Department of Communication

Dr. Terry Likes, Department Head
Emily Cain, Advising/Recruiting Coordinator
Office: 130 McComas Hall

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Composition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EN 1103</td>
<td>English Composition I</td>
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<tr>
<td>or EN 1163</td>
<td>Accelerated Composition I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 1113</td>
<td>English Composition II</td>
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<tr>
<td>or EN 1173</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Language</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 semesters - one Foreign Language (see advisor)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Literature - see General Education courses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History - see General Education courses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy - see General Education courses</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities Elective</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math</th>
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<tr>
<td>MA 1313</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See General Education courses</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Arts</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO 1503</td>
<td>Introduction to the Theatre (required unless student has completed acceptable Fine Arts other than Theatre course prior to declaring CO major)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science w/Lab</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science w/Lab</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Science Elective</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 1013</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO 1003</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR 1123</td>
<td>Introduction to World Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 1403 Introduction to the Mass Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 1223 Introduction to Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

**Major Core**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 1223 Introduction to Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 1403 Introduction to the Mass Media</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO 2333 Television Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 2413 Introduction to News Writing and Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3313 News Writing for the Electronic Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3333 Advanced Television Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3403 Photographic Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3713 Digital Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4313 Mass Media Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4343 Backpack Video Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4394 Broadcast Capstone</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4403 Journalism Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4713 Digital Communication II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Division CO elective - see advisor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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</table>

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

**Communication Studies Concentration (CMGT)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO 2253 Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3213 Small Group Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4203 Nonverbal Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4213 Political Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4223 Advanced Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4243 Rhetorical Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4253 Elements of Persuasion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4313 Mass Media Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 4323 Mass Media and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Division CO Electives - see advisor</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td>10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
May need to be taken at Upper Division level to meet A&S UD requirement.

### Print and Digital Journalism Concentration (JOUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO 2333</td>
<td>Television Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 2413</td>
<td>Introduction to News Writing and Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3403</td>
<td>Photographic Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3423</td>
<td>Feature Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 3433</td>
<td>Editing and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3443</td>
<td>Advanced News Writing and Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3713</td>
<td>Digital Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4313</td>
<td>Mass Media Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4403</td>
<td>Journalism Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4494</td>
<td>Bulldog Online Newsroom</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4713</td>
<td>Digital Communication II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Division CO Electives - see advisor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Electives ¹</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours** 124

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

### Public Relations Concentration (PREL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>CO 2333</td>
<td>Television Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 3403</td>
<td>Photographic Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 3713</td>
<td>Digital Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 2413</td>
<td>Introduction to News Writing and Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3803</td>
<td>Principles of Public Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3813</td>
<td>Public Relations Case Problems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3853</td>
<td>Public Relations Writing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 3863</td>
<td>Public Relations Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4253</td>
<td>Elements of Persuasion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4313</td>
<td>Mass Media Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 4323</td>
<td>Mass Media and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4803</td>
<td>Research in Public Relations and Advertising</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4813</td>
<td>Public Relations in Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Electives ¹</td>
<td>10-13</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours** 124

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### Theatre Concentration (THEA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO 1533</td>
<td>Theatre Practicum #3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 1543</td>
<td>Theatre Practicum #4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 1553</td>
<td>Theatre Practicum #5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CO 1563</td>
<td>Theatre Practicum #6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 2013</td>
<td>Voice and Articulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 2613</td>
<td>Introduction to Oral Interpretation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 2503</td>
<td>Acting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 2524</td>
<td>Stagecraft and Lighting</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 2544</td>
<td>Makeup and Costuming</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4504</td>
<td>History of Theatre</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 4524</td>
<td>Directing</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4533</td>
<td>Advanced Acting</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4573</td>
<td>Theatre Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO 4583</td>
<td>Playwriting</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9-12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>124</strong></td>
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