Communication Rhetoric Major

www.comm.pitt.edu/undergraduate
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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

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
COMMRC 1900 Communication Internship
COMMRC 1901 Independent Study

Declaring the major: Students must complete the core courses (COMMRC 0300, 0310, and 0320) with a C or better before declaring this major.

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.
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.