

# 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
<b>Required Lower Division Core Courses (9 Units)</b>		
COMS 2	Argumentation <sup>1</sup>	3
COMS 8	Interpersonal Communication Skills	3
COMS/JOUR 55	Media Communication and Society	3
<b>Required Upper Division Core Courses (9 Units)</b>		
COMS 100A	Survey of Communication Studies	3
COMS 100B	Rhetoric and Social Influence 	3
COMS 100C	Introduction to Scientific Methods in Communication Research	3
<b>Research Methods (3 Units)</b>		
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	
<b>Theory and Seminar Pair (6 Units)</b>		
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<sup>2</sup> 12

**Total Units** 39

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

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

## General Education Requirements<sup>1</sup>

Code	Title	Units
<b>Area A: Basic Subjects (3-6 Units)</b>		
A1 - Oral Communication <sup>2</sup>		0 - 3
A2 - Written Communication		3
A3 - Critical Thinking <sup>3</sup>		0
<b>Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)</b>		
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
<b>Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)</b>		
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
<b>Area D: The Individual and Society (9 Units)</b>		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3

<b>Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)</b>	
Area E Course	3
<b>Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)</b>	
Area F Course	3
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>43-46</b>

- <sup>1</sup> 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 (<http://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](mailto:advising@csus.edu)).
- <sup>2</sup> Department recommends COMS 4 or COMS 5 to meet Area A1.
- <sup>3</sup> Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

## Graduation Requirements <sup>1</sup>

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

- <sup>1</sup> 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 (<http://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).  
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- <sup>2</sup> Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement
- <sup>3</sup> 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>)