

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Communication Studies

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. 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 International Support 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 the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

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

Code	Title	Hours
Prerequisite Knowledge		
Majors must complete a Communication requirement as specified below. Note: COMS 130, COMS 131, and COMS 244 do not contribute to the minimum number of hours required for the major. Communication requirement. Satisfied by one of the following:		
COMS 130	Public Speaking	
COMS 131	Public Speaking, Honors	
COMS 244	Interpersonal Communication	
Communication Core Knowledge in Theory and Methods		
Complete Three Courses in Basic Communication Theory		9
Majors must complete 9 hours		

Majors must complete one course of the following two		
COMS 207	Introduction to Political Communication	
COMS 232	Introduction to Rhetoric	
Majors must complete one course of the following two		
COMS 210	Introduction to Organizational and Professional Communication	
COMS 246	Introduction to Intercultural Communication	
Majors must complete a third course in Basic Communication Theory from the courses above		
Complete Two Courses in Research Methodology		6
Majors must complete the following two courses		
COMS 355	Introduction to Rhetoric and Social Influence or COMS 357 Introduction to Rhetoric and Social Influence, Honors	
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 350	Communication in a Diverse World	
COMS 410	Micro-Level Organizational Communication	
COMS 440	Communication and Gender	
COMS 450	Ethical Issues in Political Communication	
COMS 454	Rhetoric of Popular Culture	
COMS 447	Intercultural Communication: The Afro-American	
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 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		
Total Hours		33

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 (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

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

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking in constructing and analyzing arguments, research and discourse.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how communication is shaped by and in turn shapes factors such as race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, class, religion, age, ability, geography, and culture.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the relationship between community and communication and how communicative practices underpin citizenship and civic engagement.
- Communicate well in public, professional, and personal endeavors.
- Demonstrate an understanding of ethical and moral implications of communication decisions and practices.
- Demonstrate an understanding of major communication theories and apply them to contemporary contexts.

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 3.5 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.