



Communication

2101D Skinner Building
(301) 405-0862

<http://www.comm.umd.edu/undergraduate/overview>

Key Features of a Communication Major

- Communication takes as its subject matter the history, processes, and effects of human communication through speech and its extensions such as writing.
- The departmental curriculum is designed to provide a liberal education in the arts and sciences of human communication as well as preparation for career opportunities in business, government, education, and related fields.
- Within the curriculum, students may pursue academic courses that emphasize many disciplinary areas, including organizational communication, public relations, intercultural communication, political communication, conflict management, cognition and persuasion, rhetorical theory, history of rhetoric, and criticism of public discourse.
- There are four distinct tracks you can choose as a major in Communication: Public Relations, Rhetoric & Political Culture, Social Influence, and Communication Studies

Career Options and Salaries with a Communication Major

Majoring in Communication provides specialized training in communication theory and practice as well as a solid liberal arts background for many careers. As a result, a Communication major will prepare you for employment in a variety of fields: public relations, advertising, corporate communication, human relations, broadcasting, and marketing. You may also find work with organizations such as schools, state/federal government, hospitals, newspapers, radio stations, public relations firms, libraries, banks, business and industry, television stations, or telecommunications organizations. If you intend to go to law school, a major in Communication will provide you with a solid foundation to succeed.

In May 2015, the median salary for Public Relations Specialists was \$56,770; for Advertising, Promotions, and Marketing Managers was \$124,850.

**Career and Salary information taken from http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm.*

Additional information on salaries and careers can be found through the University Career Center & The President's Promise: [Communication](#).

Advising

If you are considering a major in Communication and have questions, you may contact the Communication Department in several ways:

- 1) Walk-in Advising: visit any time during walk-in hours in 2101D Skinner Building. The advising schedule is available at <http://www.comm.umd.edu/undergraduate/advising>. Walk-in advising is limited to 10 minutes when others are waiting. If you need more than 10 minutes, please contact the office by phone to schedule an appointment for advising so that the advisor can give you the time that you need.
- 2) Phone: (301) 405-0862
- 3) Email: commadvising@umd.edu
- 4) Schedule an appointment online: umd.mywconline.net.

Declaring a Communication Major

Communication is a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP), which means students must apply for enrollment in the major after completing certain pre-requisite, or “Gateway,” courses. Students beyond their first semester and those off campus wishing to transfer are required to meet the following gateway criteria:

- 1) Complete one of the following courses with a grade of C- or better: BMGT 230, CCJS 200, PSYC 200, STAT 100, SOCY 201 or equivalent.
- 2) Complete one of the following courses with a grade of C- or better: COMM 107, COMM 200, or COMM 230.
- 3) COMM 250 with a grade of C- or better.
- 4) A minimum grade point average of 2.7 or above in all college coursework is required for all internal and external transfer students.

Please also note:

- External transfer students who attend an institution that does not offer COMM250: Introduction to Communication Inquiry, and who will earn 60 or more credits in the semester they apply, with a transfer GPA of 3.5 or higher, will be admitted directly to the major if they satisfy all other gateway requirements. These students must earn a grade of C- or higher in COMM250 during their first semester at UMD. If they fail to earn a grade of C- or higher, they must repeat the course in their second semester and earn a grade of C- or higher to remain in the major.
- **Only one gateway or performance review course may be repeated to earn the required grade and that course may only be repeated once. When more than one course can satisfy a gateway requirement, taking a second course from the list will count as a repeat. A “W” or withdrawal counts as one attempt at a course.**
- Students may apply only once to an LEP. Students who are directly admitted and fail to meet the performance review criteria will be dismissed from the major and may not reapply.
- Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the major.
- Any student denied admission or dismissed from the major may appeal directly to the Undergraduate Director in the Department of Communication.

Further information on applying to Limited Enrollment Programs can also be found at www.lep.umd.edu.

Declaration Process:

When students have completed the requirements listed above, they file an application to declare a major in Communication. This form is online: <http://www.admissions.umd.edu/apply/LEPApplication.php>

Students who are admitted to the Department of Communication have additional steps required to complete the change of major process:

- 1) Make an appointment and meet with an advisor in the **Communication Department** (see advising contact information above) to be advised on the curriculum and complete an updated four-year plan.
- 2) Complete the ARHU [Foreign Language Placement Assessment](#) (FLPA must be taken in a proctored environment if students are seeking exemption from [The Global Engagement Requirement](#)). Please note that students' majors will not be changed until they have an FLPT score on file or have satisfied prerequisites via AP credit or earned college credit.
- 3) Make an appointment to meet with an advisor in the **Arts and Humanities Office of Student Affairs** to be advised on University (Gen Ed/CORE) and College requirements and to be officially changed to the new major. Be sure to bring the "Academic Plan Checklist" form with your departmental advisor's signature and stamp to your appointment. To schedule an appointment, call 301-405-2108.

Communication 4 Year Plan (Gen Ed)

Communication Studies Concentration

First Year:

ENGL 101 (AW)	3
Gen Ed – MA	3
Gen Ed – HS	3
Gen Ed – OC	3
<u>ARHU 158</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Gen Ed – NS**	3
Gen Ed – AR	3
Gen Ed – HU**	3
COMM107, 200, or 230	3
<u>HESP120 or LING200</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Second Year:

Gen Ed – HU	3
COMM250	3
STAT requirement or elective	3
Global Engagement #1	3
<u>Elective 1xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Cognate #1	3
Gen Ed – SP #1**	3
COMM 400, 401, or 402	3
Global Engagement #2	3
<u>Elective 1xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Third Year:

Gen Ed – NL**	4
COMM 400, 401, or 402	3
COMM 3xx-4xx (Soc Influence track)	3
Cognate #2	3
<u>Elective 1xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits

History/Social Sciences—HS**	3
COMM 400, 401, or 402	3
COMM 3xx-4xx (Rhetoric track)	3
Cognate #3	3
<u>Elective 3xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Fourth Year:

ENGL39x (PW)	3
Gen Ed –SP #2**	3
COMM elective 1xx-4xx	3
COMM elective 3xx-4xx	3
<u>COMM elective 3xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

COMM elective 3xx-4xx	3
COMM elective 3xx-4xx	3
Elective 3xx-4xx	3
Elective 3xx-4xx	3
<u>Elective 3xx-4xx</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

Communication 4 Year Plan (CORE)

Communication Studies Concentration

First Year:

ENGL 101	3
MATH 111/STAT 100 (*MS)	3
CORE PL/LL	4
COMM 107/200/230	3
UNIV 100	1
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	14 credits

Stat. Analysis* (FM)	3
SB	3
CORE HL/HA/HO	3
COMM 250	3
SH	3
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	15 credits

Second Year:

CORE PS	3
Struc. Analysis***	3
HA/HL/HO	3
Language Req. #1	4
SB	3
	<hr/>
	16 credits

COMM 400	3
HL/HA/HO	3
Language Req. #2	4
Cognate	3
Elective	3
	<hr/>
	16 credits

Third Year:

COMM 401	3
COMM 3/4xx	3
ENGL 39x (PW)	3
Advanced Studies	3
Cognate	3
	<hr/>
	15 credits

COMM 402	3
COMM 3/4xx	3
Advanced Studies	3
Cognate	3
CORE D	3
	<hr/>
	15 credits

Fourth Year:

COMM 3/4xx	3
COMM 3/4xx	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	<hr/>
	15 credits

COMM 3/4xx	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	<hr/>
	15 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

* An approved Statistics Course (see list); STAT100 can fulfill the FM + Statistics requirement, plus a CORE Math Science (MS)

Note: Some courses for the major may also count toward the General Education requirements.

***For Structural Analysis, students choose from HESP 200, LING 200, or LING 240.

Q & A

COMM is a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP): What does that mean?

An LEP program means that there are admission requirements for the major, and a formal application must be filed for admittance. Students must satisfy admission requirements prior to becoming Communication majors. If you satisfy the admissions requirements you will be admitted.

I don't have 60 credits yet, but I've completed all of my COMM prerequisites for getting into the major. I also have the GPA I need. Still, I'm not sure I should declare COMM because I really like my LTSC advisor. Should I wait until I get to 60 credits to declare?

No. LTSC advisors really like seeing their students, but if you've got everything set for getting into COMM, or any major for that matter, you should declare as early as possible. It's essential that you receive advising from major advisors as soon as possible. While LTSC advisors know a lot about choosing majors and what it takes to declare majors across campus, they are not experts in planning for graduation. Declare as soon as possible. It's always okay to stay in touch with your LTSC advisor later and let them know how you are doing!

What if I'm adding COMM as a second major?

Students who plan to add COMM as a secondary (or new primary) major must obtain signatures and approvals on a double major form. In addition, the revision of the four-year plan will be built on the student's current four year plan, combining requirements of both majors and college(s).

Can I take COMM courses if I am not in the major?

Yes and no. The policy for courses listed on Testudo as "COMM majors only" courses such as COMM 400, 401, 402, 350, 450, and 231 are restricted from non-majors. Only after a student has been admitted into the major will electronic stamps for these "majors only" courses be given. Other courses such as COMM 107 and COMM 200 may be open to non-major students, depending on the availability.

I've heard that I can make an "appeal" to COMM if I don't have the GPA required for the major. Is it true I might be able to get into COMM with a 2.6?

Students may appeal admission decisions. However, you should note that exceptions are given in rare and extraordinary circumstances beyond a student's control. Admissions with a GPA lower than 2.7 are extremely rare.