Overview of the Communication Major Requirements and Options

The Department of Communication Studies (COMM) offers a Communication major that provides the opportunity to focus on Communication or Media or both. In addition to coursework, internships and practical experience in one or both of these areas, a COMM Studies student will discover the interrelationship of elements involved in all successful communication exchanges—e.g. audience analysis, message content, delivery options and context adaptations. COMM majors may work in corporate communication, human resources, organizational training, in public relations or marketing, in radio, television or other media, just to name a few of the career possibilities. All of these involve the need to understand and develop useful communication skills and strategies.

A major in Communication consists of

36 semester hours of work in COMM courses, including

- COMM 101 – Fundamentals of Communication,
- 3 hours of 100/200 level workshop credit,
- COMM 230 – Introduction to Communication Studies
- COMM 261 – Mass Media and Society
- COMM 321 and 421 – Junior and Senior Colloquium (one credit hour each),
- COMM 491 – Senior Seminar in Freedom of Expression and Communication Ethics,
- An independent study or internship and
- Departmental acceptance of a senior web-based electronic portfolio.

In addition, majors must complete course in the following options:

- Either COMM 231 (Interpersonal Communication) or COMM 235 (Small Group Communication),
- Two courses selected from COMM 333 (Organizational Communication), COMM 335 (Argumentation), COMM 337 (Communication Criticism) and COMM 339 (Persuasion);
- One course selected from COMM 260 (Introduction to Journalism), COMM 269 (Introduction to Multi-media Production) or COMM 363 (Media and PR Writing).

NOTE CAREFULLY: Some required courses have pre-requisites that must be taken in advance. Plan for that!! Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their future plans with a faculty member in the Communication Studies Department and consider taking additional elective courses that will further their career plans.