

Department of Communication

Dr. Terry Likes, Department Head

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The Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication is offered. The department offers concentrations in Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Communication Studies, Print and Digital Journalism, Public Relations, and Theatre. Students may choose more than one concentration. Minors are available in all areas. In addition, the department offers numerous courses online throughout the year. Contact specific advisors for additional information.

The total major consists of 48-49 semester hours in Communication courses: 12 hours of the departmental core; and 36-37 hours of additional specified work in the concentration area(s). In addition, students complete the Arts & Sciences core curriculum and electives for a total of 124 semester hours leading to the B. A. Degree.

1. A minimum grade of C in all Communication courses (or approved substitutes) is required. Students earning a grade lower than C in a Communication course must retake that course.
2. Incoming freshmen must earn a score of 20 or higher on the ACT Enhanced English sub-scale before entering the major. Students who believe that the ACT does not accurately assess their language ability and who can present evidence of above average language skills (excellent English grades, extensive writing samples, etc.) will be given the opportunity to satisfactorily complete a screening test and gain admission to the major.
3. No transfer student, either from another institution or within the university, will be accepted who has not earned a minimum 2.0 GPA on all college work attempted prior to entering the major.

Prospective students are reminded that Communication is a language intensive discipline. Students with only minimal oral and written language competency should expect to be at a competitive disadvantage in classes as well as in careers after graduation. Transfer students with less than a C in English composition courses may have difficulty with the advanced writing courses required in this major.

Computer and Camera Requirements

The Department of Communication requires incoming B.A. Communication majors to purchase certain technology and equipment necessary for production and presentation of projects within departmental courses. All incoming students are required to purchase a personal laptop computer and software. Each concentration in the Department provides specific guidelines for hardware and software and a suggested timetable for purchases. The required computer and software must be selected from an approved departmental list of minimum hardware and software requirements available on the Department of Communication web site.

Financial aid that includes this requirement may be available by contacting the MSU Student Financial Aid and Scholarship office.

Additionally, upon enrollment in CO 3403 Photographic Communication, students will be required to purchase a digital single-lens reflex (dSLR) camera. The required camera must be selected from an approved departmental list of minimum specifications. The approved list is available on the Department of Communication web site.

Communication Lab Fees

Additional fees associated with class materials and technology are associated with certain classes in the Department and are automatically assessed to the students upon enrollment in those courses.

Broadcast and Digital Journalism

The Broadcast and Digital Journalism concentration prepares students for work in television, radio, multi-media and other areas. Graduates work in front of and behind the camera. In addition to the expected journalistic jobs, graduates also find positions in extension service, university relations, government, and industry.

Communication Studies

The career track for this area is aimed at positions in corporate and public communication offices. Students preparing for graduate school or teaching in Communication and other areas often choose the Communication Studies curriculum.

Print and Digital Journalism

In addition to filling positions for newspapers, magazines, and digital publications in the state and around the country, graduates of the Print and Digital Journalism concentration obtain news-related jobs in universities, business, and industrial relations.

Public Relations

The Public Relations concentration prepares students for a variety of professional positions. In addition to work with public relations and advertising firms, graduates are employed by colleges and schools, newspapers and broadcasting organizations, banks, churches, hospitals, insurance companies, businesses and corporations, charitable and political groups, and state and federal governments.

Theatre

Students choosing the Theatre concentration find positions with regional and repertory companies, community theatres (both on stage and off stage), and professional theatres in educational institutions, broadcasting, and film.

Communication Minors

Minors in each of the concentration areas (Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Communication Studies, Print and Digital Journalism, Public Relations, and Theatre) are available. Because of the differences between and among the disciplines in the department, students considering a minor are advised to meet with the department head or advising coordinator prior to making a decision regarding a minor. The Department of Communication endeavors to work with individual students so that the minor field combines appropriately with his/her major field of study. Students with majors in business, agriculture, social sciences, and the humanities are especially encouraged to consider a minor in one of the related areas.

Professional Societies and Scholarships

Students in any of the departmental concentration areas with superior averages after completing certain courses may qualify for membership in the Theta Alpha Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the official honor society of the National Communication Association. Students in Theatre may be tapped for Alpha Psi Omega honorary after completing certain work in theatrical productions.

Numerous scholarships are available in the Department of Communication. See the department's website for a complete list of available scholarships.

Professional societies are available for students in most of the concentration areas. The Public Relations Student Society of America, the Public Relations Association of Mississippi, and the Southern Public Relations Federation provide pre-professional experience and contacts for students of Public Relations. Blackfriars is available to students of Theatre. The Student Broadcasting Association services students in the Broadcast and Digital Journalism concentration; this group is directly involved in the production of several television programs.

General Education and College Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
or EN 1163	Accelerated Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Foreign Language

3 semesters - one Foreign Language (see advisor)	9
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Humanities

English Literature - see General Education courses	3
History - see General Education courses	3
Philosophy - see General Education courses	3
Humanities Elective ¹	9

Math

MA 1313	College Algebra	3
See General Education courses		3

Fine Arts

CO 1503	Introduction to the Theatre (required unless student has completed acceptable Fine Arts other than Theatre course prior to declaring CO major)	3
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Natural Sciences

Physical Science w/Lab ²	3-4
Life Science w/Lab ³	3-4
Natural Science Elective	3-4

Social Sciences ⁴

PSY 1013	General Psychology	3
SO 1003	Introduction to Sociology	3
GR 1123	Introduction to World Geography	3

CO 1403	Introduction to the Mass Media ⁵	3
or CO 1223	Introduction to Communication Theory	

Electives 6

Major Core

Student should check for prerequisites for all courses. Consult advisor or course descriptions in catalog.

CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking ⁶	3
CO 1223	Introduction to Communication Theory ⁵	3
or CO 1403	Introduction to the Mass Media	

¹ Must be selected from 2 different areas. Not required to be selected from core listing; may have to be taken at Upper Division level to meet 31 hours A&S UD requirement.

² CH, GG, GR, or PH; see General Education courses.

³ BIO, EPP, or PO; see General Education courses.

⁴ Must be from 2 different areas and must cross 4 disciplines over the 18 hours. Not required to be selected from core listing; may have to be taken at Upper Division level to meet 31 hours A&S UD requirement. Only one Economics allowed.

⁵ CO 1223 or CO 1403 will count as 3 additional Social Science hours to reach 9 hour elective total. The course not counted as a Social Science will be required additionally in the major.

⁶ CO 1003 is required unless student has completed CO 1013 prior to declaring CO major. This course satisfies the Oral Communication Requirement. Students are not allowed to receive credit for both CO 1003 and CO 1013.

Choose one or more of the following concentrations:

Broadcast and Digital Journalism Concentration (BCST)

CO 2333	Television Production	3
CO 2413	Introduction to News Writing and Reporting	3
CO 3313	News Writing for the Electronic Media	3
CO 3333	Advanced Television Production	3
CO 3403	Photographic Communication	3
CO 3713	Digital Communication	3
CO 4313	Mass Media Law	3
CO 4343	Backpack Video Journalism	3
CO 4394	Broadcast Capstone	4
CO 4403	Journalism Ethics	3
CO 4713	Digital Communication II	3
Upper Division CO elective - see advisor		3
General Electives ¹		9-12
Total Hours		124

¹ May need to be taken at Upper Division level to meet A&S UD requirement.

Communication Studies Concentration (CMGT)

CO 2253	Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication	3
CO 3213	Small Group Communication	3
CO 4203	Nonverbal Communication	3
CO 4213	Political Communication	3
CO 4223	Advanced Communication Theory	3
CO 4243	Rhetorical Theory	3
CO 4253	Elements of Persuasion	3
CO 4313	Mass Media Law	3
or CO 4323	Mass Media and Society	
Upper Division CO Electives - see advisor		12
General Electives ¹		10-13
Total Hours		124

¹ May need to be taken at Upper Division level to meet A&S UD requirement.

Print and Digital Journalism Concentration (JOUR)

CO 2333	Television Production	3
CO 2413	Introduction to News Writing and Reporting	3
CO 3403	Photographic Communication	3
CO 3423	Feature Writing	3
CO 3433	Editing and Design	3
CO 3443	Advanced News Writing and Reporting	3
CO 3713	Digital Communication	3
CO 4313	Mass Media Law	3
CO 4403	Journalism Ethics	3
CO 4494	Bulldog Online Newsroom	4
CO 4713	Digital Communication II	3
Upper Division CO Electives - see advisor		3
General Electives ¹		9-12
Total Hours		124

¹ May need to be taken at Upper Division level to meet A&S UD requirement.

Public Relations Concentration (PREL)

CO 2333	Television Production	3
or CO 3403	Photographic Communication	
or CO 3713	Digital Communication	
CO 2413	Introduction to News Writing and Reporting	3
CO 3803	Principles of Public Relations	3
CO 3813	Public Relations Case Problems	3
CO 3853	Public Relations Writing	3
CO 3863	Public Relations Production	3
CO 4253	Elements of Persuasion	3
CO 4313	Mass Media Law	3
or CO 4323	Mass Media and Society	
CO 4803	Research in Public Relations and Advertising	3
CO 4813	Public Relations in Organizations	3
CO Upper-Division Electives		6
General Electives ¹		10-13
Total Hours		124

¹ May need to be taken at Upper Division level to meet A&S UD requirement.

Theatre Concentration (THEA)

CO 1533	Theatre Practicum #3	3
or CO 1543	Theatre Practicum #4	
or CO 1553	Theatre Practicum #5	
or CO 1563	Theatre Practicum #6	
CO 2013	Voice and Articulation	3
CO 2613	Introduction to Oral Interpretation	3
CO 2503	Acting	3
CO 2524	Stagecraft and Lighting	4
CO 2544	Makeup and Costuming	4
CO 4504	History of Theatre	4
CO 4524	Directing	4
CO 4533	Advanced Acting	3

CO 4573	Theatre Management	3
CO 4583	Playwriting	3
General Electives ¹		9-12
Total Hours		124

¹ May need to be taken at Upper Division level to meet A&S UD requirement.