

BA IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES (GENERAL COMMUNICATION)

Units Required for Major: 39

Total units required for BA: 120


Program Description

Communication Studies is a broad-based discipline concerned with the exchange of messages in interpersonal and mediated situations and with the impact of such exchanges on society. Courses focus on understanding the communication process and developing skills to communicate effectively. The Department offers a wide range of courses in interpersonal, group, and organizational communication, rhetorical theory and criticism, public relations, mass communication, research methodologies, and digital media (video or multimedia).

This concentration is designed to:

- improve student awareness, understanding, and practice of communication in professional and social interactions;
- enhance the traditional citizenship role in the democratic process; and
- train students in communication skills in preparation for professions within the public or private sectors of the economy

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Lower Division Core Courses (9 Units)		
COMS 2	Argumentation ¹	3
COMS 8	Interpersonal Communication Skills	3
COMS/JOUR 55	Media Communication and Society	3
Required Upper Division Core Courses (9 Units)		
COMS 100A	Survey of Communication Studies	3
COMS 100B	Rhetoric and Social Influence 	3
COMS 100C	Social Scientific Methods in Communication Research	3
Research Methods (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
COMS 164	Visual Communication	
COMS 165	Communication and Religion	
COMS 168	Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism	
COMS 170	Data Analysis in Communication Research	
COMS 171	Survey Methods in Communication Research	
COMS 172	Content Analysis	
Theory and Seminar Pair (6 Units)		
Select one of the following pairs:		6
<i>Intercultural Communication</i>		
COMS 116	Intercultural Communication	
COMS 188	Senior Seminar in Intercultural Communication	
<i>Interpersonal Communication</i>		
COMS 143	Theories of Interpersonal Communication	
COMS 182	Senior Seminar in Interpersonal Communication	

Film as Communication

COMS 142	Film As Communication
COMS 192	Senior Seminar in Film

Mass Communication

COMS 150	Mass Communication Theories and Effects
COMS 183	Senior Seminar in Media Issues and Ethics

New Media

COMS 150	Mass Communication Theories and Effects
COMS 191	New Media and Society

Organizational Communication

COMS 145	Organizational Communication
COMS 180	Senior Seminar in Organizational Communication

Rhetoric and Social Influence

COMS 167	Systems and Theories of Rhetoric
COMS 169	Television Criticism

Small Group Communication

COMS 105	Communication in Small Groups
COMS 181	Senior Seminar in Small Group Communication

Upper Division Electives (12 Units)

Select four approved courses ²	12
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Total Units **39**

¹ Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

² Select any four COMS and/or JOUR upper division courses numbered 100 or above in consultation with your major advisor.

General Education Requirements¹

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (3-6 Units)		
A1 - Oral Communication ²		0 - 3
A2 - Written Communication		3
A3 - Critical Thinking ³		0
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)		
B1 - Physical Science		3
B2 - Life Forms		3
B3 - Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)		1
B4 - Math Concepts		3
B5 - Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)		
C1 - Arts		3
C2 - Humanities		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area D: The Individual and Society (9 Units)		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)		

Area E Course	3
Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)	
Area F Course	3
Total Units	43-46

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Department recommends COMS 4 or COMS 5 to meet Area A1.

³ Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

Graduation Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (6 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government		3
Writing Intensive (WI) ²		0
Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement ³		6

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement

³ If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html> (<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>)

The following roadmaps are sample planning resources. Please consult your academic advisor and Academic Catalog for graduation requirements as you develop your individualized academic plan.

Communication Studies (General Communication), BA: 4-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
First Semester		
COMS 21	First Year Seminar: Becoming an Educated Person	3
GE Area 1A - English Composition ²		3

GE Area 1A - English Composition ²		3
GE Area 3A - Arts ²		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3

Units **15**

Second Semester		
COMS 2	Argumentation	3
GE Area 2 - Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
GE Area 3B - Humanities ²		3
GE Area 5B - Biological Science ²		3
GE Area 6 - Ethnic Studies ²		3

Units **15**

Year 2		
First Semester		
COMS 8	Interpersonal Communication Skills	3
ENGL 20	College Composition II	3
GE Area 5A - Physical Science ²		3
GE Area 5C - Laboratory ²		1
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4


Units **14**

Second Semester		
COMS 55	Media Communication and Society	3
COMS 100A	Survey of Communication Studies	3
GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
GR American Institutions (GOVT) ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4

Units **16**

Year 3		
First Semester		
COMS 100C	Social Scientific Methods in Communication Research	3
COMS Theory & Seminar Pair Requirement ³		3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3

Units **15**

Second Semester		
COMS 100B	Rhetoric and Social Influence 	3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
Elective of Choice		3

Units **15**


Year 4		
First Semester		
COMS Research Methods Requirement ³		3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
Upper Division Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3

Units **15**

Second Semester		
COMS 195	Internship in Communication Studies	1 - 6
COMS Theory & Seminar Pair Requirement ³		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3

Elective of Choice	3
Units	13-18
Total Units	118-123

Communication Studies (General Communication), BA: 2-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
First Semester		
COMS 100A	Survey of Communication Studies	3
COMS 100C	Social Scientific Methods in Communication Research	3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
GR American Institutions (GOVT) ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
COMS 100B	Rhetoric and Social Influence 	3
COMS Research Methods Requirement ³		3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Units		15
Year 2		
First Semester		
COMS Theory & Seminar Pair Requirement ³		3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16
Second Semester		
COMS Theory & Seminar Pair Requirement ³		3
COMS Major Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16
Total Units		62

^{1.} Any course not completed in the first semester should be taken in the second or a later semester.

^{2.} Please see General Education/Graduation Requirement **course options** (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

^{3.} Please see an academic advisor for elective options.