**COMMUNICATIONS, B.A. (CAPITAL)**

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus  
**End Campus:** Harrisburg

## Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, a minimum of 120 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

At least 12 credits of Communications courses must be taken at the 400 level.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better 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  
COMM 251 | The Nature of Media  
COMM 342W | Idea Development and Media Writing  
COMM 456 | Media Criticism and Theory  
COMM 458 | Media Law and Ethics  
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better  
COMM 230W | Writing for Media  
 or COMM 260W | News Writing and Reporting  
Select two courses in visual communication from the following: | 6  
COMM 215 | Basic Photography for Communications  
COMM 241 | Graphic Design for Communications  
COMM 242 | Basic Video/Filmmaking  
COMM 269 | Photojournalism  
COMM 270 | Introduction to Multimedia Production  
COMM 337 | Intermediate Documentary Production  
COMM 415 | Advanced Photography for Communications  
COMM 437 | Advanced Documentary Production  
COMM 438 | Advanced Narrative Production  
COMM 441 | Advanced Graphic Design for Communications  
CC 200 | Introduction to Corporate Communication  
COMM 110 | Media and Democracy  
COMM 150N | The Art of the Cinema  
COMM 160 | Basic News Writing Skills  
COMM 168 | American Journalism: Values, Traditions, and Practices  
COMM 215 | Basic Photography for Communications  
COMM 234N | Digital Cultures  
COMM 241 | Graphic Design for Communications  
COMM 242 | Basic Video/Filmmaking  
COMM 250 | Film History and Theory  
COMM 269 | Photojournalism  
COMM 270 | Introduction to Multimedia Production  
COMM 320 | Introduction to Advertising  
COMM 346 | Writing for the Screen I  
COMM 360 | Radio Reporting  
COMM 363 |  
COMM 370 | Public Relations  
COMM 372 | Digital Public Relations  
COMM 374 | Audio Production  
COMM 405 | Political Economy of Communications  
COMM 414 | Media Management  
COMM 415 | Advanced Photography for Communications  
COMM 418 | Media Effects: Theory and Research  
COMM 420 | Research Methods in Advertising and Public Relations  
COMM 421W | Advertising Creative Strategies  
COMM 424 | Advertising Campaigns  
COMM 428E | Social Media Strategies  
COMM 430 | Mass Media and Politics  
COMM 436 | Advanced Audio Production  
COMM 457 | Media Audiences and Contexts  
COMM 459 | Cultural Effects of Interactive and Online Media  
COMM 461 | Magazine Writing  
COMM 462 | Feature Writing  
COMM 471 | Public Relations Media and Methods  
COMM 472 | Public Relations Event Planning  
COMM 473 | Public Relations Campaigns  
COMM 474 | Depth Reporting  
COMM 481 | Advanced Multimedia Production  
COMM 488 | Writers’ Seminar  
COMM 495 | Internship  
COMM 496 | Independent Studies  
Supporting Courses and Related Areas  
Select 6 credits in Communications from the following: | 6  
Select 12 credits in consultation with an academic adviser. These credits, combined with electives, may be applied to a minor in support of the student's interests.  
**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.