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 how 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.

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.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates with a major in communication studies will be able to:

1. Understand and articulate communication as a process
2. Apply communication theories, methods, and concepts to 21st century challenges and opportunities
3. Critically create, interpret, and evaluate messages within the contexts of:
   a. communication, health, and well-being
   b. communication, public advocacy, and civic engagement and/or
   c. diversity, culture, and global communication
4. Advocate, negotiate difference, and relate across personal, professional, and public life

Academic and Career Advising

Academic and Career Advising Center

Not sure where to go or who to ask? The Advising Center team in 107 Oldfather Hall can help. The Academic and Career Advising Center 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 or connect students to partner resources. Students also visit the Advising Center in 107 Oldfather Hall to:

- Choose or change their major, minor, or degree program.
- Check on policies, procedures, and deadlines.
- Get a college approval signature from the Dean's representatives.

CAS Career Coaches are available by appointment (in-person or Zoom) and located in the CAS Academic and Career Advising Center, 107 Oldfather Hall. They help students explore majors and minors, gain experience, and develop a plan for life after graduation.

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 the discipline specific expertise. They are available for appointments (in-person or Zoom) and through weekly virtual drop-ins. 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.

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, visit https://cas.unl.edu/major-advisors (https://cas.unl.edu/major-advisors/), or connect with the Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center, 107 Oldfather Hall, 402-472-4190, casadvising@unl.edu.

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 prepared to effectively contribute professionally and personally with 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 Hall, 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 (http://ace.unl.edu) website (http://ace.unl.edu) for the most current list of certified courses.

ACE Student Learning Outcomes
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.
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.
ACE 9: Exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue.
ACE 10: Generate a creative or scholarly product that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation, and reflection.

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.
- Internship (395 or 495), independent study or readings (396 or 496), research (398 or 498), and thesis (399, 399H, 499, or 499H) will not satisfy distribution requirements.
- Other courses with a 9 in the middle number (ex. PSYC 292) will not satisfy distribution requirements unless approved by an advisor.
- Cross-listed courses from interdisciplinary programs will be applied in the same area as courses from the lead department.

College Distribution Requirements	
CDR: Written Communication	*3*
Select from courses approved for ACE outcome 1.	
CDR: Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences [1]	*3-4*
Select a course from ASTR, BIOS, CHEM, GEOL, LIFE, METR, MATH, PHYS, or ANTH 242, GEOG 155, GEOG 181, POLS 250, or PSYC 273.	
CDR: Laboratory [2]	*0-1*
Laboratory courses may be embedded in a 4-5 credit course used in CDR Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Science (example GEOG 155), or stand alone (example LIFE 120L).	
CDR: Humanities [3]	*3*
Select a course from ARAB, CHIN, CLAS, CZEC, ENGL, FILM, FREN, GERM, GREK, HIST, JAPN, LATN, PHIL, RELG, RUSS, or SPAN.	
CDR: Social Science [4]	*3*
Select a course from ANTH, COMM, GEOG, NSST, POLS, PSYC, or SOCI.	
CDR: Human Diversity in U.S. Communities	*0-3*

Select from the following approved courses also listed in your degree audit: ANTH 130, ANTH 412, ANTH 473, ARAB 313, COMM 311, COMM 364, COMM 465, ENGL 212, ENGL 245N, ENGL 312, ENGL 345D, ENGL 345N, ENGL 346, ENGL 376, ENGL 380, ENGL 445, ETHN 100, ETHN 201, ETHN 202, ETHN 205, FILM 344, GEOG 271, GEOG 403, GLST 350, HIST 115, HIST 246, HIST 251, HIST 323, HIST 340, HIST 351, HIST 356, HIST 357, HIST 402, PHIL 105, PHIL 106, PHIL 218, PHIL 323, PHIL 325, POLS 333, POLS 338, POLS 347, PSYC 310, PSYC 330, PSYC 421, PSYC 425, RELG 134, RELG 226, RELG 227, RELG 313, SOCI 101, SOCI 180, SOCI 200, SOCI 217, SPAN 206, SPAN 486, WMNS 101, WMNS 201, WMNS 202, WMNS 210, WMNS 356	
CDR: Language [5]	*0-16*
Fulfilled by the completion of the 4th level of a single language (either in H.S. or in college). Language study at UNL is available in: ARAB, CHIN, CZEC, FREN, GERM, GREK, JAPN, LATN, RUSS, SLPA, or SPAN.	
Credit Hours Subtotal:	12-33

[1] *Excluded courses:* BIOC 101, BIOS 100, CHEM 101, MBIO 101, PHYS 201, MATH 100A, MATH 101, MATH 102, MATH 103.

[2] ANTH 242L, ASTR 224, BIOS 101L, BIOS 110L, BIOS 111, BIOS 116, BIOS 213L, BIOS 214, CHEM 105L, CHEM 106L, CHEM 109L, CHEM 110L, CHEM 113L, GEOG 155, GEOL 101, GEOL 103, LIFE 120L, LIFE 121L, METR 100, PHYS 141, PHYS 142, PHYS 153, PHYS 221, *or* PHYS 222.

[3] *ARAB, CHIN, CZEC, FREN, GERM, GREK, JAPN, LATN, RUSS, and SPAN courses must be numbered 300 or above. ENGL courses must be* ENGL 170, ENGL 180, *or ENGL 200 level and above. Excluded courses:* CLAS 116, ENGL 254, ENGL 300, ENGL 354, SPAN 300A, SPAN 303, *and* SPAN 304.

[4] *Excluded courses:* ANTH 242/ANTH 242L, GEOG 155, GIST 111, GIST 311, POLS 101, POLS 250, PSYC 100, PSYC 273.

[5] ARAB 202, CHIN 202, CZEC 202, FREN 202 *or* FREN 210, GERM 202, GREK 301 *and* GREK 302, JAPN 201 *and* JAPN 202, LATN 301 *and* LATN 302, RUSS 202, SLPA 202, *or* SPAN 202 *or* SPAN 210.

Language Requirement - BA and BS

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.

Experiential Learning Requirement - BA and BS

All undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete an Experiential Learning (EL) designated course. This may include 0-credit courses designed to document co-curricular activities recognized as Experiential Learning.

Scientific Base – BS Only

The bachelor of science degree requires students to complete 60 hours in mathematical, physical, and natural sciences from disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences or required in its majors: ACTS, ASTR, BIOC, BIOS, CHEM, CSCE, GEOL, LIFE, METR, MATH, PHYS, STAT or ANTH 242 , ANTH 242L, ANTH 341, ANTH 385, ANTH 386, ANTH 389, ANTH 416, ANTH 422, ANTH 430, ANTH 442, ANTH 443, ANTH 444, ANTH 448, ANTH 473, ANTH 484, ANTH 487D, ENVR 201, GEOG 155, GEOG 181, GEOG 217, GEOG 281, GEOG 308, GEOG 317, GEOG 408, GEOG 417, GEOG 418, GEOG 419, GEOG 421, GEOG 422, GEOG 425, GEOG 427, GEOG 432, GEOG 444, GEOG 461, GEOG 467, PHIL 211, POLS 250, PSYC 273, PSYC 368, PSYC 370, PSYC 450, PSYC 451, PSYC 456, PSYC 458,PSYC 460, PSYC 461, PSYC 463, PSYC 464, or PSYC 465.

Excluded courses include: BIOC 101, BIOS 100, CHEM 101, MATH 100A, MATH 101, MATH 102, MATH 103, MBIO 101, PHYS 201 as well as any course numbered 395, 495, 399, 399H, 499, or 499H.

Up to 12 hours of scientific and technical courses offered by other colleges may be accepted toward this requirement with 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

University policy for the Pass/No Pass (P/N) privilege:

- Neither the P nor the N grade factor into your GPA.
- 'P' is interpreted to mean a grade of C or above. A grade of C- or lower results in a "N'.
- A change to or from a Pass/No Pass may be made until mid-term (1/2 of the course - see the academic calendar for specific dates per term).
- The Pass/No Pass or grade registration cannot conflict with the policy of the professor, department, college, or University policy governing the grading options.
- Changing to or from the Pass/No Pass grading option requires using MyRED, or processing a Schedule Adjustment Form.
- For undergraduates, the University maximum of 24 'Pass' credit hours and/or college and department limits will apply. These limits do not include courses offered on a 'Pass/No Pass' basis only. Consult your advisor or the Undergraduate Catalog (https://catalog.unl.edu/undergraduate/) for restrictions on the number of 'Pass' hours you can apply toward your degree.
- The 'Pass/No Pass' grading option cannot be used for the removal of 'C-', 'D+', 'D', 'D-', or 'F' grade factors.
  NOTE: See Course Repeats (https://registrar.unl.edu/academic-standards/course-repeats/)

College of Arts and Sciences policy on the Pass/No Pass (P/N) privilege:

- Pass hours can count toward fulfillment of University ACE requirements and college distribution requirements up to the 24-hour maximum.

- Most arts and sciences majors and minors do not permit any courses graded Pass/No Pass to apply, or limit them to no more than 6 hours. Students should refer to the major section of the catalog for clarification.
- Departments may specify that certain courses of theirs can be taken on a P/N-only or on a graded-only basis.

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 the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Residency Requirement

The term "Residency" refers to courses taken at UNL. 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 18 hours of their major coursework, and 15 of the 30 hours required at the 300 or 400 level, at UNL.

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.

Transfer Students: Students who have transferred from a community college may be eligible to fulfill the requirements as stated in the catalog for an academic year in which they were enrolled at the community college prior to attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This decision should be made in consultation with academic advisors, provided the student a) was enrolled in a community college during the catalog year they are utilizing, b) maintained continuous enrollment at the previous institution for 1 academic year or more, and c) continued enrollment at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln within 1 calendar year from their last term at the previous institution. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year and within the time frame allowable for that catalog year.

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 [1]	3
COMM 250	Rhetoric, Media, and Civic Life [2]	3
COMM 283	Interpersonal Communication	3
COMM 489	Communication Studies Capstone	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:		12
Research Methods Course [1]		
COMM 201	Social Scientific Research Methods in Communication Studies	3
or COMM 202	Rhetorical Methods in Communication Studies	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		3
Performance Course		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 209	Public Speaking	
COMM 212	Debate [2]	
COMM 220	Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement [2]	
COMM 286	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 290	University Speech and Debate Seminar	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		3
Total Credit Hours		**18**

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

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

Advanced Communication Studies or Emphasis Areas

Advanced Communication Studies Courses		
Select six COMM courses at the 300 level or above, including at least two at the 400 level.		18
Students may select their own combination of advanced courses, or declare one of the following emphasis areas and select from the related list. [3]		
Credit Hours Subtotal:		18
Communication, Health, and Well-Being Emphasis		
Select six of the following courses, including two at the 400 level: [4]		18
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	

COMM 465	Communication and Social Identity	
COMM 470	Interpersonal Communication Theory	
COMM 471	The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		18

Diversity, Culture, and Global Communication Emphasis

Select six of the following courses, including two at the 400 level: [4]		18
COMM 311 / ETHN 311	Intercultural and Intergroup Communication	
COMM 360	Dialogue Across Difference	
COMM 364	Communication, Medicine, and Health Equity	
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	
COMM 482	Voices of Dissent and Activism	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		18

Communication, Public Advocacy, and Civic Engagement Emphasis

Select six of the following courses, including two at the 400 level: [4]		18
COMM 312	Argumentation	
COMM 330	Freedom of Speech	
COMM 334 / POLS 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 / POLS 430	Political Communication	
COMM 482	Voices of Dissent and Activism	
Credit Hours Subtotal:		18

[3] *No more than 3 hours from* COMM 395 *or* COMM 398 *may count toward the major.*

[4] *Either* COMM 395 *or* COMM 398 *may be used in the emphasis areas when related and by approval of the undergraduate advisor.*

Minor Requirement

A minor (or 2nd major/degree) is required by this major.

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 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 398 .

Requirements for Minor Offered by Department

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 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 [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 290 *credit can be applied to the minor.*

[2] *Excluding* COMM 395 *or* COMM 398.

[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.*

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 440; COMM 452; COMM 464, WMNS 464; COMM 465; COMM 470; COMM 471; COMM 489; COMM 492

ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

Course and Laboratory Fee: $10

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 400; COMM 440; COMM 452; COMM 464, WMNS 464; COMM 465; COMM 470; COMM 471; COMM 489
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

COMM 160 Practicing Intergroup Dialogue
Description: Engage in semi-structured face-to-face discussion groups about important and polarizing social issues.
Credit Hours: 1
Max credits per semester: 1
Max credits per degree: 1
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL/SPR

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 Methods in Communication Studies
Description: Introduction to rhetorical research methods in communication studies. Location, interpretation, and application of extant communication research. Letter grade only.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Prerequisite for: COMM 489
ACE: ACE 1 Writing

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
Course and Laboratory Fee: $10

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
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

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 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option
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
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
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
Grading Option: Graded
Prerequisite for: CSCE 488
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence
Course and Laboratory Fee: $10

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
Offered: FALL/SPR
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence
Experiential Learning: Creative Activity

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: 1-3
Min credits per semester: 1
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 6
Grading Option: Pass No Pass

COMM 310 Communication and Mentorship
Prerequisites: Communication Studies major or minor and permission
Description: Examination of theory and research around effective peer mentor communication, relationship building, and instructional practices and putting those into practice in real life situations working as mentors and trainers.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Offered: FALL/SPR
Experiential Learning: Student Teaching/Education Practicum

COMM 310H Honors: Communication and Mentorship
Prerequisites: Good standing in the University Honors Program, Communication Studies major or minor and permission.
Description: Examination of theory and research around effective peer mentor communication, relationship building, and instructional practices and putting those into practice in real life situations working as mentors and trainers.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Offered: FALL/SPR

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
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence ACE 9 Global/Diversity
Experiential Learning: Community Engagement

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 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
ACE: ACE 8 Civic/Ethics/Stewardship

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
ACE: ACE 5 Humanities

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 357 Paranoia and Polarization in Digital Culture
Description: Examines the social and political implications of new forms of digital communication, including memes, algorithms, bots, artificial intelligence, image boards, and social networking
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL/SPR

COMM 360 Dialogue Across Difference
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
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence
Experiential Learning: Community Engagement

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 365 Indigenous Communication
Crosslisted with: ETHN 365
Description: Introduces theories, concepts, and practices of Indigenous Communication from interdisciplinary perspectives. Emphasis on using Indigenous-centered frameworks to interrogate various phenomena relevant to the lives and realities of Indigenous peoples in North America.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity
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

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
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
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 374 Mental Health Communication: Communication, Stigma & (Dis)Connection
Description: Examination of how and why mental health is talked about on multiple levels (e.g. self-talk, interpersonal and family relationships, organizations, communities, policies) and how this communication relates to attitudes and behaviors about mental health.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: FALL
ACE: ACE 2 Communication Competence

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 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

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
Experiential Learning: Education Abroad

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 398 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
Experiential Learning: Research

COMM 400 Rhetorical Theory
Prerequisites: COMM 101 or COMM 101H
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 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, 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
Grading Option: Graded with Option

COMM 435 Rhetorics of Race and Empire
Crosslisted with: ETHN 435
Description: Engages the global development of race from a rhetorical and communicative perspective in order to critically understand the role of race in public life today.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded with Option
Offered: FALL
ACE: ACE 9 Global/Diversity
Groups: CAS Diversity in the US

COMM 440 Rhetoric of Sports and Games
Prerequisites: COMM 101 or COMM 101H
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 or COMM 101H
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 462 Feminist Media Studies
Crosslisted with: FILM 462, WMNS 462
Description: Explores how messages conveyed by television, film, stand-up comedy, and social media shape viewers' ideas and attitudes about feminism and contribute to both normative and emerging cultural beliefs about gender and sexuality.
Credit Hours: 3
Max credits per semester: 3
Max credits per degree: 3
Grading Option: Graded
Offered: SPRING

COMM 464 Communication and Consent
Crosslisted with: WMNS 464
Prerequisites: COMM 101 or COMM 101H
Description: Examination of consent from multiple perspectives: interpersonal relationships, healthcare, social media posting, informed consent, etc. to gain a deeper understanding of how consent uniquely works within these contexts, and how to practice clear verbal requests and allocations of consent.
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 or COMM 101H
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 or COMM 101H
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 or COMM 101H
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

COMM 489 Communication Studies Capstone
Prerequisites: COMM 101 or COMM 101H, 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
Grading Option: Graded
ACE: ACE 10 Integrated Product

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

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

- Executive Assistant, Nebraska Civic Engagement Table – Lincoln, NE
- Territory Manager, Sandhills Global – Lincoln, NE
- Child and Family Services Specialist, Department of Health and Human Services – Lincoln, NE
- Behavioral Health Specialist, Children's Respite Care Center – Omaha, NE
- Coordinator of Student Athlete Development and Diversity & Inclusion, University of Kansas – Lawrence, KS

- Patient Services, Bryan Health – Lincoln, NE
- Teacher, Lincoln East High School – Lincoln, NE
- Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Long Island University – Brookville, NY
- Human Resources Generalist, United States Government – Washington D.C.
- Legal Aid Assistant, Mitra Tech – Austin, TX

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
- Blog Intern, Pete Donova: Author/Writer - Palm Desert CA
- Research Intern, University of Nebraska Foundation - Lincoln NE
- Attractions Intern, Disney World - Orlando FL

Graduate & Professional Schools

- Master's Degree, Occupational Therapy, University of Nebraska at Omaha – Omaha, NE
- Master's Degree, Communication Studies, University of North Carolina-Charlotte – Charlotte, NC
- Master's Degree, Communication Studies, University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL
- Master's Degree, International Studies, University of San Francisco – San Francisco, CA
- Master's Degree, Business Analytics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Lincoln, NE
- Master's Degree, Integrative Health and Wellness, Creighton University – Omaha, NE
- Master's Degree, Educational Administration, University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Lincoln, NE
- Juris Doctor Degree, Yale Law School – New Haven, CT
- Juris Doctor Degree, University of Kansas – Lawrence, KS
- Doctoral Degree, Political Sciences, Stony Brook University – Long Island, NY