COMMUNICATION STUDIES, BA

Program Description
The mission of the Department of Communication & Media is to develop students who are effective and ethical communicators with the creative, critical, and collaborative skills necessary to succeed in a diverse global environment. The focus of the program is to enhance students’ knowledge and practical skills in various areas of human communication including organizational leadership, public relations, and relational communication. Communication Studies majors select an emphasis in either Communication Studies or Public Relations to fulfill their coursework. It is critical for all Communication majors to meet with their academic advisor prior to registering each semester.

Student Learning Outcomes
Students will:

• Gather, evaluate, and synthesize information to build and defend arguments.
• Demonstrate communication competence in varied contexts.
• Employ discipline specific knowledge in applied communication situations.

General Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Curriculum Program</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(<a href="http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/university-college/programs/core-curriculum-program/">http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/university-college/programs/core-curriculum-program/</a>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Year Seminars (when applicable)</td>
<td>0-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Studies Major Requirements</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language Requirements</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>120-122</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Full-time, first time in college students are required to take the first-year seminars.
• UNIV 1101 University Seminar I (1 sch)
• UNIV 1102 University Seminar II (1 sch)

Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Full-time, First-year Students</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 1101</td>
<td>University Seminar I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 1102</td>
<td>University Seminar II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Core Curriculum Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Core Curriculum</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Communication Core Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1318</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2330</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Communication Emphasis

Select one of the following emphasis:

- Communication Studies Emphasis (p. 1)
- Public Relations Emphasis (p. 1)

Electives
Select 33 hours of university electives.

Foreign Language Requirements
See the College of Liberal Arts for the college language requirement.

Total Hours
122

Communication Studies Emphasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Major Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2333</td>
<td>Small Group Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3310</td>
<td>Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4380</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Communication Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prescribed Electives

Students will select 15 hours of major electives from the courses that appear below. No more than 6 hours of MEDA courses may be taken to fulfill these elective hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Major Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1321</td>
<td>Business and Professional Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3311</td>
<td>Nonverbal Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3325</td>
<td>Relational Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3330</td>
<td>Persuasion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3350</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4314</td>
<td>Gender Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4315</td>
<td>Communication and Sexuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4331</td>
<td>Public Relations Campaigns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4335</td>
<td>Crisis Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4350</td>
<td>Organizational Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4360</td>
<td>International Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4390</td>
<td>Topics in Communication Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4399</td>
<td>Communication Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 1307</td>
<td>Media and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 1380</td>
<td>Introduction to Media Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 2350</td>
<td>Media Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 3380</td>
<td>New Media and Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours
24

1 Only 3 semester hours of Internship credit may be counted toward the major.

Public Relations Emphasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Major Requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3331</td>
<td>Public Relations Writing and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4331</td>
<td>Public Relations Campaigns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4335</td>
<td>Crisis Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4394</td>
<td>Professional PR Portfolio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prescribed Electives
Students will select 12 hours of major electives from the courses that appear below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3311</td>
<td>Nonverbal Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3330</td>
<td>Persuasion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4326</td>
<td>Social Media Content and Measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4350</td>
<td>Organizational Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4390</td>
<td>Topics in Communication Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4399</td>
<td>Communication Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 4321</td>
<td>Grants and Proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 1307</td>
<td>Media and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 2350</td>
<td>Media Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 3318</td>
<td>Cross-Platform Editing &amp; Layout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 3340</td>
<td>Photojournalal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 3361</td>
<td>Sports Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 3380</td>
<td>New Media and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 4340</td>
<td>Advertising Criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 4341</td>
<td>First Amendment and Ethical Issues in the Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 4342</td>
<td>Global Media and International Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDA 4343</td>
<td>News Publication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 24

Only 3 semester hours of Internship credit may be counted toward the major.

Course Sequencing

Communication Studies

First Year

Fall

UNIV 1101 University Seminar I 1
COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
Hours 16

Spring

UNIV 1102 University Seminar II 1
ENGL 1301 Writing and Rhetoric I 3
COMM 1318 Interpersonal Communication 3
COMM 2333 Small Group Communication 3
MATH 1332 or PHIL 2303 Contemporary Mathematics or Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking 3
University Core Curriculum 3
Hours 16

Second Year

Fall

COMM 2335 Presentational Communication 3
COMM 1321 Business and Professional Communication 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3

Hours 16

University Core Curriculum 3

Spring

COMM 2330 Introduction to Public Relations 3
MEDA 2350 Media Performance 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
Hours 15

Third Year

Fall

COMM 3310 Communication Theory 3
COMM 3311 Nonverbal Communication 3
College Core 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Hours 15

Spring

COMM 3326 Research Methods 3
COMM 4314 Gender Communication or Communication and Sexuality 3
College Core 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Hours 15

Fourth Year

Fall

COMM 4345 Intercultural Communication 3
COMM 3350 Leadership 3
Upper Division Elective 3
Upper Division Elective 3
Lower Divisional Elective 3
Hours 15

Spring

COMM 4380 Senior Seminar in Communication Studies 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Lower Divisional Elective 1
Hours 13

Total Hours 120

Public Relations

First Year

Fall

UNIV 1101 University Seminar I 1
COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
Hours 16
Communication Studies, BA

Spring
UNIV 1102 University Seminar II 1
ENGL 1301 Writing and Rhetoric I 3
COMM 1318 Interpersonal Communication 3
MEDA 1307 Media and Society 3
MATH 1332 or PHIL 2303 Contemporary Mathematics or Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking 3
University Core Curriculum 3

Hours 16

Second Year
Fall
University Core Curriculum 3

Hours 3

Spring
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
University Core Curriculum 3
COMM 2335 Presentational Communication 3
COMM 1321 Business and Professional Communication 3

Hours 15

Third Year
Fall
College Core 3
COMM 3330 Persuasion 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3

Hours 15

Spring
COMM 4331 Public Relations Campaigns 3
College Core 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3
COMM 3331 Public Relations Writing and Design 3

Hours 15

Fourth Year
Fall
COMM 4335 Crisis Communication 3
COMM 4399 Communication Internship 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Lower Divisional Elective 1

Hours 15

Spring
COMM 4394 Professional PR Portfolio 3
Upper Division Electives 3
Upper Division Electives 3

Hours 13

Total Hours 120

Courses
COMM 1311 Foundation of Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course examines a breadth of topics fundamental to the study of communication and works to improve students' communication skills in three primary contexts: interpersonal relationships, group/teamwork, and presentational speaking.
TCCNS: SPCH 1311

COMM 1315 Public Speaking
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Research, composition, organization, and delivery of speeches for various purposes and occasions, with emphasis on listener analysis and on informative and persuasive techniques.
TCCNS: SPCH 1315

COMM 1318 Interpersonal Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Predominant issues related to verbal and nonverbal communication with a focus on interpersonal relationships.
TCCNS: SPCH 1318

COMM 1321 Business and Professional Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Introduces students to basic skills, principles, and contexts of communication in business and professional settings by combining public speaking with aspects of communication ethics and organizational, small group, and interpersonal communication. Students will learn practical skills via presentations, research, resumes, interviews, meetings, and professional writing grounded in communication theory.

COMM 1342 Voice and Diction
3 Semester Credit Hours (2 Lecture Hours)
Basic voice training, including techniques for vocal production, manipulation, and control. Practical application of the vocal apparatus will be emphasized, including techniques of enunciation, projection, articulation, and the use of dialects. (Credit may not be given for both this course and THEA 1342.)
TCCNS: SPCH 1342

COMM 2330 Introduction to Public Relations
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An exploration of the history and development of public relations including the theory and process of public relations, and the various publics and careers associated with the public relations industry.
TCCNS: COMM 2330

COMM 2333 Small Group Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Application of small group theories and techniques as they relate to group process and interaction.
TCCNS: SPCH 2333
COMM 2335  Presentational Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Advanced study of the principles and methods of formal presentations for various purposes and audiences to further develop students into effective communicators. Course assignments will include various special occasion speeches, dynamic instructional speeches, extemporaneous speaking, creation of effective visual aids, and a group community action presentation.

COMM 3310  Communication Theory
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The foundations, processes, and effects of human communication. A survey of contemporary theory and research, including language theory, nonverbal and small group communication, persuasion, and mass communication.

COMM 3311  Nonverbal Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The study of body movement, touch, paralanguage, space, environment, and other nonverbal factors in the communication process.

COMM 3325  Relational Communication
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is an advanced interpersonal communication course that focuses on communication within relationships, such as family, romantic, friendship, and workplace relationships. 
Prerequisite: COMM 1318.

COMM 3326  Research Methods
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The purpose of this course is to increase student’s knowledge of the research process used in the Communication Studies discipline. Specifically, the course will allow students the opportunity to learn the goals of communication research and scrutinize various techniques for creating academic research and assessing academic knowledge.

COMM 3330  Persuasion
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Various theories and forms of rhetorical persuasion. Topics include practical reasoning skills, psychological theories of persuasion, and critical responses to persuasive messages.

COMM 3331  Public Relations Writing and Design
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will introduce students to the basic principles and formatting requirements for public relations writing. Students will gain theoretical and practical experience in developing content for specific audiences.

COMM 3335  UIL Debate and Speech
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Understanding the University Interscholastic League debate and speech events. Students explore approaches to analytical reasoning, research delivery, and the conceptual basis for debate and gain practical experience in understanding and judging UIL in the high school setting.

COMM 3350  Leadership
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Focuses on the communication of influence that takes place to achieve goals or encourage change. Specific attention will be devoted to a variety of approaches, processes, and theories that will provide students general knowledge of leadership.
COMM 4380  Senior Seminar in Communication Studies
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course serves as the capstone for the Communication Studies degree. It offers students opportunities to synthesize information learned in other Communication courses and demonstrate abilities to think critically, conduct independent research linked to appropriate communication theories, create individual and collaborative projects that demonstrate effective use of communication strategies, and present written and oral work at an advanced level.
Prerequisite: (COMM 2335, 3310 and 3326).

COMM 4390  Topics in Communication Studies
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Study of specialized topics and themes in communication studies. May be repeated when topics vary.

COMM 4394  Professional PR Portfolio
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Students prepare documents, explore strategies for enhancing their marketability, and assemble a professional portfolio of public relations work.
Prerequisite: COMM 2330 and (COMM 4331 or 4335).

COMM 4396  Directed Individual Study
1-3 Semester Credit Hours
See College description. By application. Only 3 semester hours of Directed Individual Study credit may be counted toward the major.

COMM 4399  Communication Internship
3 Semester Credit Hours
Practical experience in the field through placement in a communication internship position. Students interested in applying for the internship course must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0; have at least junior standing at the university; be a communication studies major or minor, or public relations minor; have completed at least 12 hours of coursework in the major or minor at TAMU-CC. Preferred applicants will have a minimum communication or public relations GPA of 3.25. All applicants must solicit a recommendation from from a Department of Communication and Media faculty member. Course may be taken three times for credit; however only 3 semester hours of internship credit may be counted toward the major. A second internship may apply to the communication studies minor or public relations minor; a third internship may be used as a free elective. Authorization to repeat the internship course is contingent on the students’ successful completion of the previous internship experience. This course is graded Credit/No Credit.