

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 two Communication degree options at DSU:

Communication Studies:

Human communication studies traditional face-to-face interactions between people, among groups, and in public speaking settings. The human communication emphasis allows students to master multiple facets of human communication such as: organizational communication, interpersonal communication, and public communication. This emphasis educates students in research methods and provides opportunities for students to conduct their own research.

Organization & Leadership:

The organization and leadership degree is a cohort program for working professionals. The Organization and Leadership emphasis is specifically designed to provide an evening curriculum 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 or Arts/Science in Integrated Studies - Communication Studies Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_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 2.5 (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 2.5 (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 *

Earning potential varies by industry and position. For salary information by occupation, visit the Occupational Outlook Handbook on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh>) website.

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:

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Job Outlook *

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

Salary Range *

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* 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.