COMMUNICATION, B.A. (BEHREND)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Erie

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).

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.

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.

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 (http://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
CAS 204 Communication Research Methods          3
CAS 303 Communication Theory                     3
COMM 160 Basic News Writing Skills               1
COMM 251 The Nature of Media                     3
COMM 315 Applications for Media Writing          3
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
CAS 212 Professional Public Speaking             3
or CAS 252 Business and Professional Communication 3
COMM 271N Intercultural Communication            3
or COMM 410 International Mass Communications    3
COMM 242 Basic Video/Filmmaking                  3
or COMM 270 Introduction to Multimedia Production 3
COMM 494 Research Project Courses                3
or COMM 495 Internship                           3

Select 3 credits of the following: 3
- CAS 101N Introduction to Human Communication
- CAS 175 Persuasion and Propaganda
- COMM 100N The Mass Media and Society
- COMM 110 Media and Democracy
- COMM 118 Introduction to Media Effects
- COMM 150N The Art of the Cinema
- COMM 168 American Journalism: Values, Traditions, and Practices
- COMM 180 Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications

Select 2 credits of the following: 2
- COMM 1 Newspaper Practicum
- COMM 2 Newspaper Editorial Staff
- COMM 3 Radio Practicum
- COMM 4 Television Practicum

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

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

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.)
- 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 (http://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.