

COMMUNICATION - BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The BA in communication provides a broad-based liberal arts degree designed to foster students' abilities to understand, analyze and effectively engage in a wide range of communication practices. It encourages critical thinking about the ways that symbols and interactions contribute to social problems and solutions.

The major provides instruction and practice in the skills of effective communication and collaborative problem-solving that employers are looking for—speaking, writing, reading, listening, asking good questions, utilizing media and working in groups. Students learn how to design innovative messages, build quality personal and professional relationships, elevate their critical thinking skills and are prepared to thrive in a variety of professions.

Requirements

Required Courses and Credits

Majors must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours of coursework in communication, at least 18 of which must be upper division (3000 level or higher). Only courses with grades of C- or better count toward the major, and the overall major GPA must be 2.000 (a C- is 1.700).

Note: In addition to major requirements, communication majors must complete CMDI Core Curriculum requirements. The Core Curriculum requirements for the College of Communication, Media, Design and Information can be found in Policies & Requirements (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/policies-requirements/#corecurriculumtext>).

Students who wish to major in communication should meet with a department advisor, where they will be advised of any changes to this list of requirements.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
COMM 1210	Perspectives on Human Communication	3
COMM 1300	Public Speaking	3
COMM 1600	Group Interaction	3
COMM 3210	Communication Theory	3
COMM 3300	Rhetorical Thinking	3
Lower-Division COMM Electives		
Select at least two of the following:		6
COMM 2320	The Craft of Argument	
COMM 2400	Discourse, Culture and Identities	
COMM 2410	The Practice of Intercultural Communication	
COMM 2500	Interpersonal Communication	
COMM 2650	Business and Professional Communication	
Methods Course		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 3740	Qualitative Research Methods	
COMM 3750	Quantitative Research Methods	
COMM 3760	Rhetorical Research Methods	

Senior Seminar

Select one of the following:		3
COMM 4220	Senior Seminar: Functions of Communication	
COMM 4300	Senior Seminar: Rhetoric	
COMM 4510	Senior Seminar: Interpersonal Communication	
COMM 4600	Senior Seminar: Organizational Communication	
COMM 4610	Senior Seminar: Communication Studies of Science and Technology	

Upper-Division Electives

Two additional upper-division electives (3000- or 4000-level courses); 4000-level courses may be taken twice (only twice) with different topics 6

COMM 3000	Issues in Communication
COMM 3320	Persuasion in Society
COMM 3330	Social Movements
COMM 3340	Political Communication
COMM 3370	Environmental Communication
COMM 3380	Advanced Topics in Storytelling, Culture, & Climate Justice
COMM 3410	Intercultural Communication
COMM 3420	Gender and Communication
COMM 3430	Communication, Culture and Sport
COMM 3510	Family Communication
COMM 3610	Communication, Technology, and Society
COMM 3620	Advanced Teamwork and Collaboration
COMM 3630	Organizational Communication
COMM 4000	Advanced Topics in Communication

COMM Elective

One additional COMM elective, any level. 3

Independent Study/Internships

Up to 8 credit hours of independent study and 6 credit hours of internships may be taken. These are upper-division elective hours but do not count toward major requirements. Eligible students interested in graduating with department honors should contact the department's honors coordinator as soon as possible.

Total Credit Hours 36

Secondary Area of Study

In addition to coursework required for the major, all students in COMM must complete a secondary area of study outside of COMM. This secondary area of study can be met by any of the following: a minor, a second major within CMDI, a double degree or any credit-based certificate program of at least 12 credit hours. Secondary areas of study typically require 15-21 credit hours.

Additional Information

The department encourages its majors to take related courses in other departments in CMDI as well as anthropology, business, English, ethnic studies, history, linguistics, philosophy, political science, sociology, speech, language and hearing sciences, and theatre and dance.

The department also encourages participation in optional programs such as study abroad, internships and graduating with honors.

Sample Four-Year Plan of Study

Year One

Fall Semester

	Credit Hours
COMM 1210 Perspectives on Human Communication	3
CMCI 1040: Foundational Concepts and Creativity in Media, Communication and Information (4) or CMDI Core or Elective (3)	4
CMDI Core or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)	3
Lower-division Writing Course	3
Credit Hours	13

Spring Semester

COMM 1300 Public Speaking	3
CMCI 1040: Foundational Concepts and Creativity in Media, Communication and Information (4) or CMDI Core or Elective (3)	3
COMM 1600 Group Interaction	3
CMDI Core Computing Course	3
Quantitative Thinking Course	3
Credit Hours	15

Year Two

Fall Semester

At least one of the following:	3
COMM 2320 The Craft of Argument or COMM 2400 or Discourse, Culture and Identities or COMM 2410 or The Practice of Intercultural or COMM 2500 Communication or COMM 2650 or Interpersonal Communication or Business and Professional Communication	
CMDI Core: Natural World	3
CMDI CORE or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)	7
Secondary Area of Study	3
Credit Hours	16

Spring Semester

At least one of the following:	3
COMM 2320 The Craft of Argument or COMM 2400 or Discourse, Culture and Identities or COMM 2410 or The Practice of Intercultural or COMM 2500 Communication or COMM 2650 or Interpersonal Communication or Business and Professional Communication	
CMDI Core: Natural World with Lab	4
CMDI CORE or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)	3
Secondary Area of Study	6
Credit Hours	16

Year Three

Fall Semester

COMM Elective, any level	3
COMM 3210 Communication Theory or COMM 3300 or Rhetorical Thinking	3

(Students should not take COMM 3210 and COMM 3300 in the same semester)	
CMDI CORE or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)	6
Secondary Area of Study	3

Credit Hours 15

Spring Semester

COMM 3210 Communication Theory or COMM 3300 or Rhetorical Thinking	3
(Students should not take COMM 3210 and COMM 3300 in the same semester)	
One of the following methods courses:	3
COMM 3740 Qualitative Research Methods or COMM 3750 or Quantitative Research Methods or COMM 3760 or Rhetorical Research Methods	
CMDI CORE or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)	6
Secondary Area of Study	3
Credit Hours	15

Year Four

Fall Semester

One Senior Seminar:	3
COMM 4220 Senior Seminar: Functions of or COMM 4300 Communication or COMM 4510 or Senior Seminar: Rhetoric or COMM 4600 or Senior Seminar: Interpersonal or COMM 4610 Communication or Senior Seminar: Organizational Communication or Senior Seminar: Communication Studies of Science and Technology	
COMM Upper-division Elective ¹	3
CMDI CORE or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)	3
Composition and Expression Course : Upper-division composition	3
Secondary Area of Study	3
Credit Hours	15

Spring Semester

COMM Upper-division Elective ¹	3
CMDI CORE or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)	9
Secondary Area of Study	3
Credit Hours	15
Total Credit Hours	120

¹ Detailed list available in major requirements section of catalog.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Develop creative and ethical messages to solve problems.
- Practice effective group communication to work together toward a collective outcome.
- Understand communicative processes as constitutive.