

COMMUNICATION MAJOR

Program Curriculum

The Communication Major requires 120 credits for graduation. The curriculum includes the following elements: Core Degree Requirements, Major Requirements, Major Electives, Pathways to General Education, Minor, and Electives.

Code	Title	Credits
Degree Core Requirements		
COMM 1004	First-Semester Experience in Communication	1
COMM 1014	Introduction to Communication	3
COMM 2024	Media Writing	3
COMM 2084	Media and Society	3
COMM 2094	Communication and Issues of Diversity	3
COMM 2124	Introduction to Communication Research	3
COMM 4024	Communication Law	3
Subtotal		19
Major Requirements		
COMM 2034	Visual Media	3
CMST 2064	The Tradition of Rhetoric and Societal Change	3
CMST 3214	Professional Communication	3
CMST 4714	Senior Seminar in Communication	3
<i>Restricted Electives</i>		
Select 5 courses from the below, including at least one at the 4000-level		15
ADV 2134	Introduction to Health Communication	
ADV 4324	Issues in Health Communication	
CMST 3024	Digital Publishing	
CMST 3064	Persuasion	
CMST 3074	Persuasive Public Speaking	
CMST 3124	Interpersonal Communication	
CMST 3134	Public Advocacy	
CMST 4174	Digital Advocacy Campaigns	
CMST 4214	Web Content Management Strategies	
CMST 4224	Topics in Media Criticism	
CMST 4244	Topics in Communication	
COMM 4974	Independent Study	
JMC 1114	Introduction to Media Production Technology	
JMC 3254	Media and Politics	
JMC 4014	Media Effects	
JMC 4264	Social Media Theory and Practice	
JMC 4334	Communication Ethics	
JMC 4374	New Communications Technology	
PR 3324	Corporate Communication	
PR 4074	Organizational Communication	
Subtotal		27
Free Electives		
Select remainign credit hours of free electives to fulfill graduation requirements.		29
Subtotal		29
Pathways to General Education		
<i>Pathways Concept 1 - Discourse</i>		

COMM 1015	Communication Skills	6
& COMM 1016	and Communication Skills	
Select one 1A course		3
<i>Pathways Concept 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities</i>		
Select two Pathway 2 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G02) courses		6
<i>Pathways Concept 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences</i>		
Select two Pathway 3 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G03) courses		6
<i>Pathways Concept 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences</i>		
Select two Pathway 4 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04) courses		6
<i>Pathways Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking</i>		
Select two 5F courses		6
Select one 5A courses		3
<i>Pathways Concept 6 - Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts</i>		
Select one 6A course		3
Select one 6D course		3
<i>Pathways Concept 7 - Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States</i>		
Select one Pathway 7 (https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G07) course		3
Subtotal		45
Total Credits		120

Minors & Electives

In addition to degree core, major, and Pathways requirements, students must complete at least 29 credits in the following to reach 120 credits for graduation:

- **Minor, cognate, or double major**—*Beyond* studies in Communication, students must build content knowledge in another area of focus by completing a minor or cognate (minimum 18 credits) or double major (credits vary by major). Students **should NOT take COMM, CMST, JMC, or PR courses** as part of this requirement.
- **Electives**—Once students complete a minor or cognate, they still need credits for graduation. Students might consider education abroad, an internship, a field study, undergraduate research, independent study, or other non-required Pathways or foreign language courses. Students **should NOT include COMM, CMST, JMC, or PR courses** among these electives.

Graduation Requirements

1. Minimum of 120 credits from the following categories: Core Degree Requirements, Major Requirements, Major Electives, Pathways to General Education, Minor and Electives.
2. Minimum of 46 credits in COMM, CMST, JMC, or PR; maximum 48 credits in COMM, CMST, JMC, or PR.
3. Overall GPA of 2.0; major GPA 2.0, based on all COMM, CMST, JMC, and PR courses the student has completed.
4. Courses taken in major to fulfill graduation requirements must be graded A-F (not pass/fail).
5. COMM, CMST, JMC, or PR courses taken for a minor may NOT be counted toward major requirements.
6. Foreign Language—Requirement can be met in one of three ways:

- a. 3 years of single foreign language in high school OR
- b. 2 years of a single language in high school plus 1106 or equivalent in college OR
- c. 1105-1106 or equivalent in college (This credit must be in addition to the 120 credits required for graduation.)

Progress toward Degree

A student will be certified as making satisfactory progress toward a degree by meeting these requirements:

- Completion of COMM 1004 First-Semester Experience in Communication within the first 3 classes (9 credits) in the major.
- Completion of COMM 1014 Introduction to Communication within the first 6 classes (18 credits) in the major. Minimum grade of C- required.
- Completion of COMM 2124 Introduction to Communication Research within the first 8 classes (24 credits) in the major.
- Overall GPA—Students who fall below 2.0 will follow university policies for probation and subsequent suspension if the GPA is not raised during the probation period.
- Major GPA—Students who fall below 2.0 in their major coursework will have one semester to regain the required GPA standards. All COMM, CMST, JMC, and PR courses are included in this calculation. A student who fails to make satisfactory progress toward degree after that semester will be blocked from continuing in COMM or another School of Communication major.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall Semester		
COMM 1004	First-Semester Experience in Communication	1
COMM 1015	Communication Skills	3
Pathways Concept 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities		3
Pathways Concept 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences		3
Pathways Concept 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences		3
Pathways Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking		3
Credits		16
Spring Semester		
COMM 1014	Introduction to Communication	3
COMM 1016	Communication Skills	3
Pathways Concept 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences		3
Pathways Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking		3
Pathways Concept 6 - Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts		3
Credits		15
Second Year		
Fall Semester		
COMM 2024	Media Writing	3
COMM 2084	Media and Society	3
COMM 2094	Communication and Issues of Diversity	3
Pathways Concept 1 - Discourse		3
Pathways Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking		3
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
COMM 2124	Introduction to Communication Research	3
COMM 2034	Visual Media	3
Pathways Concept 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities		3
Pathways Concept 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences		3
Pathways Concept 6 - Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts		3
Credits		15

Third Year

Fall Semester

CMST 2064	The Tradition of Rhetoric and Societal Change	3
Restricted Electives		3
Pathways Concept 7 - Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States		3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Credits		15

Spring Semester

CMST 3214	Professional Communication	3
Restricted Electives		3
Restricted Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Credits		15

Fourth Year

Fall Semester

COMM 4024	Communication Law	3
Restricted Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Credits		15

Spring Semester

CMST 4714	Senior Seminar in Communication	3
Restricted Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		2
Credits		14

Total Credits

120