

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences

Undergraduate

Degree Requirements

Communication Rhetoric Major

www.comm.pitt.edu/undergraduate

Revised: 01/2017

The study of communication is one of the oldest and most contemporary fields. Communication majors examine questions about society, communication, and persuasion in ways that combine the best of the ancient liberal arts tradition with critical attention to the newest media technologies. Our faculty offer diverse perspectives on the role of communication, media, and rhetoric in our lives through courses such as persuasion, argument, interpersonal communication, political rhetoric, rhetoric of science, nonverbal communication, history of media, media criticism, and television and society.

Many of the Department of Communication's graduates hold important positions in industry, education, media, government, law, and other professions. An understanding of communication as a human activity, makes the department's graduates attractive candidates when seeking employment or obtaining admission to graduate programs.

Required courses for the Communication major

The Communication major requires the completion of 33 credits distributed as follows.

Core courses

These courses are prerequisites for the 1000-level courses.

COMMRC 0300 Communication Process

COMMRC 0310 Rhetorical Process

COMMRC 0320 Mass Communication Process

Skills courses

COMMRC 0520 Public Speaking and

One of the following

COMMRC 0500 Argument

COMMRC 0510 Debate

COMMRC 0530 Interpersonal Communication

COMMRC 0540 Discussion

COMMRC 0550 Speech Composition

Upper-level courses

Any six 1000-level courses listed on the back of this sheet.

Special project courses

These courses are not required. Only COMMRC 1710 can be counted toward the major.

COMMRC 1710 Senior Thesis in Communication ¹

COMMRC 1900 Communication Internship ²

COMMRC 1901 Independent Study ¹

¹ A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for enrollment in this course.

² A minimum GPA of 2.75 is required for enrollment in this course.

Grade requirements: A grade of C or better is required in each course that is to count toward the major. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: No course that counts toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis without the approval of the COMMRC advisor.

Writing (W) requirement: Students must complete at least one W-course in the major.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Internships: The Department of Communication keeps a large file of undergraduate internship opportunities in a variety of communication related fields. Most students find internships at local radio and television stations, nonprofit agencies, and local businesses. We also list available positions related to event planning, marketing, public relations, promotions, advertising, and journalism. Many of our students choose to intern for credit, which requires them to attend three two hour meetings of the Communication Internship Seminar over the duration of the semester. Each interning student will complete a Department of Communication Internship Agreement form.

Advising: John Gareis
Director of Undergraduate Studies
CL 1122
412-624-1138
gareis@pitt.edu

Meredith Guthrie
CL 1124
412-624-1035
guthrie@pitt.edu

Checklist for the Communication Rhetoric major

Core courses

- _____ COMMRC 0300 Communication Process
- _____ COMMRC 0310 Rhetorical Process
- _____ COMMRC 0320 Mass Communication Process

Skills courses

- _____ COMMRC 0520 Public Speaking **and**

One of the following

- _____ COMMRC 0500 Argument
- _____ COMMRC 0510 Debate
- _____ COMMRC 0530 Interpersonal Communication
- _____ COMMRC 0540 Discussion
- _____ COMMRC 0550 Speech Composition

Upper-level courses

Choose six of the following

- _____ COMMRC 1101 Evidence
- _____ COMMRC 1102 Organizational Communication
- _____ COMMRC 1103 Rhetoric and Culture
- _____ COMMRC 1104 Political Communication
- _____ COMMRC 1105 Television and Society
- _____ COMMRC 1106 Small Group Communication
- _____ COMMRC 1109 Nonverbal Communication
- _____ COMMRC 1110 Theories of Interpersonal Communication
- _____ COMMRC 1111 Theories of Persuasion
- _____ COMMRC 1112 Theories of Rhetoric
- _____ COMMRC 1113 African American and Mass Media
- _____ COMMRC 1114 Freedom of Speech and Press
- _____ COMMRC 1115 African American Rhetoric
- _____ COMMRC 1116 Rhetoric of Cynicism and Counter Culture
- _____ COMMRC 1117 20th Century Public Argument
- _____ COMMRC 1118 Presidential Rhetoric 1
- _____ COMMRC 1119 Presidential Rhetoric 2
- _____ COMMRC 1120 Rhetoric of the Cold War
- _____ COMMRC 1121 History of Mass Media
- _____ COMMRC 1122 Media Criticism
- _____ COMMRC 1123 Rhetorical Criticism
- _____ COMMRC 1125 Media Theory
- _____ COMMRC 1126 Media and Consumer Culture
- _____ COMMRC 1142 Theories of Modern Rhetoric
- _____ COMMRC 1143 Knowledge, Power, and Desire
- _____ COMMRC 1145 History of Rhetoric
- _____ COMMRC 1147 Rhetoric of Science
- _____ COMMRC 1148 Rhetoric of Human Rights
- _____ COMMRC 1730 Special Topics in Communication
- _____ COMMRC 1731 Special Topics in Rhetoric
- _____ COMMRC 1732 Special Topics in Mass Communication
- _____ CSD 1020 Nature of Language *
- _____ LING 1000 Introduction to Linguistics
- _____ LING 1263 Cross-Cultural Communication

* This course is offered by the School of Health and Rehabilitation Science.