COMMUNICATION, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Program Description
The B.A. major in Communication offers a liberal arts background with emphasis in mass media studies and corporate communication. It prepares students for careers in corporate communication, print and broadcast journalism, multi-media and video production, and advertising/public relations by providing an interdisciplinary study of spoken, written, visual, and technically mediated messages.

What is Communication?
Communications is an academic discipline that deals with the creation and distribution of mass communication messages through media such as books, newspapers, television, radio, film, video games and the internet. Mass communications use writing, photographs, video and interactive content to give information or influence the audience. Communications also concerns the study of how we communicate in different ways with diverse audiences through marketing, advertising, public relations, journalism, film and other media.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You’re the first on board when a social media app is released.
- You can envision yourself presenting creative ideas across multiple communication platforms.
- You welcome the challenges of working with new technology and new communication mediums.

Entrance to Major
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/semester_classification.cfm).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major)

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

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0-3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 0-3 credits of GA courses in the Journalism/Media Productions (Multimedia Area).

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned.

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 (http://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.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 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). 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.

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.

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.

Program Learning Objectives
1. Educate students to be problem solvers who are especially strong in oral and written communication.
2. Encourage students’ analytical and creative skills in order that they will be prepared to address a wide variety of challenges in their professional lives.
3. Prepare students for lifelong productive careers which may include graduate studies, communication professions or corporate leadership.

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 15 credits (at least 9 credits at the 400 level) of supporting coursework, from departmental list 1

In consultation with an academic adviser, students will select 6-9 credits from 2 of 3 Concentrations:
1. Communication Studies
2. Strategic Communication
3. Journalism/Media Production

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of...
both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

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Suggested Academic Plan
The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2019-20 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Erie Campus
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Plans or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year
Course | Credits | Spring | Credits | Fall
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
World Language (Level One) | 4 | General Education | 3 | General Education
General Education | 3 | General Education | 3 | ENGL 15
General Education | 3 | Other Cultures selection | 3 | First Year Seminar
First Year Seminar | 1 | World Language (Level Two) | 4 | Media Communication Selection†
Media Communication Selection† | 3 | COMM 1 (or COMM 2 or COMM 3 or COMM 4)† | 1 | 17
17
Second Year
Course | Credits | Spring | Credits | Fall
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
COMM 160 | 1 | ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 2020‡ | 3 | General Education
General Education | 3 | General Education | 3 | General Education
General Education | 3 | BA Knowledge Domains | 3 | World Language (Level Three)
World Language (Level Three) | 4 | General Education | 1.5 | CAS 100A or 100B‡
CAS 100A or 100B‡ | 3 | Humanities Selection | 3 | Total Credits 121

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
†† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:
US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:
Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. See your
adviser and the Degree Requirements section (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures).

1 Arts Selection (GA)
2 GD 100 Recommended

Additional Notes
*For the Media Communications Selection, students may select from CAS 101, CAS 175, COMM 100, COMM 110, COMM 118, COMM 168 or COMM 180.

Career Paths
The B.A. in Communication prepares you for careers in corporate communication, print and broadcast journalism, social media management, advertising, public relations, and media production. You’ll practice your craft by writing, editing, or serving as a photographer for The Behrend Beacon newspaper, or writing, producing, or hosting a show on BVZ Radio or PSB-TV. Penn State Behrend has a comprehensive support system to help you identify and achieve your goals for college and beyond. Meet with your academic adviser often and take advantage of the services offered by the Academic and Career Planning Center beginning in your first semester.

Careers
Because it is a diverse and practical field of study, Penn State Behrend Communication alumni pursue a wide variety of careers. Our graduates include public relations directors, account executives, marketing managers, teachers, broadcasters, writers, journalists, pastors, coaches, professional videographers and photographers, and sports information directors.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE COMMUNICATION PROGRAM (http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/academic-programs/communication)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies
A B.A. in Communication can be the starting point for graduate-level education in more specialized fields, including journalism, fine-art photography or photojournalism, integrated marketing communication, strategic communications, digital media, communication or media studies, and education at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary level.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/academic-programs/communication)

Professional Resources
- American Communications Association (http://www.americancomm.org)
- Association for Women in Communications (http://www.womcom.org)
- International Association of Business Communicators (https://www.iabc.com)

- Public Relations Society of America (https://www.prsa.org)
- Society of Professional Journalists (https://www.spj.org)

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