

# COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES, B.A. (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** Brandywine

## 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:**

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	15
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	36-39

**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 (<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 (<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>).

### Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 301	Rhetorical Theory	3
CAS 303	Communication Theory	3
<b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
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.		15
<b>Requirements for the Option</b>		
<i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select an Option		15-18

### Requirements for the Option Communication Studies Option (15 Credits)

*Available at the following campuses: Berks, Brandywine*

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 204	Communication Research Methods	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following list:		3
CAS 203	Interpersonal Communication	
CAS 213	Persuasive Speaking	
CAS 214W	Speech Writing	
CAS 216	Practical Parliamentary Procedure	
CAS 250	Small Group Communication	
CAS 252	Business and Professional Communication	
CAS 271N	Intercultural Communication	
CAS 280W	Storytelling and Speaking	
CAS 283	Communication and Information Technology I	
Select 3 credits from the following list:		3
CAS 302	Social Influence	
CAS 311	Methods of Rhetorical Criticism	
CAS 321	Rhetoric and Law	
CAS 352	Organizational Communication	
CAS 373	The Rhetorics of War and Peace	
CAS 375	Rhetoric and Public Controversy	
CAS 383N	Culture and Technology	
CAS 398	Special Topics	
CAS 399	Foreign Studies	
<b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits from CAS courses, 3 credits maximum from:		6
CAS 494	Research Topics	
CAS 495	Internship	
CAS 496	Independent Studies	
CAS 499	Foreign Studies	

### Foundations, Scholarship, and Practice Option (18 Credits)

*Available at the following campuses: University Park*

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 101N	Introduction to Human Communication	3
CAS 304	Quantitative Methods for Communication Research	3
CAS 311	Methods of Rhetorical Criticism	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits from the following list:		9
CAS 203	Interpersonal Communication	
CAS 210	Landmark Speeches on Democracy and Dissent	
CAS 215	Argumentation	
CAS 220	Persuasion	

## Program Learning Objectives

- **Analyze Current Events:** Graduates will be able to analyze current events using theories and methods from the discipline.
- **Analyze Scholarship:** Graduates will be able to analyze scholarships and discuss limitations of research.
- **Communication:** Graduates will be able to effectively receive, process, and relay information through speaking, writing, and listening.
- **Critical Thinking:** Graduates will be able to argue both sides of differing ideas and conclusion through dispassionate analysis.
- **Cross Cultural Competence:** Graduates will be able to compare and contrast cultural norms as well as discuss how communication differs, and therefore, creates different norms across cultures
- **Knowledge of Field:** Graduates will be able to summarize scholars and scholarship within the discipline.
- **Organize Research:** Graduates will be able to organize research and arguments within the discipline via papers and presentations.

## 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/>)

## Brandywine

**Joshua Phillips**  
Assistant Teaching Professor Communication Arts and Sciences  
25 Yearsley Mill Road  
Media, PA 19063

610-892-1426  
jdp5595@psu.edu

## Berks

### Jill Burk

Program Coordinator, Assistant Professor  
Franco 148  
Reading, PA 19610  
610-396-6094  
jkb20@psu.edu

## 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

## Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2021-22 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 contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

## Communication Arts and Sciences, B.A. at Brandywine 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 Spring	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30H <sup>‡</sup>	3 CAS 100 <sup>‡</sup>	3
World Language course	4 World Language course	4
General Education course (GHW)	1.5 General Education course	6
General Education course	6 General Education course (GHW)	1.5
	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>

### Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CAS 301 <sup>*</sup>	3 ENGL 202 <sup>‡</sup>	3
General Education course	9 CAS Selection (200 Level Skills Course) <sup>*</sup>	3
General Education course or World Language course	3-4 CAS 204	3
	CAS 303	3
	BA Requirement	3
	General Education course	3
	<b>15-16</b>	<b>18</b>

### Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CAS 204 <sup>*</sup>	3 CAS Selection (300 level) <sup>*</sup>	3
CAS Selection (400 Level) <sup>*</sup>	3 CAS Selection (400 level) <sup>*</sup>	3
CAS Selection (200, 300, or 400 Level) <sup>*</sup>	3 BA Requirement	6
Elective <sup>*</sup>	3 General Education course	3
General Education course	3	
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

### Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CAS Selection (400 level) <sup>*</sup>	3 CAS Selection (400 level) <sup>*</sup>	3
Elective <sup>*</sup>	9 Elective <sup>*</sup>	12
Other Cultures	3	
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

### Total Credits 122-123

- \* 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.

### 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/>).

## 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

### Brandywine

25 Yearsley Mill Road  
Media, PA 19063  
610-892-1426  
[jdp5595@psu.edu](mailto:jdp5595@psu.edu)

<http://brandywine.psu.edu/communication-arts-and-sciences> (<http://brandywine.psu.edu/communication-arts-and-sciences/>)

### Berks

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Franco Building  
Reading, PA 19610  
610-396-6094  
[jkb20@psu.edu](mailto:jkb20@psu.edu)

<http://berks.psu.edu/ba-communication-arts-sciences> (<http://berks.psu.edu/ba-communication-arts-sciences/>)

### University Park

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES  
234 Sparks Building  
University Park, PA 16802

814-865-3461  
[sas519@psu.edu](mailto:sas519@psu.edu)

<https://cas.la.psu.edu/>