

# 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

Requirements	Credit Hours
Core Curriculum Program ( <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> )	42
First-Year Seminars (when applicable) <sup>1</sup>	0-2
Communication Studies Major Requirements	39
Electives	31-33
Foreign Language Requirements	6
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>118-122</b>

<sup>1</sup> Full-time, first time in college students are required to take the first-year seminars.

- UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch)
- UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch)

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Full-time, First-year Students</b>		
UNIV 1101	First-Year Seminar I *	1
UNIV 1102	First-Year Seminar II *	1
<b>Core Curriculum Program</b>		
University Core Curriculum		42
<b>Communication Core Courses</b>		
COMM 1318	Interpersonal Communication * <sup>^</sup>	3
COMM 2330	Introduction to Public Relations	3

COMM 2335	Presentational Communication	3
COMM 3326	Research Methods	3
COMM 4345	Intercultural Communication	3
<b>Communication Emphasis</b>		
Select one of the following emphasis:		24
Communication Studies Emphasis (p. 1)		
Public Relations Emphasis (p. 1)		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>83</b>

\* Online offering

<sup>^</sup> Blended offering

## Communication Studies Emphasis

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
COMM 2333	Small Group Communication	3
COMM 3310	Communication Theory	3
COMM 4380	Senior Seminar in Communication Studies	3

### Prescribed Electives

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

COMM 1321	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 3311	Nonverbal Communication	
COMM 3325	Relational Communication	
COMM 3330	Persuasion	
COMM 3350	Leadership	
COMM 4314	Gender Communication	
COMM 4315	Communication and Sexuality	
COMM 4331	Public Relations Campaigns	
COMM 4335	Crisis Communication	
COMM 4350	Organizational Communication	
COMM 4360	International Leadership	
COMM 4390	Topics in Communication Studies	
COMM 4399	Communication Internship <sup>1</sup>	
MEDA 1307	Media and Society	
MEDA 1380	Introduction to Media Production	
MEDA 2350	Media Performance	
MEDA 3380	New Media and Communication * <sup>^</sup>	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>24</b>

<sup>1</sup> Only 3 semester hours of Internship credit may be counted toward the major.

\* Online offering

<sup>^</sup> Blended offering

## Public Relations Emphasis

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
COMM 3331	Public Relations Writing and Design	3
COMM 4331	Public Relations Campaigns	3
COMM 4335	Crisis Communication	3
COMM 4394	Professional PR Portfolio	3
<b>Prescribed Electives</b>		

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

COMM 3311	Nonverbal Communication
COMM 3330	Persuasion
COMM 4350	Organizational Communication
COMM 4390	Topics in Communication Studies
COMM 4399	Communication Internship <sup>1</sup>
ENGL 4321	Grants and Proposals
MEDA 1307	Media and Society
MEDA 2350	Media Performance
MEDA 3318	Editing & Layout
MEDA 3340	Photojournalism
MEDA 3361	Sports Writing
MEDA 3380	New Media and Communication <sup>*,^</sup>
MEDA 4340	Advertising Criticism
MEDA 4341	First Amendment and Ethical Issues in the Media
MEDA 4342	Global Media and International Communication
MEDA 4343	News Publication
MKTG 3320	Basic Advertising

**Total Hours** **24**

<sup>1</sup> Only 3 semester hours of Internship credit may be counted toward the major.

\* Online offering

^ Blended offering

## 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 (3 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 3302 FILM CRITICISM

#### 3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)

Exploration of the critical approaches to the study of film from a variety of historical and theoretical perspectives, with an emphasis on narrative film and some consideration of experimental cinema. Includes a laboratory for screening assigned films.

### 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)**

LEADERSHIP 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 4314 Gender Communication****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

EXAMINATION OF COMMUNICATION ABOUT WOMEN AND MEN, AS WELL AS COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM. SPECIAL COURSE EMPHASIS ON EXPLANATIONS OF GENDER, SEXIST LANGUAGE, MEDIA DEPICTION OF THE SEXES, AND GENDER COMMUNICATION IN THE FORMATION OF SOCIAL AND WORK RELATIONSHIPS.

**COMM 4315 Communication and Sexuality****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

THIS COURSE WILL FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION AND SEXUALITY, SPECIFICALLY EXPLORING SEX AND GENDER IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT AND EXPRESSION, INTERSECTIONS OF RACE/ETHNICITY AND SEX/ GENDER, HOW COMMUNICATION IMPACTS VARIOUS TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS, THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY, AND POWER ABUSES RELATED TO SEXUAL ACTIVITY, WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON CONSENT AND SEXUAL SAFETY.

**COMM 4331 Public Relations Campaigns****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

AN APPLICATION OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROCESS (INCLUDING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RESEARCH, GOALS AND OBJECTIVE DEVELOPMENT, THE SELECTION OF PROPER STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EVALUATION OF CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS) THROUGH THE PRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN FOR A LOCAL ORGANIZATION.

**Prerequisite:** COMM 2330.

**COMM 4335 Crisis Communication****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

AN APPLICATION OF CRISIS COMMUNICATION (INCLUDING ORGANIZATIONAL RESEARCH, RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION, AND PERFORMANCE AND DAMAGE EVALUTATION) THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION OF A CRISIS COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR A LOCAL ORGANIZATION.

**COMM 4345 Intercultural Communication****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PROCESS BY WHICH PERSONS AND GROUPS OF DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS CREATE UNDERSTANDING. TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND SENSITIVITY NECESSARY FOR INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION ARE DEVELOPED.

**COMM 4350 Organizational Communication****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

EXAMINATION AND EXPLORATION OF REALISTIC APPLICATIONS OF COMMUNICATION THEORIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN ORGANIZATION. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO TECHNIQUES FOR DIAGNOSING COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTING CHANGE IN COMMUNICATION.

**COMM 4360 International Leadership****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNICATION AND IN MULTI-CULTURAL AND DIVERSE SETTINGS. INFLUENCE OF GLOBAL ECONOMY, POLITICS, SOCIAL VALUES IN INTERNATIONAL 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 4325).

**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, MEDA 2350, COMM 4331 and 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.