasion in intercollegiate debate, public address, and oral interpretation.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Graded with Option
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence
COMM 297 Instructional Assistantship
Prerequisites: Permission.
Description: Structured professional experience for training instructor assistants to tutor, evaluate communication activities, and do other instructional assistance for communication studies courses.
Credit Hours: 1-3
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Pass/No Pass

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 301 Interpersonal Communication
Crosslisted with: ETHN 311
Description: Introduction to the theories and concepts of intercultural and intergroup communication. Communicative processes associated with social comparison, prejudice and discrimination, and social conflict in various relational and professional contexts.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 302 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 311 Intercultural and Intergroup Communication
Crosslisted with: ETHN 311
Description: Introduction to the theories and concepts of intercultural and intergroup communication. Communicative processes associated with social comparison, prejudice and discrimination, and social conflict in various relational and professional contexts.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 320 Communication
Description: Focus on the 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL

COMM 333 The Rhetoric of the American Presidency
Description: Examination of the speeches and messages of the American presidents throughout history. Focus on presidents at war, presidents dispensing the duties of the office, and presidents in political crisis.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL/SPR

COMM 364 Communication, Medicine, and Health Equity
Description: Examines the differences across groups in health, illness, health care access, health equity 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Groups: CAS Diversity in the US
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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
ACE: ACE 6 Social Science

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 372 Communication and Leadership
Description: Explores the communication behaviors that constitute leadership, preparing you to deal with problems encountered by leaders and engage the behaviors, understand the attributes, and develop the communication skills needed to lead effectively. Includes a critical analysis of the social, cultural, psychological, and emotional dynamics that shape leadership.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL/SPR

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
ACE: ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship

COMM 376 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
ACE: ACE 6 Social Science

COMM 377 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded
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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 382 Nonprofit Organizing & Communication
Notes: Graded only
Description: Exploration of the theories, research, implications, and applications of communicative research on the nonprofit and voluntary sector. Focus on communication processes and structures that are tied to the work, people, and organizations of the nonprofit sector.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL

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
Grading Option: Graded
Prerequisite for: COMM 485; COMM 486; COMM 487

COMM 391 Learning Abroad
Prerequisites: Permission.
Description: Special topics through faculty-led education abroad program.
Credit Hours: 1-6
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 6
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 392 Special Topics in Communication Studies
Description: Topic varies.
Credit Hours: 1-6
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 6
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Graded with Option
COMM 394 Independent Study in Communication Studies
Prerequisites: Permission.
Description: Independent reading or research under direction of a faculty member.
Credit Hours: 1-3
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Pass No Pass

COMM 397 Research Assistantship in Communication Studies
Prerequisites: Permission.
Notes: Pass/No Pass only.
Description: Structured research assistant experience 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
Grading Option: Pass No Pass

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 430 Political Communication
Crosslisted with: POLS 430
Description: Role of communication in the political process, with emphasis on communication strategies in political campaigns. Includes communication variables important in the political process, 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 465 Communication and Social Identity
Prerequisites: COMM 101
Description: Overview of theories of communication and social identity. Focus on identity and social categorization, language use and attitudes, and intergroup contact.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL/SPR
Groups: CAS Diversity in the US
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  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

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  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

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  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

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  
**Grading Option:** Graded

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  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

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  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

COMM 492 Special Topics in Communication Studies  
**Prerequisites:** COMM 101  
**Description:** Topic varies.  
**Credit Hours:** 1-6  
**Min credits per semester:** 1  
**Max credits per semester:** 6  
**Max credits per degree:** 6  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

COMM 499 Undergraduate Thesis  
**Prerequisites:** Permission.  
**Description:** Independent research leading to a thesis.  
**Credit Hours:** 1-3  
**Min credits per semester:** 1  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 6  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

COMM 499H Honors Undergraduate Thesis  
**Prerequisites:** Permission.  
**Description:** Independent research leading to a thesis.  
**Credit Hours:** 1-3  
**Min credits per semester:** 1  
**Max credits per semester:** 3  
**Max credits per degree:** 6  
**Grading Option:** Graded with Option

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