Communication Studies

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To find faculty and staff phone numbers and email addresses, please consult the University Directory.

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Program Description
The Department of Communication Studies at Dixie State University promotes ethical practices of all forms of communication particularly within the academic areas of human communication and a degree completion program in organizational communication and leadership. Students receive training in ethics, leadership, critical thinking, and effective interaction skills. Guided by theory and application, students are trained to produce and critically interpret human communication messages through the design, production, and delivery of oral and written communication. The department also houses the Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society, an honor society recognized by the National Communication Association.

What is the Study of Communication?
The study of Communication explores how people use messages to generate meanings within and across various contexts, cultures, and channels. The field promotes the effective and ethical practice of human interaction. Communication students are usually those who are creative, intelligent, and highly motivated. Communication majors receive the preparation and hands-on training required for lifelong careers in one of hundreds of desirable jobs that shape the nation’s culture. There are four Communication Studies emphases at DSU:

Communication Studies (no emphasis):
Communication Studies examines traditional face-to-face interactions between people, among groups, and in public speaking settings. The Communication Studies degree allows students to master multiple facets of communication including organizational, interpersonal, and public contexts. This degree educates students in research methods and provides opportunities for students to conduct their own research.

Communication Studies - Health Communication Emphasis

Communication Studies - Applied Leadership Emphasis

Organization & Leadership:
The BS in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Organization and Leadership is a cohort program for working professionals. This emphasis is specifically designed to provide evening classes in a concentrated linear format. Due to the unique nature of the Organization and Leadership program, students are encouraged to contact the current advisor for further information.

Course Prefix
• COMM

Degrees & Certificates
• Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/communication/bachelor_of_science_in_communication_studies)
• Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies - Applied Leadership Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/communication/bachelor_of_science_in_communication_studies_applied_leadership_emphasis)
• Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies - Health Communication Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/communication/bachelor_of_science_in_communication_studies_health_communication_emphasis)
• Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies – Organization & Leadership Emphasis (degree completion program) (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/communication/bachelor_of_science_in_communication_studies_org_leadership_emphasis)*
• Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies - Communication Studies Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_science/bachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_communication_emphasis)
• Minor in Communication Studies (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/communication/communication_minor)

Admission Requirements

Students must be admitted to Dixie State University including submitting previous college transcripts to the Registrar’s Office before they will be considered for admission to the Communication Studies program. Departmental approval is required prior to formally declaring communication as a major. Students are admitted to the Communication Studies baccalaureate program upon completion of the following admission requirements:

1. Cumulative GPA of 2.0 (C) or higher
2. Completion of a Communication Studies Program admission application
3. Consultation with a Communication Studies Advisor

Students may self-declare “pre-Communication Studies” (BS-CMST-P) as their major before completing the consultation with a Communication Advisor.

Advisement

Students will consult with the Communication Department advisor who will review the student’s current academic status, explain degree requirements, and assist in creating a degree completion plan. Students must submit a program admission application with their advisor to declare a major. Upon nearing degree completion, the student must again meet with the advisor to go over the graduation checklist and sign the graduation audit. Advisors provide an important resource in helping to stay on track toward academic goals throughout the Communication course of study.

Academic Requirements

To remain in the Communication baccalaureate program, students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 (C) or better. Students are also required to achieve not less than a C in each lower- and upper-division core communication class. If a student does not achieve this level in any core class, s/he will be required to take it again until the standard is met.

Communication Studies Career Information

Career Strategies

In addition to the required coursework, students can do the following to enhance their career opportunities:

• Gain relevant experience through internships or related part-time employment
• Network with individuals currently working in their field of interest
• Enhance opportunities develop listening skills, critical thinking, and communication both written and oral.

Career Opportunities

Human Communication graduates are high in demand in most industries because students leave the degree with the ability to write well, think critically, and work well individually and in teams. A brief sampling of possible careers includes:

The Communication Studies degree, with its practice-driven interactive skills, is applicable for multiple professions:

Examples (http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/communication-studies) include:

• Career Advancement
• Leadership in Profit and Non-Profit Organizations
• Case worker/Counseling
• Motivational Speaker and Speech Writer
• Human Resource Manager
• Healthcare Administration
• Project Management

Job Outlook

Employment in human communication occupations is expected to increase by 11% over the next decade.
Salary Range


Organization & Leadership Career Information

Career Strategies

In addition to the required coursework, students can do the following to enhance their career opportunities:

• Gain relevant experience through internships or related part-time employment
• Network with individuals currently working in their field of interest
• Develop listening, writing, and oral communication skills
• Develop strong computer application skills

Career Opportunities

Organization and leadership graduates are high in demand in most industries because students leave the degree with the ability to write well, think critically, and work well on an individual basis and in teams. A brief sampling of possible careers includes:

The Organization & Leadership emphasis, with its practice-driven interactive skills, is applicable for multiple professions:

Examples (http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/communication-studies) include:

• Career Advancement
• Leadership in Profit and Non-Profit Organizations
• Case worker/Counseling
• Motivational Speaker and Speech Writer
• Human Resource Manager
• Healthcare Administration
• Project Management

Job Outlook

Employment in organizational leadership occupations is expected to increase by 11% over the next decade.

Salary Range


* Career information from the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understands the fundamental & primary theoretical traditions of human communication study.

2. Understands and practices ethical communication in personal and professional activities.

3. Explains in own words and illustrates how fundamental human communication concepts and theories can be used to understand communication behaviors in a variety of contexts: small groups, organizations, interpersonal relationships, and public discourse.

4. Formulates and delivers effective messages integrating knowledge, skills, and values in oral presentations with a variety of purposes including informing, persuading, entertaining, and celebrating.

5. Applies elements of sound reasoning and critical thinking when communicating interpersonally, in small groups and organizations, and in public discourse.

6. Practices effective communication for intercultural settings, demonstrating cross-cultural communication knowledge and skills.
Courses

COMM 1001. FYE: Communication. 1 Hour.
A First Year Experience seminar designed to help students majoring in Communication and Media Studies adapt to college life and become integrated into Dixie State University and the Communication department. Students will refine academic skills, create and foster social networks, learn about college resources, explore different options available within the departments, and learn about career opportunities in our degree programs. Multiple listed with all other sections of First Year Experience (all 1001 courses, ENGR 1000). Students may only take one FYE course for credit. FA.

COMM 1010. Elements of Effective Communication. 3 Hours.
Required for all Communication Studies minors, but open to all students. Introduction to the theory and practice of communication in interpersonal, small group, organizational, and public settings. Includes essential theories through practical experience, including language use, nonverbal communication, organizational structure and practices, persuasion, and presenting. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 1020. Public Speaking. 3 Hours.
Required for Communication Studies majors, but open to all students. Speaking and presenting in front of audiences occurs in almost every career field. This course is for any student with an interest in learning and improving these skills by preparing, outlining, organizing, and presenting various types of speeches, including introductory, informational, persuasive, and others. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 1050. Introduction to Communication Theory (SS, GC). 3 Hours.
Fulfills General Education Social & Behavioral Sciences and is an approved Global & Cultural Perspectives course. Required of all Communication Studies and Media Studies majors, and open to all students. Survey of basic issues, theories, concepts, and perspectives in the study of communication, including knowledge of the various contexts of communication and how they differ from each other. Students develop critical thinking and analytical skills; improve listening and observational skills; increase problem solving capabilities; gain insight into their own paradigms and the paradigms of others; and learn how to communicate effectively with others of varying beliefs, values, and cultures in a variety of contexts. FA, SP.

COMM 1270. Critical Thinking and Communicating. 3 Hours.
Required for all Communication Studies majors, and is open to other interested students. The goal of this course is to examine fundamental elements of reasoning, define and apply intellectual standards, and develop analytical-thinking about the world around us. An important focus is given to open other systems of thinking to ideas between disciplines, as well as to understand different perspectives in a diverse and global society. How we think and respond to a variety of issues and situations is essential to problem solving, effective interpersonal communication, professional development and success, and productive engagement in our community and civic lives. FA, SP.

COMM 2020R. Forensics Institute. 3 Hours.
For students enrolled in the Sun Country Forensics Institute summer workshop seeking to enhance their Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and/or individual event debate knowledge and skills. Repeatable up to 6 credits subject to graduation restrictions.

COMM 2110. Interpersonal Communication (SS, GC). 3 Hours.
Fulfills General Education Social & Behavioral Sciences, and is an approved Global and Cultural Perspectives course. Required of all Communication Studies majors, but open to all students. Focuses on communication skills in a wide range of interpersonal areas appropriate to business or personal relationships, and involving initiating, developing, maintaining, and controlling the deterioration of relationships, with emphasis on listening, assertiveness, supportive climates, conflict, power management, and disclosure. Introduces the special needs of intercultural communication, and prepares students to effectively express ideas in one-to-one settings. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 2120. Small Group Communication. 3 Hours.
Required for all Communication Studies majors, but open to all students interested in small group communication in familial, work, social, religious, civic, or educational environments. Covers the formal and unspoken rules of conduct, roles, and expectations of performance unique to each group, as well as how to function productively in small group settings. Also reviews criteria for effective group decision-making. FA, SP.

COMM 2120. Interpersonal Communication (SS, GC). 3 Hours.
Fulfills General Education Social & Behavioral Sciences, and is an approved Global and Cultural Perspectives course. Required of all Communication Studies majors, but open to all students. Focuses on communication skills in a wide range of interpersonal areas appropriate to business or personal relationships, and involving initiating, developing, maintaining, and controlling the deterioration of relationships, with emphasis on listening, assertiveness, supportive climates, conflict, power management, and disclosure. Introduces the special needs of intercultural communication, and prepares students to effectively express ideas in one-to-one settings. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 2700. Voice and Civility in Public Discourse. 3 Hours.
Required for Communication Studies majors, but open to all interested students. This course has two primary objectives applicable to all students. First, the course surveys theoretical frameworks for examining public discourse through lenses that identify the mass communication appeals used in democratic societies and capitalistic markets. Second, the course assists students in developing their own civil voice as citizen-consumers through adopting a critical eye on public discourse. Using a case-study approach, students learn to identify and analyze rhetorical appeals in free speech, social movements, mass media, the news industry, advertising, art, entertainment, and popular culture. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 2710. Communication Principles of Mentorship. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, required in the Applied Leadership emphasis, and open to all students. Explores the role of communication in mentoring relationships to prepare students for mentoring roles. Applies practice and theory from a variety of core communication courses. Through experiential learning, students will employ mentoring skills and discover best practices for successful mentoring relationships. Further, students will identify how mentorship skills facilitate leadership skills relating to presentation, nonverbal communication, collaboration and persuasive strategies. FA.
COMM 3010. Nonverbal Communication. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, but open to all students. Course considers the role that non-verbal behavior plays in communication and miscommunication. Students identify and analyze communicative acts involving self-monitoring and interpretation of others’ behaviors (e.g., eye contact, body language, facial expression) in an effort to increase students’ communication and behavior-related skills and apply these skills in social and professional contexts. Prerequisite: COMM 2110. FA.

COMM 3060. Communication Theory. 3 Hours.
Required for Communication Studies majors, but open to all students. Develops awareness, understanding, and application of the complex theories and concepts inherent in the study of Communication. Focuses on theoretical, conceptual, and applied research and scholarship that investigates ways in which people communicate, the consequences of those interactions, and the application of those theories and concepts to everyday life. Prerequisite: COMM 1050. FA, SP.

COMM 3120. Family Communication. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, and other interested students. Study of the complexities and influences of the family structure as representative of culture. This includes communication structure, interaction patterns, parenthood, abuse, conflict, family goals of finance and education, and dealing with rapid changes in restructuring when people enter and leave the family unit. Covers family interactions from the first meeting of partners to the final stages of life. Prerequisite: COMM 2110 or Instructor Permission. FA, SP.

COMM 3150. Lying and Deception. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, and other interested students. Addresses what research identifies as an increase in deception in all aspects of human affairs. Students will identify the differences between whole truths, half-truths, expedient momentary acts of deception, and how these acts inform culture, while exploring the consequences of deception in human affairs and the ethical violations that accompany these acts. Prerequisite: COMM 2110. FA.

COMM 3180. Provider and Patient Relations. 3 Hours.
For Communications Studies majors, required in the Health Communication emphasis, and open to all students interested in health, wellness, and medicine, professionally or personally. An examination of effective theories, frameworks, techniques and interventions used to develop effective communication between health and wellness providers and their patients. FA.

COMM 3190. Intercultural Communication (SS, GC). 3 Hours.
This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences and is an approved Global and Cultural Perspectives course. Required of Communication Studies majors, and open to all other interested students. Develops cross-cultural, global understanding, cultural sensitivity, and perspective-taking. Focuses on theoretical and conceptual immersion in extant cross-cultural research and scholarship. Includes various forms and formats of media, culturally sensitive audience analysis, increased diversity sensitivity and understanding, as well as design and delivery of messages that are culturally appropriate and effective via traditional channels and new media technologies. Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior Standing. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 3200. Community Health Communication. 3 Hours.
Required for Communication Studies majors in the Health Communication emphasis, and satisfies upper division electives for General Communication Studies degree. Open to all students interested in health, wellness, and medicine, professionally or personally. A discussion-driven course that considers various community and public health topics and issues, analyzes contributing factors and connections, and explores the role we play, as both citizens and professionals, in overall health and wellness of our societies. Also includes an examination of communication theories, frameworks, and data used to develop effective community health communication strategies such as campaigns, interventions, health education efforts, and public health initiatives SP.

COMM 3230. Health Communication. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, required in the health communication emphasis, and open to all students interested in health, wellness, and medicine, professionally or personally. While patient-provider communication is important, it doesn't occur in a "vacuum." This course acknowledges and explores the overlapping and mutually-influential situations that affect our physical, mental, and social health, and surveys the many areas of theory and research on, and influence of, health communication in many contexts. The course considers health communication in the areas of: medical and provider relations, family interactions, social support, health systems and policy, organizations, diversity and culture, and media—of which individually and collectively affect health beliefs, behaviors, and outcomes. Dual listed with HLOC 3230 (students may take only one course for credit). FA, SP.

COMM 3330. Negotiations and Bargaining. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, required in the Applied Leadership emphasis, and open to any interested students. Explores the processes and outcomes of negotiation and bargaining principles, theories, and related concepts by engaging in experiential opportunities in which students apply those principles and gain skills in negotiation and bargaining in current social and professional settings. Includes professional guest speakers. Prerequisite: COMM 1270. SP.
COMM 3350. Interviewing. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, and any interested students wishing to learn and apply effective interviewing techniques, whether on the interviewer or interviewee side. Focuses upon dyadic communication conducted specifically for gathering information and seeking entrance into closed workplaces, clubs, social, educational, or recreational groups. SP.

COMM 3400. Gender Communication. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors and all other interested students. Students learn, analyze, and apply theories and research on the verbal and nonverbal interactions between men and women to encourage the development of communication skills between genders so that interpersonal and professional interactions are more successful and effective. Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior Standing. FA, SP.

COMM 3460. Critical and Rhetorical Analysis. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, and open to all students interested in improving their critical evaluation of public communication. Designed to enable students to be responsible consumers of public messages through introduction of the criticism of communication messages and media. Students will be introduced to the analysis of public address advertising, television, film, and literature as sites for critique. Introduces students to a range of methodological approaches to analyzing messages in linguistic and critical traditions. SP.

COMM 3510. Ethics in Communication. 3 Hours.
Required of all Communication Studies majors, and open to all other interested students. Requires students to become well-informed about communication strategies and skills that will develop an ethical sensitivity applicable to all walks of life through an intensive examination and evaluation of how well or how poorly ethical standards are formed, articulated, applied, and defended in communication efforts. Prerequisite: COMM 1010 OR COMM 2110. FA, SP.

COMM 3550. Organizational Communication. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, and all other interested students. Especially complementary to business students or those who seek leadership positions during their careers. Examines organizational communication theories and concepts in detail, particularly with a view toward modern applications within a range of current professional settings. Course will advance students' abilities to understand the dynamics of communication within and across organizations, apply appropriate theories and concepts in analyses of intra- and inter-organizational interactions, and evaluate human behavior in large groups, comprehend organizational policies, and the positive and negative consequences of communication decisions within businesses and other organizations.

COMM 3580. Organizational Communication and System Dynamics. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, required in the Applied Leadership emphasis, and open to all interested students. Especially complementary to business or communication students or those who seek leadership positions during their careers. Focuses on complex processes inherent in organizations, including theoretical, conceptual, and applied research and scholarship that reviews why organizations succeed and why they fail, especially how organizations come to be, analysis of organizations to identify strengths and weaknesses, and identification of successful personal roles. Offers insights into organizational structure and cross-communicative patterns within organizations as well as an understanding of organizations from a Systems Dynamics perspective. SP.

COMM 3990. Special Topics in Communication. 0.5-3 Hours.
Open to all students. Course that offers rotating special topics from faculty. Students may also request instruction on an area or topic that is not available through other regularly scheduled courses in the Communication Studies discipline. Whether proposed by faculty or students, the seminar course must first be pre-approved by the department chair. It also must provide at least nine contact hours of lab or lecture for each credit offered, and it must include some academic project or paper (i.e., credit is not given for attendance alone). This course may include standard lectures, travel and field trips, guest speakers, laboratory exercises, or other traditional or nontraditional instruction methods. Note that this course fulfills Communication Studies emphasis electives or general upper division elective hours. Fees may be required for some seminar courses and instructor permission will be optional at the request of the instructor.

COMM 4010. Persuasion. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, required in the Health Communication emphasis, and open to all other students interested in learning to persuade. Develops awareness, understanding, and application of critical thinking and persuasive message design to achieve intended persuasive effects on specific audiences. Focuses on rhetorical, social scientific, conceptual, and applied research and scholarship that explores both traditional and modern persuasive processes in both oral and written persuasive messages. Critical thinking skills are developed through analysis of audiences and positional arguments and their construction. Prerequisite: COMM 1270. FA, SP.

COMM 4020. Integrated Oral Presentations. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, and other interested students. Develops theory-based skills integrating public speaking with technology by expanding presentational skills and message impact through production and incorporation of electronic images. Successful completers will understand integrated delivery strategies and develop a technological foundation to support this sophisticated form of public speaking. Prerequisite: COMM 1020. FA.

COMM 4030. Applied Organizational Communication Research. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors and open to all students. Examines modern research initiatives in organizational communication theories and concepts in detail, particularly with a view toward modern applications within a range of current professional settings. Students will design and implement original research emerging from case study. Successful completers will increase their abilities to apply appropriate theories and concepts in analyses of organizations, human behavior, organizational policies and their consequences. Prerequisite: COMM 4450.
COMM 4050. Leadership and High Performance Teams. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, required in the Applied Leadership emphasis, and open to all interested students. Emphasizes development of teamwork and the principles of high performance teams, including conceptualization and practice of the many types of leadership and their effective applications. Successful students will increase skills and understanding of group processes and leadership dynamics within groups. Prerequisite: COMM 2120. SP.

COMM 4450. Communication Research. 3 Hours.
Required for Communication and Media Studies majors. Focuses on Communication-specific quantitative, qualitative, and critical research methodologies through a process of Communication research design and analysis. Prerequisite: COMM 3060 or MDIA 3060 (can be concurrently enrolled). FA, SP.

COMM 4490. Communication and Contemporary Public Issues. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors and open to any other interested students. An analysis of public issues that currently dominate public communication and the media landscape, including the impact of effective communication. Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing. SP.

COMM 4500. Communication and Conflict. 3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors, required in the Applied Leadership emphasis, and open to all students. Explores the theoretical and conceptual foundations of conflict, primarily at the interpersonal, dyadic level, as well as the sources, types, and outcomes of their application. Successful students will increase awareness of the sources of conflict and demonstrate skill development in resolution techniques, as well as be able to apply this awareness and skill to their personal and professional relationships with others. Prerequisite: COMM 2110 or instructor approval. FA, SP.

COMM 4890R. Directed Study. 1-3 Hours.
For Communication Studies majors with advanced standing who wish to pursue a specific focus of study related to their degree emphasis and/or research interest not otherwise available in the current Communication Studies curriculum. Students and faculty work closely to design and set successful completion goals for the course, which is dependent upon a formal contractual arrangement with the faculty member that is submitted at the beginning of the semester in which coursework is undertaken. The proposed course is contingent upon the department chair’s approval. Students are required meet the college requirement of 45 hours of work per credit. Variable credit 1.0 - 3.0. Repeatable up to 9 credits. Prerequisites: Communication major, and Instructor permission. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 4900R. Communication Internship. 3 Hours.
Required for all Communication Studies and Media Studies majors. Designed to integrate students into professional communication environments to increase competencies and initiate networking. Potential environments include broadcast and feature motion picture production, corporate and business communication, public relations, journalism, etc. Repeatable up to 6 credits subject to graduation restrictions. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 4980. Senior Seminar. 4 Hours.
Required for all Communication Studies & Media Studies majors. Students complete a culminating scholarly project (research, production, etc.) that allows students to demonstrate competency in, and application of, communication knowledge and skills. Through the Capstone Project (final project) students will demonstrate the achievement of the Communication Department Learning Objectives. Students will work with an instructor to complete appropriate documentation of the project (for example, paper, peer reviewed presentation, public editorial approval, etc.). Prerequisite: COMM 4450 or Instructor permission. FA, SP, SU.

COMM 4990. Seminar in Communication. 0.5-3 Hours.
Open to all students. Course offers rotating special topics from faculty. Students may also request instruction on an area or topic that is not available through other regularly scheduled courses in the Communication Studies discipline. Whether proposed by faculty or students, the seminar course must first be pre-approved by the department chair. It also must provide at least nine contact hours of lab or lecture for each credit offered, and it must include some academic project or paper (i.e., credit is not given for attendance alone). This course may include standard lectures, travel and field trips, guest speakers, laboratory exercises, or other traditional or nontraditional instruction methods. Note that this course and only fulfills upper division elective hours. Fees may be required for some seminar courses and instructor permission will be optional at the request of the instructor.