

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

Department of Communication

CORE CURRICULUM & EMPHASES

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 HF
	3	COMM 1130	Media Writing
	3	COMM 1270	Analysis of Argument HF
	3	COMM 1500	Media and Society HF

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

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

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)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Journalism
	Communication Studies

EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Journalism

13 COURSES — MINIMUM 39 CREDITS

Fundamentals - Complete **all** of the following three courses:

	4	COMM 1610	Journalism Writing (Pre-Req: WR2)
	3	COMM 3555	Digital Journalism CW (Pre OR Co-Req: COMM 1610)
	3	COMM 4555	Intermediate Journalism (Pre-Req: COMM 1610)

News Production & Audiences - Choose **three** of the following courses:

	4	COMM 1535*	Basic Digital Photo*
	4	COMM 2530	Photojournalism (Pre-Req: COMM 1535)
	3	COMM 3510*	Web Design & Content Strategy*
	3	COMM 3520	Radio Journalism (Pre-Req: COMM 1130 or 1610)
	4	COMM 3530	Advanced Photography (Pre-Req: COMM 1535)
	3	COMM 3540	Introduction to Podcasting
	4	COMM 3560*	Video Production I*
	4	COMM 3600	Professional Editing and Design (Pre-Req: COMM 1130 or 1610)
	4	COMM 4560	Documentary Production (Pre-Req: COMM 3560)
	4	COMM 4570*	Visual Design & Editing*
	3	COMM 4610	Magazine Writing (Pre-Req: COMM 1130 or 1610)
	3	COMM 4650	Environmental Reporting (Pre-Req: WR2)
	3	COMM 4670	Specialty Reporting (Pre-Req: COMM 1130 or 1610)
	4	COMM 5555	Documentary Photography (Pre-Req: COMM 1535)
	3	COMM 5570	True Crime Podcasting
	3	COMM 5665	Social Media Journalism

	3	COMM 5685	Journalism and Public Trust
	3	COMM 5750	Streaming Life: Journalism, News, and Engaging Streaming Tech

These skills courses cannot double count in core and emphasis

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

	3-12	COMM 3610	Internship
	3	COMM 3920	Community Storytelling (Pre-Req: COMM 1610 and 3555)

Advanced - Complete the following **two** courses:

	4	COMM 5300	Mass Communication Law (Pre-Req: Senior Level)
	3	COMM 5660	Media Ethics

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

	3-4	COMM 4999	Honors Thesis/Project
	4	COMM 5775	Voices of Utah (Pre-Req: COMM 4555)
	3	COMM 5850	Adv Special Topics in Journalism (Pre OR Co-Req: COMM 3555 or 4555)

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

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