COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES, B.A. (BERKS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Berks

Program Description
This major provides increased understanding and practice in the ways humans use symbols to influence people and the world around them. The ability to communicate effectively with others in personal, social, work, and multicultural situations is essential in modern society. A student of Communication Arts and Sciences will learn to critically, analyze and solve problems, understand and manage conflict, argue persuasively, influence people, form and keep relationships, give effective presentations, and participate in the civic and political life of a community. The flexibility of the program offers preparation for a variety of careers such as administration, law, business, health, and human services fields. A CAS degree also lends itself well to a concurrent degree program in which students prepare themselves in several fields of study.

What is Communications Arts and Sciences?
Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS) is committed to the study, teaching, and practice of human communication for the betterment of Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world. Using methods and theories that span the humanities and social sciences, we create knowledge about the role of communication in diverse interpersonal, communal, national, international, and cultural settings. Our research is integral to our educational mission: to promote greater understanding of and facility with oral, written, and nonverbal communication.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You want to learn about the importance of human communication from a combination of social scientific and humanistic perspectives.
- You want to learn how to craft effective messages for different audiences.
- You want to develop analytic and critical thinking skills in order to understand how messages influence audiences.
- You want to acquire theories, methods, and practical tools to understand the roots of social conflict and help change them through improved practices of communication.

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 Arts and Sciences, a minimum of 124 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

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 (http://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.

**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
--- | --- | ---
CAS 204 | Communication Research Methods | 3
CAS 301 | Rhetorical Theory | 3
CAS 303 | Communication Theory | 3

### Additional Courses
Select 3 credits of skills courses of the following:
- Interpersonal Communication | 3
- Persuasive Speaking | 3
- Speech Writing | 3
- Argumentation | 3
- Practical Parliamentary Procedure | 3
- Small Group Communication | 3
- Business and Professional Communication | 3
- Intercultural Communication | 3
- Storytelling and Speaking | 3
- Communication and Information Technology I | 3

Select 3 credits of 300-level courses of the following:
- Social Influence | 3
- Methods of Rhetorical Criticism | 3
- Rhetoric and Law | 3
- Organizational Communication | 3
- The Rhetorics of War and Peace | 3
- Rhetoric and Public Controversy | 3
- Culture and Technology | 3
- Special Topics | 3
- Foreign Studies | 3

### Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 15 credits of other CAS courses; at least 12 credits must be at the 400 level

1. A maximum of 6 credits from CAS 494, CAS 495, CAS 496, and CAS 499 may satisfy this requirement. CAS 126 and CAS 195 may not be counted as part of the major.

### Program Learning Objectives
1. Appreciation for the significance of communication in everyday experience and as a distinctive intellectual paradigm.
2. Ability to understand, apply, critique, and extend communication concepts, principles, theories, and perspectives.
3. Skill at communication inquiry, including humanistic and social scientific approaches.
4. Logical, critical, creative, and ethical thinking about communication for decision-making and problem-solving.
5. Competency at generating and performing messages appropriate to their audience, purpose and context.
6. Facility with locating, synthesizing, and assimilating new information from a variety of sources and using it to inform communication analysis and practice.
7. Interest, understanding, and capacity to engage diverse communities, both local and global, and to function as a member of a deliberative society.

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).

Berks 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 Requirements 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 100A or 100B‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course(GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language Level 1</td>
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<td>World Language Level 2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS Selection*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS Selection*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course(GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
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</table>

Total: 17 Credits

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS Selection*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course(GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>200 Level CAS Selection*</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Language Level 3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>General Education Course(GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<td>General Education Course(GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course(GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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Total: 16 Credits

Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 301*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 204*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 303*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>300 Level CAS Selection*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective(Writing Across The Curriculum)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course(GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course(GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<td>15 Elective</td>
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</table>

Total: 15 Credits

Fourth Year

<table>
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<th>Fall</th>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 Level CAS Selection*</td>
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<td>400 Level CAS Selection*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 15 Credits
Communication Arts and Sciences, B.A. (Berks)

400 Level CAS Selection 3
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain 3
Elective 3

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Other Cultures 3
Elective 3

Elective 3

15 15

Total Credits 124

* 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 The following courses are offered Spring Semester only: ENGL 202B.
2 For CAS Selection, consult adviser for list.
3 For 200 Level CAS Selection, consult adviser for list.
4 For 300 Level CAS Selection, consult adviser for list.
5 For 400 Level CAS Selection, consult adviser for list.

Career Paths

CAS graduates are change makers: analysts, strategists, persuaders, facilitators, collaborators, connectors, and scholars. The CAS program equips students for success in the work force, graduate school, and civic life. CAS courses provide students the theories, methods, practical tools, and experiences to understand the roots of social conflict and the sources of well-being. CAS majors can make a positive difference in our society.

Careers

A Bachelor of Arts degree in CAS prepares students for success in careers that value a rigorous and diverse understanding of communication practices. Such careers include business, behavioral science, government, health and human services, human development, law, public relations, public policy, sales, and more. CAS graduates may work as analysts, strategists, facilitators, collaborators, or negotiators.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ARTS AND SCIENCES PROGRAM (http://cas.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/hiring-cas-majors)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

A Bachelor of Arts in CAS also provides excellent preparation for graduate study in either communication science or rhetoric, as well as fields such as business, behavioral science, health and human services, human development, public policy, social work, and more.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://cas.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/hiring-cas-majors)

Professional Resources

• National Communication Association (https://www.natcom.org)
• Lambda Pi Eta (https://www.natcom.org/student-organizations/lambda-pi-eta)
• International Communication Association (https://www.icahdq.org)

Contact

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