The Communication Studies Major

Communication Studies focuses on human communication, exploring the ways humans create and negotiate meaning. Communication Studies majors master a focused course of inquiry into interpersonal processes as they create and sustain relationships and impact individuals, groups, and organizations. The Communication Studies curriculum builds primarily on social science traditions in developing a liberal arts education emphasizing human communication. Students in the Communication Studies major study applied communication theory and research in interpersonal, small group, organizational, intercultural, and other contexts.

The Communication Studies (ComSt) major teaches students how to think critically, giving them the ability to examine complex communication issues, and develop and implement strategies grounded in evidence-based research. This prepares students for careers in business and industry and graduate education. Students majoring in ComSt will find their career opportunities enhanced in professions requiring applied communication expertise, e.g., human resource management, public relations, training and development, sales management, recruitment, event planning, sales, management, organizational development, business communication, law, and international and intercultural relations.

ComSt majors must earn at least 120 credits, with 45 credits at the 300-400 levels, and a minimum of 33 credits in ComSt.

Communication Studies majors will...

- Develop foundational knowledge of human communication
- Apply human communication strategies in a diverse world
- Evaluate and utilize evidence-based research
- Cultivate communication competence

Communication Proficiency Requirement

To meet the University’s Communication Proficiency requirement students are required to take:

- ENGL 150 Critical Thinking and Communication
- ENGL 250 Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition
  or ENGL 250H Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition: Honors
- ENGL 302 Business Communication

Upper Division Requirements (15 credits). Select five courses from the following

- COMST 310 Intercultural Communication
- COMST 311 Studies in Interpersonal Communication
- COMST 313 Leadership Communication Theories
- COMST 314 Organizational Communication
- COMST 317 Small Group Communication
- COMST 319 Communication Training and Development
- COMST 325 Nonverbal Communication
- COMST 330 Computer Mediated Communication
- SP CM 323 Gender and Communication

Capstone Course Requirement (3 credits)

- COMST 404 Research Seminar

In accordance with college requirements, an overall average in Communication Studies courses of C (2.0) or better is required.

Enhancement Requirement (4 credits)

- COM S 103 Computer Applications
- STAT 101 Principles of Statistics
- SP CM 212 Fundamentals of Public Speaking
- COMST 450 Special Topics in Communication Studies
The Communication Studies Minor (18 credits)
The requirements for a minor in ComSt may be fulfilled by credit in:

- COMST 101  Introduction to Communication Studies  3
- COMST 102  Introduction to Interpersonal Communication  3
- COMST 203  Introduction to Communication Research Methods  3
- COMST 301  Human Communication Theory  3
- Plus six credits in 300-level ComSt courses.  6

Credits in COMST 384 Applied Organizational Communication, may not be applied toward the minor. Students must earn an overall average of C (2.0) or better in all courses taken for the minor.

Total Credits 18

Communication Studies, B.A.

Freshman

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 150</td>
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<td>COM S 103</td>
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<td>COMST 101</td>
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<td>Natural Science Choice</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
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<td>LIB 160</td>
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Sophomore

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<td>COMST 102</td>
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<td>214 or 218</td>
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<td>ENGL 250</td>
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<td>Humanities Choice</td>
<td>3 Math Choice (STAT 101 recommended)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science Choice</td>
<td>3 Elective(s) (if STAT 101 and/ or For. Lang. is not taken)</td>
<td>1-2 Elective(s) (if STAT 101 and/ or For. Lang. is not taken)</td>
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Junior

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<td>COMST 203</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMST 301</td>
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<td>U.S. Diversity Choice</td>
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<td>3 Humanities Choice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Science Choice</td>
<td>3 Elective - 300+</td>
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<td>3 Elective - 300+</td>
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To meet Upper Division Comm Requirements students select from among the following:
- COMST 301
- COMST 310
- COMST 311
- COMST 313
- COMST 314
- COMST 317
- COMST 319
- COMST 325
- COMST 330
- SP CM 323

Students in all majors must complete a three-credit course in U.S. diversity and a three-credit course in international perspectives. (COMST 310 fulfills the international perspective requirement/ COMST 210 and SP CM 323 fulfill the U.S. diversity requirement). Approved courses are listed at: http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/courses/div-ip-guide.html. Discuss with your adviser how the two courses that you select can be applied to your graduation plan.

LAS majors require a minimum of 120 credits, including a minimum of 45 credits at the 300/400 level. You must also complete the LAS foreign language requirement.

The LAS College requires all students to have a 2.0 in the major to graduate. This means students need a 2.0 GPA in the 33 hours taken to fulfill the major requirements in Communication Studies.