Communication studies examines the creation, expression, and analysis of messages in our personal, professional, and public lives. Knowledge of the field aids in students’ development of social intelligence, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills all needed to achieve personal, professional, and civic goals. Communication Studies differs greatly from profession-specific majors where student coursework may become dated or less relevant as students leave the university. Communication Studies majors acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities of resilient learners, collaborators, and problem solvers as they learn to manage message processes within and among individuals, groups, organizations, and societies. Students explore verbal and nonverbal communication, organizational and business communication, rhetoric and criticism, argumentation and persuasion, and communication technology. Alumni excel in diverse cultural, professional, social, and personal settings as influential leaders, solution-oriented collaborators, highly trained researchers, talented writers, and engaging speakers. The undergraduate degree offers concentrations in:

- Relationship Management and Well-being
- Professional and Organizational Advancement
- Persuasion, Advocacy, and Civic Engagement
- Teacher Certification in Communication Studies

In addition to the minor in Communication Studies, the Department is also the home for three interdisciplinary minors: Leadership Studies, Political Communication, and Health Communication.

Key to our students’ and program’s success is our dedicated faculty and staff—a cohesive team that draws from their unified expertise to help students understand the vital connections between research and teaching inside and outside the classroom. Our faculty members are active in national and international association; publish their research in books, professional and academic journals; secure funding to support cutting-edge research; create podcasts; win awards for teaching excellence; and serve our communities.

Areas of Specialization

Some students may wish to concentrate on a particular aspect of communication study. Although there is no required sequence of courses for any single area of interest, the following general guide may be used to assist students in finding a focal point for their communication study.

Relationship Management and Well-being

Courses that focus on relationship management and well-being are designed to provide students with skills and knowledge to pursue a variety of career goals that involve interpersonal interactions with others. This area of interest is appropriate for students seeking careers in business, non-profit organizations, sales, customer service, hospitality services (e.g. travel or hotel industry) or other careers or professions which emphasize effective human relationship skills.

Professional and Organizational Advancement

Courses that focus on professional and organizational advancement are designed to enhance student’s capacity for success in careers requiring skills in the management of human relationships and communication flow within contemporary business, public service, non-profit, and professional organizations.

Persuasion, Advocacy and Civic Engagement

Courses that focus on persuasion, advocacy, and civic engagement examine messages that are designed to create change. Courses address topics such as rhetoric, public address, and argumentation. This area of interest is appropriate for students planning careers in business and industry, non-profit organizations, sales and marketing, the ministry, law, politics or other careers in which persuasion, rhetorical, and analytical skills are important.

Specialized Courses and Programs

Departmental Internship Elective

Some students may wish to enroll in the Internship course COMM 4390. Requirements for the course may be found in the Courses section of the catalog.

Communication Studies Career Readiness Program

The Communication Studies Career Readiness (CSCR) program is an innovative experience for select students to discover and examine career options in the communication field by building a personalized career pathway comprised of hands-on experience, alumni-mentoring, networking, internships, and specialized advising. This program does not follow the traditional career counseling model, which starts with a singular job that students work toward. Instead, the CSCR program starts with our students’ skillsets, interests, and passions to explore multiple career opportunities before narrowing. CSCR students are better prepared for life post-graduation. The CSCR program only accepts 10-14 students per year.

CSCR students will have experiences that most universities of our size cannot provide. This program is perfect for the motivated student who is focused upon learning how the major can help them advance their personal and professional goals. Key benefits include:

- Enrollment in the exclusive Career Readiness Course that is unlike any college class
- Connecting with an Alumni Mentor with similar interests
- Participating in exclusive workshops and networking opportunities
- Receiving specialized internship coaching and academic advising
- Building a Personalized Career Pathway that guides students to graduation
- Specialized job search training

Student Organizations

The department also proudly sponsors the Delta Beta Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication Guild, the Elton Abernathy Forensics Society, and the LBJ Debate Society. The Elton Abernathy Forensics Society is Texas State’s competitive speech team. The LBJ Debate Society is named for former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who was involved in debate as a student at Texas State University. Both teams travel locally, regionally, and nationally.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

- Major in Communication Studies (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/studies/communication-studies-ba/)
• Major in Communication Studies (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/studies/interpersonal-communication-studies-ba/Relationship Management and Well-being Concentration)
• Major in Communication Studies (Professional and Organizational Advancement Concentration) (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/studies/organizational-communication-studies-ba/)
• Major in Communication Studies (Persuasion, Advocacy, and Civic Engagement Concentration) (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/studies/persuasive-communication-studies-ba/)
• Major in Communication Studies (Teacher Certification in Speech, Grades 7-12) (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/studies/communication-studies-teacher-certification-speech-grades-712-ba/)

Minors
• Communication Studies
• Health Communication (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/studies/health-communication-minor/)
• Leadership Studies
• Political Communication
• Second Teaching Field in Speech (Grades 7-12)

Courses in Communication Studies (COMM)

This course examines the speaking and listening principles and techniques that are fundamental for human communication. The course aids students in the development of basic verbal and nonverbal communication knowledge and skills in a variety of specific contexts including interpersonal, small group, and public speaking. The course has a specific multicultural focus with an emphasis on ethics and diversity.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 1305. Voice and Articulation.
This course is a study of the physiology of the human voice and the sounds of speech. The student's own voice will be the primary focus, with practice to develop speech appropriate for professional contexts. Prerequisite: COMM 1310.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 1311. Speech and Debate Activities.
A course designed to provide credit for participation in speech and debate activities. May be repeated for a total of four credits.
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 1 Lab Contact Hour.

COMM 1340. Voice and Articulation.
This course is a study of the physiology of the human voice and the sounds of speech. The student's own voice will be the primary focus, with practice to develop speech appropriate for professional contexts. Prerequisite: COMM 1310.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 2315. Interpersonal Communication.
This course studies communication principles and theories exploring interpersonal interactions with emphasis on conceptual foundations, personal growth and skill enhancement. Prerequisite: COMM 1310 with a grade of "D" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 2326. Interpretive Reading.
A study of the techniques of the oral interpretation of literature with an emphasis on performance. Prerequisite: COMM 1310 with a grade of "D" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 2330. Small Group Communication.
This course focuses on communication in small groups and teams, including an analysis of the structure and skills involved in managing the task and relational components of group work. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving discussion, effective meeting leadership and participation, and critical thinking. Prerequisite: COMM 1310 with a grade of "D" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

This course explores how to conduct and interpret communication research through the scientific method.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 2332. Public Speaking.
This course helps the student to develop personal speaking skills and introduces principles of contemporary types of speeches. Prerequisite: COMM 1310 with a grade of "D" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

This course explores how to conduct and interpret communication research through the scientific method.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 3302. Rhetorical Research Methods.
This course explores how to conduct and interpret communication research through the scientific method.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 3320. Rhetorical Research Methods.
Students will explore and apply methods of analysis and evaluation of rhetorical discourse with emphasis on developing critical research and writing skills. Students should complete COMM 3302 before enrolling in other advanced rhetorical studies courses. (WI) Prerequisite: COMM 1310 and COMM 2338 both with grades of "D" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 3303. Rhetorical Research Methods.
This course explores how to conduct and interpret communication research through the scientific method.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COM 2111. Speech and Debate Activities.
A course designed to provide credit for participation in speech and debate activities. May be repeated for a total of four credits.
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 1 Lab Contact Hour.

Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
COMM 3310. Communication Theory.
This course explores the practical ways in which communication theory operates to foster self-awareness, to make sense of personal experiences, and to cultivate critical thinking.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3316F. Rhetoric, Race, and Memory.
This course explores how public articulations about what happened in the past inform our present and future. Through an exploration of how communities remember civil rights and racism, the course offers students with deeper insight into how communicative practices enable communal transformation and can sustain or disrupt communal identity.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3316G. Communication and Coping.
This course reviews research regarding the communicative management of stress. We explore theoretical and practical implications of leading models of stress, coping, and social support from communication and related disciplines with a specific emphasis on health stressors (e.g., chronic illnesses, public health concerns) and outcomes (e.g., distress, physical health).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3316H. Caregiving and End-of-life Communication.
Communication is at the center of caring for a loved one during illness and at the end-of-life; situations that we all encounter across the lifespan. Students in this class will review research and real-life examples, applying theory, and discussing practical implications and challenges associated with caregiving and end-of-life communication.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3316I. LGBTQ+ Communication Studies.
This course investigates how communication impacts LGBTQ+ people’s experiences across their lives in relationships, organizations, healthcare, media, and society. Students examine how communication sustains both discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and their resistance, theorize how LGBTQ+ people navigate their holistic identities, and create LGBTQ+ justice across communication practices, cultures, and structures.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics|Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3318J. Communication in Health Organizations.
This course examines the delivery and exchange of messages within health organizations. Specific communication contexts to be emphasized will include interpersonal conflict, negotiating, communication networks, communication environments, virtual systems of communication, channel/media selection strategies, communication climate, communities of practice, public relations communication campaigns, and organizational crisis management.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3318V. Speechwriting.
This course will provide a basic understanding of the speechwriting process, including writing different types of speeches of varied length targeted to different audiences and venues. Students will learn effective speech organization and content through drafting and peer review and gain basic experience in the effective delivery of speeches.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3319. Introduction to Organizational Communication.
Applies communication and management theory along with contemporary research to understand messages in corporate, nonprofit, and volunteer organizations. Prepares the students to think critically about their organizational experiences and use theory to assess and manage communication processes including supervisor-subordinate communication, conflict, and cultures.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3320. Sport Communication.
Sport Communication provides a theoretical foundation to understand and apply interpersonal, organizational, team, and public communication skills in sport settings. Sample topics include: fan culture, racial identity and gender, player/coach interactions, and crisis communication. Students gain practical knowledge and skills to optimize verbal and nonverbal messages in sport contexts.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3322. Communication Career Readiness.
This course helps students discover communication careers by assisting them in building a personalized career pathway through hands-on experiences, mentoring, networking, and examining the field of communication studies. Prerequisite: COMM 1310 with a grade of "C" or better and instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
This course provides a survey of relevant skills necessary to work in an international work setting. Through discussion, site-visits, and application activities, students will leave the course with an understanding and ability to apply these skills in their careers.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3325. Communication and Conflict Management.
Demonstrates the ways communication skills can be used to manage conflict. The class also provides an analytic framework for diagnosing conflict, negotiation, and mediation. (WI).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3326. Family Communication.
The study of the theory and research trends regarding the dynamics of family communication, including parent-child, sibling, marital, and inter-generational interactions; family culture and roles: divorce and step families; conflict; stress and well being. Prerequisite: COMM 2315.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3328. Communication and Gender.
Investigates the interactive nature of communication and gender, the creation of gender identities, and the role of gender and communication in a variety of settings. (MULT) (WI).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content|Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3332. The Dark Side of Communication.
This course examines communication that is considered challenging, complicated, stressful, or unpleasant. Topics include (but are not limited to) deception, teasing/bullying, jealousy, topic avoidance, and aggression. The phenomena covered range from the everyday to the extreme, and impact our well-being as well as our relationships.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3335. Communication and Identity in International Work Cultures.
This course explores how personal, cultural, organizational, and occupational identities shape workplaces.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

COMM 3336. Diversity and Communication.
This course examines various styles of formal and informal communication, and builds awareness and understanding of diversity. It will address diversity issues in social characteristics such as age, gender, race, and sexual orientation. It will address how society communicates about issues related to diversity. (MULT).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3342. Interviewing Principles and Practices.
This course explores the components and techniques that differentiate the interviewing process from other forms of communication. By understanding the intricacies of interviewing (goals, structure, question formats), students improve their ability to apply interview principles.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 3345. Argumentation and Debate.
A study of basic principles of argumentation emphasizing analysis, evidence, reasoning, and refutation and their applications in formal and informal debate contexts. Students will do laboratory work with the University forensics squad. Prerequisite: COMM 1310.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course provides a theoretical foundation to understand the fundamentals of public deliberation, the individual’s role in advocacy, and civic engagement in a democratic society. Sample topics include practices of engagement and inquiry, communication ethics, free expression and the responsibility of advocates.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
COMM 3358. Professional Communication.
Application of self-presentation and interaction concepts and skills to
the transition from undergraduate studies to professional life, including
job selection, resume preparation and presentation, interviewing, and
interaction management in business and professional settings.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4315. Directed Research in Communication Studies.
Individual or group research projects at the advanced level that are not
offered in the present curriculum. Permission and project approval must
be obtained from the departmental chair prior to registration. May be
repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4111. Practicum in Communication Studies.
On-the-job experience working with faculty to assist with the department
missions of teaching, research or service. Students may work in the
department communication lab, assist faculty in the classroom, serve
as faculty research assistants or other academic support tasks. May
be repeated one time for additional credit. Prerequisite: Departmental
approval.
1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4307. Media Criticism.
Explores the influence of media messages based upon communication
and rhetorical theories in shaping perceptions and values. Focus is upon
the rhetorical analysis of how the visual media of film and television
communicate social, political, and personal attitudes and behaviors.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4320. Planning Communication Studies Activities and Events.
This course is designed to assist individuals in the management and
implementation of communication activities and events. The course
includes practical experience in planning and directing individual events.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4310. Methods of Teaching Communication Studies.
A study of methods of teaching communication studies principles
and skills for secondary school teachers. Students enrolled in teacher
certification programs with a major in Nutrition, Consumer Affairs,
Communication Studies or a second teaching field in Communication
Studies should contact the Department of Communication Studies
for approval to register. (WI) Prerequisite: COMM 1310, COMM 2315,
COMM 2330, or COMM 2338; with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4321. American Speeches.
Analysis and evaluation of major American speeches and their influence
on the history and culture of the United States from 1630 to the present.
Prerequisite: COMM 2338.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4322. Rhetoric of Protest Movements.
Explores the persuasive strategies used by protest and political
movements to promote social and political change. Focuses upon
the application of critical perspectives in understanding the stages,
leadership styles, and rhetorical appeals characteristics of movements in
American society. (MULT) Prerequisite: COMM 2338.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4324. Organizational Rhetoric.
Guided by principles of rhetoric, students will investigate a variety of
functions for internal and external audiences. Functions will include
building identity; managing issues, impressions, and crisis; and
influencing organizational culture. Students will use this knowledge to
create and analyze organizational messages.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4325. Communication and Technology.
This course explores how the use of information and communication
technologies relates to interpersonal, organizational, public, political, and
intercultural communication practices and outcomes.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
COMM 4326. Health Communication.
This course provides students with an overview of major theoretical and practical issues for communicating about health issues in clinical, organizational, relational, and public contexts. Students will gain knowledge and skills to improve patient health outcomes through effective message strategies.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4327. Social Media in Organizations.
Social Media in Organizations prepares students to be effective social media writers, resourceful workers, critical consumers, and savvy job seekers. We will consider members' use of social media inside organizations as well as explore our peripheral connection with organizations as consumers and prospective employees.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4329. Communication Training and Human Resource Development.
This course presents the principles and skills of developing and presenting communication training programs. An emphasis is placed upon applications of communication skill development, communication theory, and instructional communication research in organizational contexts. Prerequisite: COMM 2315, COMM 2330, or COMM 2338.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4331. Persuasion.
An investigation of rhetorical and behavioral theories of persuasion, the devising of persuasive campaigns, as well as the consumption and generation of persuasive messages in a variety of communication settings. Applicable for careers in business, law, and human relations.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4336. Diversity and Inclusion Training.
In this course, we recognize, challenge, and seek to change imbalances in power structures that deny equal respect, dignity, and rights to inclusion for the socially marginalized. Within an immersive educational environment, students apply diversity-related topics and instructional communication methods to conduct diversity and inclusion training sessions.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4338. Advanced Public Speaking.
In-depth critical analysis of speech construction and the development of presentation skills. Prerequisite: COMM 2338.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

COMM 4351. Relational Communication.
The study of theory and research trends regarding communication in close relationships, including attraction and intimacy; relationship development, maintenance, and dissolution; affection and support; and conflict. The theoretical and practical relevance of the social, emotional, and relational consequences of messages is emphasized throughout the course.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
COMM 4390. Communication Internship.
This course provides on the job experience in a communication related role in an approved organization. Enrollment requires permission of the instructor, a minimum of 150 clock hours on the job, a written contract with the internship coordinator, and a final portfolio of work. May be repeated for additional credit. Prerequisites: 6 hours of upper level communication electives completed with a grade of "C" or higher. Restricted to full majors or minors in their junior or senior year. Good academic standing required.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 6 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter