

COMMUNICATION, BALAS

for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences in Communication

What is Communication

Communication is fundamental to an enormous variety of human activities. The study of communication fosters a sophisticated understanding of communication in all aspects of public and private life, including the workplace, public policy, health care, cultural norms, personal interactions, and notions of racial, class, gender, and sexual identity.

What You Get as a Communication Major

The study of communication is practical and flexible. Communication majors learn about communication in a variety of contexts and develop practical knowledge that prepares them for personal and professional success. Students develop communication skills that are highly valued by employers, such as the ability to work effectively in teams, critical thinking, and writing and presenting ideas.

Communication majors can choose to complete a general course of communication studies or specialize in one of the six areas of study (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/areas-study/>):

- Communication and Culture (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/areas-study/communication-and-culture/>)
- Communication and Health (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/areas-study/communication-and-health/>)
- Communication and Organizations (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/areas-study/communication-and-organizations/>)
- Interpersonal Communication (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/areas-study/interpersonal-communication/>)
- Mediated Communication & Technology (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/areas-study/mediated-communication-and-technology/>)
- Rhetoric & Public Discourse (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/areas-study/rhetoric-and-public-discourse/>)

Graduates pursue a wide variety of careers (<https://communication.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate/careers-communication/>), including advertising, public relations, fund-raising and development, human resources, law, marketing, media, non-profit/advocacy, consulting, sales, and teaching.

Internship Opportunities

The department offers three types of internships to ensure students have opportunities to apply what they learn beyond the usual classroom setting:

- Our career internship (<https://communication.illinois.edu/resources/communication-internship-programs/career-internships/>) program

helps students earn academic credit while gaining professional experience in real-world organizational settings.

- The teaching internship program (<https://communication.illinois.edu/resources/communication-internship-program/teaching-internships/>) allows students a chance to learn about university-level teaching by assisting in a course they have taken previously.

Research internships allow select students to work with faculty or with advanced doctoral students through the mentoring through research and practice (<https://communication.illinois.edu/research/undergraduate-research/>) program.

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Departmental distinction: Superior students are encouraged to consult the departmental honors adviser about requirements and opportunities for participation in the departmental honors program.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Minimum hours required major and supporting course work: At least 15 hours of the required 37 hours in Communication course work must be at the 300 level or above. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

University Requirements

The university and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/>) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
	Composition I	4-6
	Advanced Composition	3
	Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)	6
	Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)	6
	Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)	6
	fulfilled by CMN 102 any other course approved as Social & Behavioral Sciences	
	Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)	3
	Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)	3
	Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)	3
	Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)	6-10
	Language Requirement (Completion of the fourth semester or equivalent of a language other than English, or completion of the third semester in two different languages other than English is required)	0-20

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Introduction to Public Speaking (choose one):		3
CMN 101	Public Speaking	
OR		
CMN 112	Oral & Written Comm II ¹	
CMN 102	Introduction to Communication	4
Communication Courses: Students will select an option (A or B) and a specialization (if Option B is chosen) in consultation with an undergraduate advisor in Communication.		30
OPTION A: Students who wish a general course of study will take at least one course from five of the following six areas and the remaining hours will be selected in consultation with an advisor.		
OPTION B: Students who choose to concentrate within an area must take four courses from one of the six areas listed below and the remaining hours will be selected in consultation with an advisor. Students may complete more than one specialization by completing four courses in each area desired; however, individual courses may not be counted toward more than one specialization.		
Communication & Culture Area		
CMN 232	Intro to Intercultural Comm	
CMN 250	Social Movement Communication	
CMN 280	Comm Technology & Society	
CMN 326	Mass Media and the Audience	
CMN 357	Intro to Conversation Analysis	
CMN 361	Storytelling as Oral Communication	
CMN 375	Popular Media and Culture	
CMN 429	Race and the Mass Media	
CMN 432	Gender Communication	
CMN 450	Topics in Public Communication	
Communication & Health Area:		
CMN 220	Communicating Public Policy	
CMN 230	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication	
CMN 260	Intro to Health Communication	
CMN 321	Strategies of Persuasion	
CMN 323	Argumentation	
CMN 368	Sexual Communication	
CMN 421	Influence and Persuasion	
CMN 467	Communication & Health Equity	
CMN 435	Building Interpersonal Skills	
CMN 462	Health Communication in Relationships	
CMN 464	Health Communication Campaigns	
CMN 465	Social Marketing	
Communication & Organizations Area:		
CMN 211	Business and Professional Communication	
CMN 212	Intro to Organizational Comm	
CMN 213	Small Group Communication	
CMN 215	Interviewing: The Art and Science of Effective Questioning	
CMN 232	Intro to Intercultural Comm	
CMN 280	Comm Technology & Society	

CMN 312	Communicating for Innovation
CMN 323	Argumentation
CMN 410	Workplace Comm Technology
CMN 411	Organizational Comm Assessment
CMN 412	Adv Organizational Comm
CMN 464	Health Communication Campaigns
Interpersonal Communication Area:	
CMN 213	Small Group Communication
CMN 230	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
CMN 232	Intro to Intercultural Comm
CMN 260	Intro to Health Communication
CMN 321	Strategies of Persuasion
CMN 323	Argumentation
CMN 336	Communicating in Families
CMN 338	Relationships and Technologies
CMN 357	Intro to Conversation Analysis
CMN 368	Sexual Communication
CMN 421	Influence and Persuasion
CMN 432	Gender Communication
CMN 435	Building Interpersonal Skills
CMN 462	Health Communication in Relationships
Mediated Communication & Technology Area:	
CMN 277	Introduction to Mediated Communication
CMN 280	Comm Technology & Society
CMN 312	Communicating for Innovation
CMN 325	Politics and the Media
CMN 326	Mass Media and the Audience
CMN 338	Relationships and Technologies
CMN 340	Visual Politics
CMN 345	Visual Media Effects
CMN 375	Popular Media and Culture
CMN 410	Workplace Comm Technology
CMN 424	Campaigning to Win
CMN 429	Race and the Mass Media
Rhetoric & Public Discourse Area:	
CMN 210	Public Communication in Everyday Life
CMN 220	Communicating Public Policy
CMN 250	Social Movement Communication
CMN 321	Strategies of Persuasion
CMN 323	Argumentation
CMN 325	Politics and the Media
CMN 326	Mass Media and the Audience
CMN 340	Visual Politics
CMN 345	Visual Media Effects
CMN 421	Influence and Persuasion
CMN 423	Rhetorical Criticism
CMN 424	Campaigning to Win
CMN 450	Topics in Public Communication
CMN 464	Health Communication Campaigns

Total Hours**37**

¹ CMN 111 is a prerequisite for CMN 112. Credit in CMN 111 will not count towards the minimum of 37 hours of Communication courses required for the major.

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Sample Sequence

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a fourth level of a language other than English. For more information see the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

First Year

First Semester	Hours
Free Elective course	1
CMN 102	4
General Education course	3
Language Other Than English (3rd level)	4
Composition I or General Education course	4
Total Hours 16	16

Total Hours 16

First Year

Second Semester	Hours
CMN 101 or 112	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Language Other Than English (4th level)	4
General Education course or Composition I	3
Total Hours 16	16

Total Hours 16

Second Year

First Semester	Hours
CMN course	3
CMN course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3

Free Elective course	3
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

Second Year

Second Semester	Hours
CMN course	3
CMN course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

Third Year

First Semester	Hours
CMN 300- or 400-level course	3
CMN 300- or 400-level course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

Third Year

Second Semester	Hours
CMN 300- or 400-level course	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

Fourth Year

First Semester	Hours
CMN 300- or 400-level course	3
CMN course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours 15	15

Total Hours 15

Fourth Year

Second Semester	Hours
CMN 300- or 400-level course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	1
Total Hours 13	13

Total Hours 13

Total Hours: 120

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Communication*

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1. Students will demonstrate competence in oral and written communication, including public speaking, argumentation and reasoning, deliberation, and media analysis and critique.
 2. Students will have broad knowledge of communication research and theory and understand how to apply theoretical concepts in practical settings.
 3. Students will understand the political and social import of communication and develop competencies required to engage productively with discourses related to all aspects of public and private life.
 4. Students will understand the communicative implications of human diversity, including issues related to race, culture, class, religion, gender, sexual identity, and disability.
 5. Students will gain communication competencies that afford them rewarding opportunities, such as satisfying employment or post-graduate study.

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Communication

Department Chair: John Caughlin

Department of Communication Website ([http://
communication.illinois.edu/](http://communication.illinois.edu/))

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Communication Advising: CMNAdvising@illinois.edu

Communication Faculty ([https://communication.illinois.edu/directory/
faculty/](https://communication.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/))

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences website (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)

Liberal Arts & Sciences Admissions & Requirements ([http://
catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/](http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/))