The Communication Studies undergraduate major equips students with a diversity of skill sets by investigating communication in various cultural contexts, including relational, organizational, intercultural, political, and more.

In an increasingly globalized world, competent communication is crucial for career advancement, interpersonal relationships, and public democratic participation. Here’s what we know: humans rely on communication, and the creation and translation of symbols, language, and messages are integral to daily interactions. In other words, communication connects us.

The major expands on fundamental public speaking principles from the introductory course through emphasizing theories, methods, performances that apply to everyday communication practices.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

Students should meet with departmental academic advisor or faculty member to declare a Communication Studies major.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

Prerequisite Knowledge (3)

Majors must complete a public speaking requirement as specified below. Note: COMS 130 and COMS 131 do not contribute to the minimum number of hours required for the major.

Speaker-Audience Communication. Satisfied by one of the following:

- COMS 130: Speaker-Audience Communication
- COMS 131: Speaker-Audience Communication, Honors
- Exemption

Communication Core Knowledge in Theory and Methods (15)

Majors must complete 9 hours

- COMS 207: Introduction to Political Communication
- COMS 232: The Rhetorical Tradition

Majors must complete one course of the following three:

- COMS 210: Communication in Organizational and Professional Contexts
- COMS 244: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication Theory
- COMS 246: Introduction to Intercultural Communication

Majors must complete a third course in Basic Communication Theory from the courses above

Complete Three Courses in Basic Communication Theory (9)

Majors must complete the following two courses:

- COMS 207: Introduction to Political Communication
- COMS 232: The Rhetorical Tradition

Complete Two Courses in Research Methodology (6)

Majors must complete the following two courses:

- COMS 235: Introduction to Rhetoric and Social Influence
- COMS 356: Introduction to Behavioral Research Methods in Communication

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Ethical Communication Behaviors (3)

Majors must complete 3 hours. Choose one of the following:

- COMS 410: Micro-Level Organizational Communication
- COMS 440: Communication and Gender
- COMS 450: Ethical Issues in Political Communication
- COMS 447: Introduction to Intercultural Communication Theory
- COMS 547: Communication and Culture
- COMS 552: The Rhetoric of Women’s Rights
- COMS 557: East Asian Communication

Capstone Experience in Communication Studies (3)

Majors must complete 3 hours. Choose one of the following:

- COMS 496: Capstone in: Communication Studies

Communication Studies Required Electives (12)

All majors must take 12 elective hours in Communication Studies

Note: For students pursuing the B.G.S. degree, it is recommended that you choose one of the following courses as part of your 12 hours of required major electives, as either of these also fulfill the Career Preparation Requirement for the B.G.S. COMS 330, COMS 342

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 33 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 18 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa).

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in Communication Studies can be found here (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/communication-studies/ba-bgs/ba-communication-studies), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in Communication Studies can be found here (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/communication-studies/ba-bgs/bgs-communication-studies), or by using the left-side navigation.

Departmental Honors

Outstanding undergraduates may earn departmental honors if they meet the following criteria:

1. A grade-point average at the time of graduation of at least 3.25 overall and 3.5 in Communication Studies courses.
2. Completion of an honors thesis involving independent research — either a single comprehensive project or an integration of several related projects. Completion requires satisfactory defense of the thesis in an oral examination and submission of a satisfactory thesis manuscript to the department office by one month before graduation. Independent research for the thesis must be conducted under the direction of a faculty member. The student must be enrolled with that instructor in 2 to 6 hours of COMS 498, usually over two semesters.