

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

# Department of Communication

## CORE CURRICULUM & EMPHASES

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### INTRODUCTION

The Department of Communication offers a B.A. or B.S. in Communication with four emphases: Strategic Communication (public relations, advertising, integrated marketing); Journalism (digital, broadcast, print); Communication Studies; and Science, Health, Environmental, and Risk Communication. Regardless of your emphasis, a major in communication will provide you with knowledge on ethical communication, persuasion, social influence and social responsibility. Paired with improved skills in writing and speaking, you will be highly competitive in the job market.

Students will be required to complete the core curriculum (4 courses, 12+ credits) and one of the four emphases (13 courses, 39+ credits). Students must complete a total of 120 credit hours to earn their Bachelor's degree. 40 of those credit hours must be upper division (3000-level or higher). Students may need to complete additional courses outside of general education and major requirements in order to meet total required hours.

### TRANSFER CREDIT

The Department of Communication will allow 6 transfer Communication courses to count towards major requirements. The Office of Admissions determines whether transfer courses are accepted at the University of Utah, but Academic Advisors can help determine which Communication courses may fulfill major requirements.

### DEGREE AUDITS

Students are expected to be generating their Degree Audit regularly. It is the official degree tracking tool and is used to clear students for graduation. Click [here](#) for detailed instructions on how to properly generate and view a Degree Audit.

### BA VS BS

Bachelor of Arts demonstrates and requires fourth semester proficiency in a second language. Bachelor of Science demonstrates proficiency in research methods and requires one DI or QI course.

### MAJOR DECLARATION

Students can declare their major in Communication upon admittance to the University of Utah. Official major declaration can be done by submitting this [form](#).

### GRADING

All Communication courses must be passed with a 'C' grade or better to count in the major.

### WAITLIST POLICY

Communication classes fill quickly, so students are encouraged to plan ahead and enroll on your assigned [Registration Date](#) to help ensure timely graduation. Academic Advisors in the Department of Communication do not issue permission codes for classes that are full.

If a class is full when a student registers, [wait listing](#) allows a student to add their name to an electronic wait list and potentially be added to the class if space opens up, and they meet all the requirements. Wait listing is not a guarantee to enrollment into a class.

# Core Requirements

4 COURSES - MINIMUM 12 CREDITS

## Introduction - Choose **two** of the following courses:

3	COMM 1020	Principles of Public Speaking <b>HF</b>
3	COMM 1130	Media Writing
3	COMM 1270	Analysis of Argument <b>HF</b>
3	COMM 1500	Media and Society <b>HF</b>

## Methods - Choose **one** of the following courses:

3	COMM 3460	Rhetorical Criticism <b>DI</b>
3	COMM 3700	Qualitative Communication Research <b>DI</b>
4	COMM 3710	Intro to Quantitative Comm Research <b>QI</b>
3	COMM 3720	Applied Communication Research Methods <b>DI</b>

## Skills - Choose **one** of the following courses:

4	COMM 1535	Basic Digital Photo
3	COMM 3510	Web Design & Content Strategy
4	COMM 3560	Video Production I
4	COMM 4570	Visual Design & Editing

## Emphasis - Choose **one** of the following emphases:

	Strategic Communication
	Science, Health Environment and Risk (CommSHER)
	Journalism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication Studies

## EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

# Communication Studies

13 COURSES — MINIMUM 39 CREDITS

### Introductory Courses - Complete the following **two** courses:

3	COMM 2020	Communication Theory & Everyday Life <b>HF</b>
3	COMM 3030	Communication & Social Responsibility <b>CW</b>

### Foundations - Choose **three** of the following courses:

3	COMM 2110	Intro to Interpersonal Communication <b>BF</b>
3	COMM 2170	Intro to Org Communication
3	COMM 3070	Communication and Gender <b>DV</b>
3	COMM 3115	Comm, Sci, Health, and Environment
3	COMM 3150	Tackling Taboo Topics
3	COMM 3190	Intercultural Communication <b>DV</b>
3	COMM 3550	Principles of Visual Communication

### Exploration - Choose **two** of the following courses (more on following page):

3	COMM 2040	Media Theory and Pop Culture <b>HF</b>
3	COMM 2360	Consuming the Earth
3	COMM 3000	Communication Studies Special Topics
3	COMM 3040	Communication and Relationships
3	COMM 3110	Interpersonal Comm Special Topics
3	COMM 3200	Persuasion Theory and Practices
3	COMM 3120	Family Communication
3	COMM 3140	Dangerous Liaisons in Relationships and Orgs

	3	COMM 3290	Indigenous Communication
	3	COMM 3330	Argumentation and Negotiation
	3	COMM 3405	Rhetoric: Aristotle to AI
	3	COMM 3490	Communication and Public Issues
	3-12	COMM 3610	Internship
	3-12	COMM 3910	Independent Study
	3	COMM 4170	Organizational and Professional Comm

**Advanced** - Choose **two** of the following courses:

	3	COMM 5050	Conflict Mediation Practicum
	3	COMM 5110	Interpersonal Comm: Current Research
	3	COMM 5115	Health Communication
	3	COMM 5116	Health, Comm, and Culture
	3	COMM 5117	Health Campaigns and Media
	3	COMM 5118	Health Literacy
	3	COMM 5119	Grief Communication
	3	COMM 5140	Communication and Aging
	3	COMM 5150	Dialogue and Community Engagement
	3	COMM 5200	Persuasion and Political Comm
	3	COMM 5320	Freedom of Expression
	3	COMM 5330	Visual Rhetoric and Political Argumentation
	3	COMM 5340	Communication and Law
	3	COMM 5360	Environmental Communication
	3	COMM 5365	Communicating Climate Change
	3	COMM 5540	Communication and Race
	3	COMM 5610	IT & Global Conflict <b>IR</b>

	3	COMM 5620	International Communication <b>IR</b>
	3	COMM 5675	Social Media & Trust
	3	COMM 5690	Topics in Media Studies
	3	COMM 5710	Quantitative Communication Research

**Capstone** - Choose **one** of the following courses:

	3	COMM 4999	Honors Thesis/Project
	3	COMM 5000	Studies in Communication (Pre OR Co-Req in COMM 3460, 3700, 3710, OR 3720)
	3	COMM 5370	Special Topics in Environmental Communication
	3	COMM 5490	Communication and Social Justice (Pre OR Co-Req in COMM 3460, 3700, 3710, OR 3720)
	3	COMM 5640	Communication Technology and Culture
	3	COMM 5815	Special Topics in Health Communication
	3	COMM 5820	Special Topics in Science Communication

**Electives** - Complete **three** courses (minimum 9 credits):

		COMM 1XXX-5XXX	
		COMM 1XXX-5XXX	
		COMM 5XXX	