Bachelor of Arts in Communication

Students majoring in Communication from the University of Colorado Denver can now complete all of the required courses for the BA degree online.

Program Description:
A major in Communication develops knowledge and skills that are required for many different fields, including advertising, business, international relations, education, public service, government and politics, health care, and public relations. Because college graduates are expected to change careers approximately seven times over the course of their lives, and because employers across a wide variety of fields primarily seek applicants with strong oral and written communication skills, a degree in communication is a versatile and timely choice.

Degree Requirements:
Students need 13 courses (39 credit hours of communication courses) to complete the major in Communication. At least 21 of the 39 hours must be upper division. Students must complete the four core courses shown below (12 credits); eight courses from among the Pathways listings (24 credits), and one exit course (3 credits). The department advises students to take COMM 1011 as early as scheduling permits. None of the required 39 hours may be taken on a pass/fail basis. Only courses completed with a grade of C (2.0) or above may be counted toward the major. Students planning to major in Communication must consult with an advisor as soon as possible.

Required Entrance Courses: (12 credit hours)

COMM 1001 – Public Speaking
3 credit hours
Theory and practice of presentational speaking in a variety of contexts to accomplish goals of asserting individuality, building community, securing adherence, discovering knowledge and belief, and offering perspectives.

COMM 1011 – Fundamentals of Communication
3 credit hours
Studies communication theory and application. Topics include communication models, interpersonal communication and the concept of self, nonverbal communication, message preparation and analysis, and decision making.

COMM 1021 – Introduction to Media Studies
3 credit hours
Explores the role of contemporary media in shaping our sense of ourselves and our world. The class surveys a broad array of critical approaches to understanding media.

COMM 2020 – Communication, Citizenship, and Social Justice
3 credit hours
Introduction to debates about, and means of practicing citizenship and social justice in America. Issues may include democratic participation, electoral politics, community activism, inequality, and environmental degradation.
Pathways: (24 credit hours)
Below are seven of the eight online courses you’ll need. For the eighth course, you can select from the other Pathways listings offered online in the future.

COMM 1041 – Interpersonal Communication
3 credit hours
Focuses on the theory and development of interpersonal relationships. Issues covered include the communication process, self versus others, self-esteem, person perception, the attraction process, nonverbal communication, relationship development and family communication.

COMM 2045 – Workplace Communication
3 credit hours
Focuses on theories and practices of leadership, teambuilding, relationship development and other workplace communication skills. The goal of the course is to help students develop advanced communication strategies for managing workplace challenges.

COMM TBD – Introduction to Journalism
3 credit hours
Introduction to the field of journalism that covers style, research, and the legal rights and limits of journalists.

COMM 3271 – Communication and Diversity
3 credit hours
Explores the complexities of communication across diverse identities such as race, ethnicity, and gender. Course attempts to seek solutions via sharing meaning and discovering common ground.

COMM TBD – Media Writing Skills
3 credit hours
Instruction in writing and editing skills associated with the production of print, radio, television and film.

COMM TBD – Advertising
3 credit hours
Focuses on the basics of advertising, from creative (design and copy), to media placement and budgets, to research and tracking.

COMM TBD – Public Relations
3 credit hours
Examines key public relations practices in private, not-for-profit and public sectors. Strategic planning processes, research methods, evaluation, reports, and collateral development are addressed, with an emphasis on the intersection of theory and practice.

One Required Exit Class. Choose From: (3 credit hours)
COMM 3939 – Internships
Applies communication or technical communication concepts and skills in supervised employment situations. Prereq: Junior standing and 2.75 GPA

COMM 4550/5550 – Rhetoric of Medicine and Health
This senior seminar/bridge class investigates persuasion in contemporary medicine/health care from clinical settings through mass media. Case studies explore contagion, health policy, the body, death, and biopower. The course requires extensive discussion of readings and an original research project.

Program Contact:
Michelle Medal: Michelle.Medal@ucdenver.edu
General CLAS Contact:
Email: CLAS@ucdenver.edu  Phone: (303) 556-8304

CU Online Contact:
CU Online Helpdesk Staff: cuonlinehelp@ucdenver.edu