

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 CMCI Core Curriculum requirements. The Core Curriculum requirements for the College of Media, Communication 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

COMM 3000	Issues in Communication	
COMM 3320	Persuasion in Society	
COMM 3330	Social Movements	
COMM 3340	Political Communication	
COMM 3370	Environmental Communication	
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 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 CMCI, 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 CMCI 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

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Year One		
Fall Semester		
COMM 1210	Perspectives on Human Communication	3
CMCI 1040:Foundational Concepts and Creativity in Media, Communication and Information (4) or CMCI Core or Elective (3)		4
CMCI 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 CMCI Core or Elective (3)		3
COMM 1600	Group Interaction	3
CMCI 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	
CMCI Core: Natural World		3
CMCI 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	
CMCI Core: Natural World with Lab		4
CMCI 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	3
or COMM 3300	or Rhetorical Thinking	

(Students should not take COMM 3210 and COMM 3300 in the same semester)		
CMCI 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	3
or COMM 3300	or Rhetorical Thinking	
(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	
CMCI 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
CMCI CORE or elective (P & S; H & A; Hist V; Div & Global)		6
Secondary Area of Study		3
Credit Hours		15
Spring Semester		
COMM Upper-division Elective ¹		3
CMCI 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

Students will:

- Critically reflect on their roles within social interactions.
- Develop innovative and creative messages to solve problems.
- Utilize communication theories to analyze intersectional differences and power in society.
- Strategize how to engage with communities to create social change through communication practices.
- Understand the value of communication research develop and support claims, and evaluate different forms of data and evidence.
- Practice effective and inclusive group communication to work together toward a collective outcome.