The Bachelor of Arts in communication provides analytic work from both humanistic and social-scientific perspectives, and practical work to improve communication performance in various kinds of situations.

The undergraduate degree in communication emphasizes knowledge and awareness of:

- the basic contexts in which communication is enacted (e.g., interpersonal, group, organizational and public contexts);
- the various processes of interaction within these contexts;
- the basic methods of investigating questions about communication;
- the ethical issues and responsibilities of communication practice;
- the diversity of communication styles associated with gender and cultural differences;
- the uses and implications of communication technology; and
- the history and development of communication as an object of scholarly study, including both the humanistic and social-scientific traditions.

In addition, students completing the degree in communication are expected to acquire the ability and skills to:

- express ideas in an informed, coherent and effective manner, particularly the ability to articulate and develop a sustained argument, both orally and in writing;
- analyze, criticize and evaluate messages and interactions in a variety of practical contexts, both orally and in writing; and
- adapt messages and negotiate interactions responsibly in diverse and changing situations.

There are optional programs in which students are encouraged to participate such as study abroad, internships and graduating with honors.

Course code for this program is COMM.

Bachelor's Degree

- Communication - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/communication/communication-bachelor-arts-ba)

Minor

- Communication - Minor (catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/communication/communication-minor)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member’s home department.

Ackerman, John Martin (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_144951)
Associate Professor; PhD, Carnegie Mellon University

Ashcraft, Karen Lee (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_147453)
Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Boromisz-Habashi, David (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_145833)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Bowers, John Waite
Professor Emeritus

Campbell, Kathleen G.
Professor Emeritus

Craig, Robert T.
Professor Emeritus; PhD, Michigan State University

Darnell, Donald K.
Professor Emeritus

Deetz, Stanley A.
Professor Emeritus; PhD, Ohio University

Donald, Darnell K.
Professor Emeritus

Flores, Lisa A. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_154474)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Georgia

Frey, Lawrence R. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_125937)
Professor; PhD, University of Kansas

Gries, Laurie Ellen (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_155591)
Assistant Professor; PhD, Syracuse University

Hauser, Gerard A.
Professor Emeritus

Hickerson, Ruth Lynne (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_151159)
Instructor; PhD, University of Denver

Jahn, Jody L (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_153426)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California-Santa Barbara

Koschmann, Matthew A. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_154580)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of Texas at Austin

Kuhn, Timothy R (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_118144)
Professor; PhD, Arizona State University

Motter, Jeffrey Brian (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_156154)
Instructor, PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Pezzullo, Phaedra Carmen (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_155204)
Associate Professor; PhD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Simonson, Peter D. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_143251)
Professor; PhD, University of Iowa

Skerski, Jamie L (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_149871)
Senior Instructor; PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Sprain, Leah MH (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/phisid_151292)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Washington
COMM 1210 (3) Perspectives on Human Communication
Surveys communication in a variety of contexts and applications. Topics include basic concepts and general models of communication, ethics, language and nonverbal communication, personal relationships, group decision making, organizational communication, and impact of technological developments on communication. Required for COMM majors.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Core Curr: Contemporary Societies
MAPS Course: Social Science

COMM 1300 (3) Public Speaking
Covers theory and skills of speaking in various public settings. Examines fundamental principles from rhetorical and communication theory and applies them to oral presentations. Required for COMM or COMN majors.

COMM 1600 (3) Group Interaction
Covers basic theories, concepts, and characteristics that underlie face-to-face interactions in interpersonal, small group, and organizational settings. Activities stress the development of both task and relational skills in these settings. Required for COMM or COMN majors.

COMM 2000 (3) Topics in Communication
Investigates select topics in communication. Does not count toward the 2000-level courses required for the major, unless explicitly stated in the course schedule.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 2360 (3) Campaigns and Revolutions
Introduces concepts in rhetoric and argumentation that are used to explain significant social and political changes in our society. The goal is to show how social actors use rhetoric to promote some social goals and hinder others.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 27-180 credits (Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors) only.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 2400 (3) Discourse, Culture and Identities
Examines how aspects of talk (e.g., turn-taking, speech acts, narratives, dialect, and stance indicators) link with identities (e.g., ethnic and racial, age, gender, work-related, and personal). Considers how communication is central to constructing who people are and examines social controversies related to talk and identities.
Arts Sci Core Curr: Human Diversity

COMM 2500 (3) Interpersonal Communication
Focuses on basic processes in face-to-face interaction, including verbal and nonverbal messages, coordination in conversation, messages about self and others, and communication in personal relationships. Emphasizes theory and concepts rather than skills.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 27-180 credits (Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors) only.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 2600 (3) Organizational Communication
Provides a communicatively based definition of formal organization and deals with individual-organizational relationships. Addresses topics such as organizational theory, organizational culture, power, technology, decision making, teamwork, leadership, diversity, gender, socialization, and ethics.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 27-180 credits (Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors) only.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3000 (3) Issues in Communication
Explores select issues in communication.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3210 (3) Human Communication Theory
Acquaints students with general, thematic, and contextual theories of human communication. Gives attention to criteria for evaluating theories.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite courses of COMM 1210 and COMM 1600 (all minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors or minors only.

COMM 3300 (3) Rhetorical Foundations of Communication
Provides the rhetorical foundations of communication through study of the humanistic traditions of rhetorical theory, with applications to social interaction and message analysis.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite courses of COMM 1210 and COMM 1600 (all minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors or minors only.

COMM 3310 (3) Principles and Practices of Argumentation
Focuses on principles of argument, the process of critical decision making, and uses and limitations of logic and evidence. Contemporary issues (personal, social, political, or philosophical) are analyzed and debated.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.
COMM 3320 (3) Persuasion in Society
Explores how persuasion influences decision making. Focuses on different definitions and models of persuasion, ethical perspectives on persuasion, qualitative and quantitative research on persuasion, and the tools of motivation, as well as how to create effective and ethical persuasive messages.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3340 (3) Political Communication
Provides an overview of the role of communication in contemporary political life. Topics include political communication theories, political campaign communication, media and political communication, and the role of political communication in promoting democracy and public policy.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3370 (3) Environmental Communication
Introduces the growing field of environmental communication, including historical events, key concepts, legal landmarks, technological developments and public controversies at the intersection of the environment, economics and social justice. Focuses on persuasive communication in the public sphere, as well as the constitutive power of communication to name and redefine what has been and might become possible in our environmental imaginations.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

COMM 3410 (3) Intercultural Communication
Explores complex relationships between culture and communication processes from various conceptual perspectives, such as social, psychological, interpretive, and critical. Considers the important role of context (e.g., social, historical, and cultural) in intercultural interactions.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Core Curr: Human Diversity

COMM 3420 (3) Gender and Communication
Examines gender as a social practice that remains vital to identities, relationships, and institutions in contemporary society. Treats gender as something we do or enact through communication, rather than as something we are or have, and explores the implications of this shift in perspective. Investigates how gender interacts with sexuality, race, class, nation, age, ability, and other aspects of identity.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3510 (3) Family Communication
Explores communication in families from various theoretical perspectives, such as social constructionism, systems theory, and dialectical theory. Communication patterns and processes created and sustained by family members are examined, including rules, roles, stories, rituals, myths, metaphors, themes, and cycles.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3610 (3) Communication, Technology, and Society
Presents theory, research, and exploration into computer-based technologies; studies implications for communication, interaction, and social relationships.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3700 (3) Communication and Conflict Management
Examines interdisciplinary concepts and theories enabling students to better understand different types of conflict, sources of conflict, and communication patterns that serve to create, maintain and transform conflict. Teaches practical skills in conflict management areas such as bargaining, facilitation, mediation and negotiation.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: PACS 3700
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

COMM 3740 (3) Qualitative Communication Research Methods
Provides an understanding of methods associated with the study of communication in natural settings. Focuses on strategies of collecting, analyzing, and reporting qualitative data, including participant observation, in-depth interviewing, textual analysis, and ethnographic narrative.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior)
Communication (COMM or COMN) majors or minors only.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3750 (3) Quantitative Research Methods
Introduces empirically oriented research methods in communication, critical review of the logic of social-scientific principles in communication, and analysis of quantitative data.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior)
Communication (COMM or COMN) majors or minors only.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600.

COMM 3760 (3) Rhetorical Criticism
Applies key concepts from rhetorical theory to the analysis of specific speeches, written texts, and social situations within the humanistic tradition. Students read a variety of types of criticism and are encouraged to develop their own strategies for critical analysis.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior)
Communication (COMM or COMN) majors or minors only.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 1210 and COMM 1600 and COMM 3300.

COMM 4000 (1-6) Advanced Topics in Communication
Analyzes special interest areas of communication theory, research, and practice. Course format involves lecture, discussion, investigative analysis, and practical application. May be repeated twice for credit on different topics.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 15.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 3210 and COMM 3300.

COMM 4100 (3) Seminar in Honors Thesis Writing and Research
Provides the opportunity for students writing an honors thesis to develop their understanding of the research process and to improve their research and writing skills.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 80-180 credits (Senior)
Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.
Additional Information: Arts Sciences Honors Course
COMM 4220 (3) Senior Seminar: Functions of Communication
Topical seminar on the functions of communication across interpersonal, group, organizational, and public contexts. Reviews current theory and research on topics such as communication and conflict, persuasion, and ethical dimensions of communication practices.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: COMM 5220
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of COMM 3210 (minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 80-180 credits (Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.

COMM 4300 (3) Senior Seminar: Rhetoric
Reviews current theory and research on topics such as rhetoric and publics, rhetoric as an interpretive social science, and rhetoric of social movements and political campaigns.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: COMM 5300
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of COMM 3300 (minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 80-180 credits (Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.

COMM 4510 (3) Senior Seminar: Interpersonal Communication
Reviews current theory and research on topics such as strategic interaction, relationship formation and maintenance, and identity and self-presentation. May be taken twice for credit on different topics.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of COMM 3210 (minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 80-180 credits (Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.

COMM 4600 (3) Senior Seminar: Organizational Communication
Reviews current theory and research on topics such as communication and organizational decision making, organizational culture, gender relations, communication technology, and power and control in organizations.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: COMM 5600
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of COMM 3210 (minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 80-180 credits (Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.

COMM 4610 (3) Communication Studies of Science and Technology
Reviews current theory and research associated with science, technology, and medicine. Topics include new communication technologies in organizations and society, discourses of scientific theory and science policy, and interaction in clinical setting. May be taken twice for credit on different topics.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of COMM 3210 (minimum grade C). Restricted to students with 80-180 credits (Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.

COMM 4840 (1-6) Undergraduate Independent Study
Note that the 14-hour limit in the major applies to any combination of independent study and internship credit. This course does not count toward the 33 credit hours required for the major.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.
Recommended: Prerequisites COMM 3210 and COMM 3300.

COMM 4930 (1-6) Internship
Studies are pursued in communication-related work experience projects that generally require 40 hours on the job per credit hour and evidence (e.g., journal, paper and employer evaluation) of significant learning. The 14-hour limit in the major applies to any combination of independent study and internship credit and does not count toward the 33 hours required for the major.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) Communication (COMM or COMN) majors only.
Recommended: Prerequisite 57 hours of overall course work, 18 hours of communication course work completed, 2.50 overall GPA and a faculty sponsor.
Grading Basis: Pass/Fail

COMM 4950 (1-6) Senior Thesis: Honors
For exceptional communication majors who wish to graduate with department honors and receive credit for writing an honors thesis.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.
Recommended: Prerequisite COMM 4100 and overall GPA of 3.35 or higher and a COMM or COMN GPA of 3.50 or higher.
Additional Information: Arts Sciences Honors Course