

Communication Studies

The Communication Studies Major

www.commstudies.las.iastate.edu

The Communication Studies Program 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 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 Proficiency Requirement

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

ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3
or ENGL 250H	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition: Honors	
Plus one of the following:		3
ENGL 302	Business Communication	
ENGL 309	Report and Proposal Writing	
ENGL 314	Technical Communication	
ENGL 415	Business and Technical Editing	

An average of C- is required in ENGL 150 Critical Thinking and Communication, ENGL 250 Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition (or ENGL 250H Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition, Honors), and this additional writing course.

The Communication Studies Major

Core Requirements (15 credits)

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 one of the following:		3
COMST 214	Professional Communication	
COMST 218	Conflict Management	
SP CM 212	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	
Total Credits		15

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

COMST 310	Intercultural Communication	3
COMST 311	Studies in Interpersonal Communication	3
COMST 313	Leadership Communication Theories	3
COMST 314	Organizational Communication	3
COMST 317	Small Group Communication	3
COMST 319	Communication Training and Development	3
COMST 325	Nonverbal Communication	3

COMST 330	Computer Mediated Communication	3
Total Credits		15

Capstone Course Requirement (3 credits)

COMST 404	Research Seminar	3
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Credits in COMST 384 Applied Organizational Communication, may not be applied toward the upper division requirements.

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	4
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Additional Recommended Course

STAT 101	Principles of Statistics	4
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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
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Courses primarily for undergraduates:

COMST 101. Introduction to Communication Studies.

(3-0) Cr. 3.

An introduction to communication theory, the development and functions of communication, and a survey of interpersonal, small group, organizational, and intercultural communication.

COMST 102. Introduction to Interpersonal Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Application of communication principles, theory, and research to the process of interpersonal communication; includes verbal, nonverbal, listening, conflict management, and communication skills most relevant to a broad range of interpersonal settings.

COMST 203. Introduction to Communication Research Methods.

(3-0) Cr. 3.

An introduction to analyzing and conducting communication research. Provides an overview of quantitative and qualitative approaches to communication research.

COMST 214. Professional Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Communication theory and skill development in organizational settings. Emphasis on: interpersonal skill development, team and meeting facilitation, informational interviewing, and team presentations and self-assessment.

COMST 218. Conflict Management.

(3-0) Cr. 3.

Exploration of communication theories, principles and methods associated with effective conflict management.

COMST 301. Human Communication Theory.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101*

Examination of the major theories related to human communication; with particular emphasis on theories underlying interpersonal, small group, organizational, and intercultural communication.

COMST 310. Intercultural Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*

Examines the theories, principles and research on intercultural communication to enhance cultural sensitivity and to recognize, accept, and adapt to cultural diversity. Interactive assignments.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

COMST 311. Studies in Interpersonal Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*
This class focuses on studies of contemporary interpersonal communication concepts and theories. Emphasis on research that examines issues central to communication in interpersonal relationships.

COMST 313. Leadership Communication Theories.

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*
Investigation of theories, research and principles of leadership communication. Exploration of the contexts in which leadership and communication occurs, with emphasis on the connection between communication and leadership and the dyadic linkage of leader and follower.

COMST 314. Organizational Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*
Theory and research in organizational communication; strategies for assessing and improving individual and organizational communication effectiveness; an understanding of how organizational meaning is created and sustained through human communication.

COMST 317. Small Group Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*
Theory and research in small group communication; application to group decision-making and leadership. Includes communication analyses of groups and teams.

COMST 319. Communication Training and Development.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*
Theories and approaches to communication training and development; includes adult learning theory. Emphasis on the design, presentation and assessment of communication skills in organizational contexts.

COMST 325. Nonverbal Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*
Approaches to studying nonverbal communication; nonverbal functions and aspects of social interaction such as facial affect, body language, touch, gaze, and use of space.

COMST 330. Computer Mediated Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102, COMST 203, COMST 301*
Theories and approaches related to mediated communication in interpersonal and organizational settings. Focus on how new technology will impact human interaction with computers as well as between and among humans.

COMST 384. Applied Organizational Communication.

(3-0) Cr. 3. *Prereq: COMST 101, COMST 102 or equivalent course.*
Theory and research of micro-level organizational communication, including interpersonal and small group interactions taking place in a professional setting. Topics include interpersonal dynamics in such areas as conflict, generational communication, negotiation, superior/subordinate communication, external communication, and virtual organizations. Not available for major credit.

COMST 404. Research Seminar.

(Dual-listed with COMST 504). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.
Prereq: COMST 301 plus 3 additional communication studies classes from the following list: COMST 310, COMST 311, COMST 314, COMST 317, COMST 319, COMST 325, or COMST 330.

Capstone communication studies course. Students develop an original research study linked to the study of communication. Data are collected and analyzed. Results are presented in a final research paper and a presentation.

COMST 490. Independent Study.

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits. *Prereq: 9 credits in communication studies and junior classification*
Application must be submitted for approval the semester prior to the independent study.

COMST 497. Professional Internship.

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits. *Prereq: 12 hours in Communication Studies including COMST 203, COMST 301, and one other 300-level COMST class. Junior Classification. Application required.*
100 hours of on-site professional work per credit hour plus completion of the academic requirement set by the internship committee. Application should be submitted in the term prior to the term in which the internship will be served. Internship cannot be used to meet degree requirement in Communication Studies.

Courses primarily for graduate students, open to qualified undergraduates:

COMST 504. Seminar in Communication Studies.

(Dual-listed with COMST 404). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 9 credits.
Prereq: Graduate standing and permission of instructor
Students develop an original research study linked to the study of communication. Data are collected and analyzed. Results are presented in a final research paper and a presentation.

COMST 590. Special Topics.

Cr. 1-4. Repeatable.
Application must be submitted for approval the semester prior to the independent study.