

Communication Studies

Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois

Career & Graduate School Opportunities

Graduates may work in business and organizational leadership, public relations, journalism or radio and television, corporate training, education, web production and design, event planning, human resources, or the law (to name only a few of the many career opportunities). All of these involve understanding and executing effective communication strategies, adapting messages to audiences and developing well-honed communication skills. Communication majors routinely go on to graduate study at high quality programs.

Experienced Faculty

One distinguished professor is the former head of NBC News. Another professor was selected to be a Faculty Fellow by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (the Emmy people). Others are publishing books, and scholarly articles, designing innovative courses, or attending professional conferences.



Overview

The Department of Communication Studies (COMM) offers a major that focuses on human communication in the widest variety of settings, from face-to-face to mass media, for both professional and personal development. The major stresses general knowledge of the communication process and skillful development and presentation of messages. In addition to coursework, students gain practical experience in this major through internships, independent study and co-curricular activities.

Explore our Facilities & Activities

The department trains and supports a substantial group of communication and media tutors who assist beginning students in public communication and a wide range of other students across a multiplicity of communication and media settings. Communication assistants develop valuable professional skills and are at an advantage in seeking assistantships for graduate school.

The COMM television studio in Wallace Hall is home to MC-TV, a series program featuring news, entertainment and original student films broadcast to the campus on cable channel 14. Recently the studios were converted to all-digital production. More than 35 students participate in producing MC-TV each semester. The studio is a versatile professional quality facility with resources for producing newscasts and variety shows. Recently a COMM student-faculty produced documentary won a national award of excellence from the Broadcast Educators Association as well as a number of regional festival awards.

Radio station WMCR is a student operated campus station, broadcast through the campus cable system in FM stereo. The station has two new, professionally-equipped audio broadcast studios located in the Stockdale Center, one "on-air" and one for production and laboratory work. The studio equipment used is like that in a commercial station. More than 60 students participate in radio activities each semester.

We operate a newly constructed Computer/Media laboratory in Wallace Hall with Windows based design and editing stations for 20 students, including computers equipped with software for audio/video editing, multi-media production, graphic design, web authoring and other applications. These facilities are used by COMM majors and others around the campus for a variety of course-related and personal projects.

Communication Major Requirements

A Communication Studies major in consists of 9.5-10.5 course credits, including, .COMM 230, 261, 321, 421, 491, an independent study or internship, 5 course credits of COMM 100/200 workshops, and acceptance of a senior, electronic portfolio. In addition, majors must complete courses selected from the following options: COMM 231 or 235, two courses from COMM 333, 335, 337, and 339; and one course from COMM 260, 269, and PUBR 363.

Communication Minor Requirements

The following two focused minors are available through the Department of Communication Studies:

Communication Minor: Either COMM 231 or 235, two courses from COMM 333, 335, 337 and 339, at least one COMM workshop (.25) credit, and an additional COMM elective course credit.

Media Minor: COMM 261, 269, 369, PUBR 363 and at least one COMM workshop (.25) credit.

Internships & Independent Study

Internships are an integral part of the Communication Studies major. All majors are required to complete an internship experience or an independent study project. Internships can be taken in a wide variety of job settings from management to radio and television, to journalism, to public relations. A listing of recent internships in the department can be viewed at the COMM web site's internship page.

The internship experience usually occurs in the Junior or Senior year or in the summer between. COMM faculty routinely advise and assist students in finding good internships. Typically students spend about eight to ten hours per week on the internship (or 120-150 hours). Some students elect to pursue Independent Study as an alternative to an internship or in addition to one. Through the Independent Study option, COMM majors work closely with a faculty member to conduct research, prepare for graduate work or explore in-depth a topic relevant to their career interests.

