COMMUNICATIONS, B.A. (ALTOONA)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Altoona

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts in Communications, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

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3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

Code   Title                                           Credits
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

COM 100N The Mass Media and Society                    3
COM 150N The Art of the Cinema                         3
COM 260W News Writing and Reporting                    3
COM 490                                              3

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 12 credits from the following, including 6 credits at the 400-level:

COM 1 Newspaper Practicum
COM 2 Newspaper Editorial Staff
COM 215 Basic Photography for Communications
COM 241 Graphic Design for Communications
COM 242 Basic Video/Filmmaking
COM 251 The Nature of Media
COM 269 Photojournalism
COM 270 Introduction to Multimedia Production
COM 282 Television Field Production
COM 283 Television Studio Production
COM 296 Independent Studies
COM 337 Intermediate Documentary Production
COM 339 Intermediate Alternative Production
COM 346 Writing for the Screen I

COM 360 Radio Reporting
COM 374 Audio Production
COM 415 Advanced Photography for Communications
COM 421W Advertising Creative Strategies
COM 436 Advanced Audio Production
COM 439 Advanced Alternative Production (max 6 credits)
COM 448 Advanced Group Production I
COM 460W Reporting Methods
COM 461 Magazine Writing
COM 462 Feature Writing
COM 467 News Editing and Evaluation
COM 468 Graphic Applications in Print Communications
COM 469 Photography for the Mass Media
COM 471 Public Relations Media and Methods
COM 472 Public Relations Event Planning
COM 481 Advanced Multimedia Production
COM 495 Internship
COM 496 Independent Studies

Select 12 credits from the following, including 6 credits at the 400-level:

COM 110 Media and Democracy
COM 180 Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications
COM 190 Gaming and Interactive Media
COM 205 Gender, Diversity and the Media
COM 250 Film History and Theory
COM 251 The Nature of Media
COM 261 The Literature of Journalism
COM 292 Introduction to Media & Politics
COM 294 Research Project Courses
COM 296 Independent Studies
COM 320 Introduction to Advertising
COM 370 Public Relations
COM 401 Mass Media in History
COM 403 Law of Mass Communications
COM 408 Cultural Foundations of Communications
COM 409 News Media Ethics
COM 411 Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media
COM 412 Sports, Media and Society
COM 413W The Mass Media and the Public
COM 417 Ethics and Regulation in Advertising and Public Relations
COM 431 Topics in Television Culture and Communication
COM 451 Topics in American Film
COM 452 Topics in International Cinema
COM 454 Documentary in Film and Television
COM 494 Research Project Courses
COM 496 Independent Studies

Select 6 credits from the following:

COM 470A Convergent Media News Service: Newspaper Production
COM 470B Convergent Media News Service: TV
General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)
- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Integrative Studies
- Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

Exploration
- GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student’s degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements
Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.