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

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
This major helps students better understand and analyze how people communicate in order to influence others and impact the world around them. The ability to communicate effectively in personal, social, professional, and multicultural situations is an essential skill in modern society. Discovering how to improve practices of communication in any of those situations—whether from a humanistic or scientific perspective—is equally vital. Students of Communication Arts and Sciences will therefore learn to argue persuasively, think critically, solve problems collaboratively, understand and manage conflict, influence people ethically, form and keep relationships, and participate constructively in civic life. The flexibility of this program offers preparation for a variety of careers, which include administration, business, health, higher education, human resources, law, public service, social or political advocacy, and more. Such flexibility is illustrated in the fact that this degree offers two different options for completion based on varying instructional and student needs (the Communication Studies option and the Foundations, Scholarship, and Practice option). For these reasons, majoring in Communication Arts and Sciences also offers an excellent concurrent degree program: a substantive understanding of human communication—which is valuable in numerous forms of personal, social, or professional life—can significantly enhance students’ preparation in many fields of study.

Two degree options are available for the Communication Arts and Sciences B.A. in order to provide flexibility based on student and faculty needs at different campuses where the degree is offered:

Communication Studies Option
Available at the following campuses: Berks, Brandywine

The B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences (Communication Studies) provides increased knowledge and skill concerning the practice of human communication across an array of interpersonal, organizational, social, and cultural contexts. Students pursuing the B.A. in this degree option will learn to argue persuasively, think critically, solve problems collaboratively, understand and manage conflict, influence people ethically, form and keep relationships, and participate constructively in civic life. The flexibility of this program offers preparation for a variety of careers, which include administration, business, health, higher education, human resources, law, public service, social or political advocacy, and more. The B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences (Communication Studies) also offers an excellent concurrent degree program: a substantive understanding of human communication—which is valuable in numerous forms of personal, social, and professional life—can significantly enhance students’ preparation in many fields of study.

Foundations, Scholarship, and Practice Option
Available at the following campuses: University Park

The B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences (Foundations, Scholarship, and Practice) promotes an understanding of fundamental facets of human communication, knowledge of theories and research that illuminate communication processes, and expertise in practical applications of communication research to civic, cultural, family, health, interpersonal, organizational, and social contexts. Students pursuing the B.A. in this degree option will learn to argue persuasively, think critically, solve problems collaboratively, understand and manage conflict, influence people ethically, form and keep relationships, and participate constructively in civic life. The flexibility of this program offers preparation for a variety of careers, which include administration, business, health, higher education, human resources, law, public service, social or political advocacy, and more. The B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences (Foundations, Scholarship, and Practice) also offers an excellent concurrent degree program: A substantive understanding of human communication—which is valuable in numerous forms of personal, social, or professional life—can significantly enhance students’ preparation in many 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/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (https://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, Communication Studies Option, a minimum of 120 credits is required; For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts and Sciences, Foundations, Scholarship, and Practice Option, a minimum of 123 credits is required.
Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS 301</td>
<td>Rhetorical Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS 303</td>
<td>Communication Theory</td>
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<td>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</td>
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<td>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<td>Select 15 credits of other CAS courses; at least 12 credits must be at the 400 level. A maximum of 3 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.</td>
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<td>Requirements for the Option</td>
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<td>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select an option</td>
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<td>15-18</td>
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Requirements for the Option

Communication Studies Option (15 Credits)

Available at the following campuses: Berks, Brandywine

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS 204</td>
<td>Communication Research Methods</td>
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<td>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<td>Select 3 credits from the following list:</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS 203</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>CAS 213</td>
<td>Persuasive Speaking</td>
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<td>CAS 214W</td>
<td>Speech Writing</td>
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<td>CAS 216</td>
<td>Practical Parliamentary Procedure</td>
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<td>CAS 250</td>
<td>Small Group Communication</td>
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<td>CAS 252</td>
<td>Business and Professional Communication</td>
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Select 3 credits from the following list: 3

CAS 271N | Intercultural Communication                      |
CAS 280W | Storytelling and Speaking                        |
CAS 283  | Communication and Information Technology I       |

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.
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.

Integrated B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences and M.S. in Human Resources and Employment Relations
Available at the following campuses: University Park

Requirements for the Integrated B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences and M.S. in Human Resources and Employment Relations can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/human-resources-employment-relations/#integratedundergradgradprogramstext).

Integrated B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences and M.A. in Media Studies
Available at the following campuses: University Park

Requirements for the Integrated B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences and M.A. in Media Studies can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/media-studies/#integratedundergradgradprogramstext).

Integrated B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences and Master of Public Policy
Available at the following campuses: University Park

Requirements for the Integrated B.A. in Communication Arts and Sciences and Master of Public Policy can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/public-policy/#integratedundergradgradprogramstext).

Program Learning Objectives

• Communication Competence: Learning rhetorical and communication skills
• Content Knowledge: Learn communication concepts and theory
• Research Practice and Methods: Learn the practice of rhetorical or communication science research

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 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

University Park
Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Majors and Minors web page (https://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Berks
Jill Burk
Program Coordinator, Assistant Professor
Franco 148
Reading, PA 19610
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Brandywine
Joshua Phillips
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Media, PA 19063
610-892-1426
jdp5595@psu.edu

Suggested Academic Plan
The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2022-23 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Communication Arts and Sciences, B.A. at University Park 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
Fall
Credits
ENGL 15 (or honors equivalent (GWS))† 3
CAS 101N† 3
Quantification (GQ)† 3
Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS) (FY) 3
World Language 1 4

Total Credits 15

Second Year
Fall
Credits
CAS Additional course (work with adviser) 3
Quantification (GQ)† 3
Arts (GA) + (IL) 3
BA Fields 3
World Language 3 4

Total Credits 16

Third Year
Fall
Credits
CAS 301† 3
CAS 4XX-level course (work with adviser)† 3
Natural Sciences (GN) 3
Arts (GA) 3
Elective 3

Total Credits 15

Fourth Year
Fall
Credits
CAS 304† 3
CAS 4XX-level course (work with adviser)† 3
Supporting CAS course (work with adviser) 3
Other Cultures 3
Health and Wellness (GHW) 3

Total Credits 15

Total Credits 123

□ 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.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

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 (https://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 (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/).

Advising Notes
This document is only for planning purposes and cannot replace working with an academic adviser. Each student is unique, and some campuses may not offer many CAS courses. Most students are "off the plan" after one semester.

Students need at least 24 credits in CAS courses completed at UP due to competency requirements. Campus advisers may work with the UP CAS adviser if they have questions about what their current students might take.

Two general education courses (GQ, GN, GA, GH, GS) must be integrative studies courses - Inter-Domain or Linked.

Depending on placement and proficiency, world language courses may need to be replaced with elective credits.

Students are required to take one Writing across the Curriculum course. There are three CAS 4XX-level courses that will fulfill this requirement, but any W course will work.

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
University Park
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES
234 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
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sas519@psu.edu
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