

COMMUNICATION STUDIES (BA)

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

In addition to the program requirements listed on this page, students must also satisfy requirements outlined in more detail in the Minimum Requirements for Graduation (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>) section of this catalog, including:

- 40 units of upper-division courses
- 2.0 GPA
- Graduation Writing Requirements (GWR)
- U.S. Cultural Pluralism (USCP)

Note: No Major or Support courses may be selected as credit/no credit. In addition, no more than 12 units of cooperative or internship courses can count towards your degree requirements.

Code	Title	Units
MAJOR COURSES		
COMS 1100	Introduction to the Communication Studies Major	2
Select from the following: (1C) ¹		3
COMS 1101	Public Speaking	
COMS 1102	Public Speaking in Digital Spaces	
COMS 2205	Rhetorical Studies	3
COMS 2206	Communication Theory	3
Select from the following:		3
COMS 2208	Performance, Literature, and Culture	
COMS 2250	Building Advocacy Skills ²	
Select two from the following:		6
COMS 2211	Interpersonal Communication	
COMS 2213	Organizational Communication	
COMS 2215	Media Studies	
COMS 2217	Small Group Collaboration and Creativity	
Select from the following:		3
COMS 3312	Quantitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMS 3313	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	
COMS 3316	Intercultural Communication (Upper-Division 4) (USCP) ¹	3
Select from the following: (GWR)		3
COMS 3332	Rhetorical Criticism	
COMS 3385	Media Criticism	
COMS 4460	Undergraduate Seminar	1
COMS 4461	Senior Project	2
Focus Area		
Select from the following focus areas or any courses in the list below:		18
Culture, Identity, and Power		
COMS 3308	Group Performance of Literature	
COMS 3319	Critical Cultural Studies and Communication	
COMS 3320	Intergroup Communication	
COMS 3331	Contemporary Rhetorical Approaches	
COMS 3333	Race and Rhetoric	
COMS 3350	Advocacy Coaching and Consulting ²	
COMS 3351	Speech and Debate Team ³	
COMS 3352	Spanish-language Speech and Debate Team ³	
COMS/JOUR 3387	Sports Communication	
COMS 4404	Video Games and Society	
COMS 4418	Health Communication	

COMS 4420	Nonverbal Communication
COMS 4421	Gender and Communication
COMS 4428	Family Communication
COMS 4430	The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication
COMS 4435	Rhetoric and Social Change
Media and Technology	
COMS 3317	Technology and Human Communication
COMS 3384	Media Effects
COMS 3386	Communication, Media, and Politics
COMS/JOUR 3387	Sports Communication
COMS/ISLA 3395	Science Communication
COMS 4402	Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine
COMS 4404	Video Games and Society
COMS 4418	Health Communication
COMS 4421	Gender and Communication
COMS/BUS 4458	Solving Big World Challenges
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology
Persuasion and Social Influence	
COMS 2226	Applied Argumentation
COMS 3301	Business and Professional Communication
COMS 3302	Advanced Public Speaking
COMS 3305	Persuasion
COMS 3317	Technology and Human Communication
COMS 3330	Classical Rhetoric
COMS 3350	Advocacy Coaching and Consulting ²
COMS 3351	Speech and Debate Team ³
COMS 3352	Spanish-language Speech and Debate Team ³
COMS 3384	Media Effects
COMS 3386	Communication, Media, and Politics
COMS 4418	Health Communication
COMS 4420	Nonverbal Communication
COMS 4435	Rhetoric and Social Change
Politics, Advocacy, and Civic Engagement	
COMS 2226	Applied Argumentation
COMS 3302	Advanced Public Speaking
COMS 3305	Persuasion
COMS 3308	Group Performance of Literature
COMS 3319	Critical Cultural Studies and Communication
COMS 3330	Classical Rhetoric
COMS 3331	Contemporary Rhetorical Approaches
COMS 3350	Advocacy Coaching and Consulting ²
COMS 3351	Speech and Debate Team ³
COMS 3352	Spanish-language Speech and Debate Team ³
COMS 3384	Media Effects
COMS 3386	Communication, Media, and Politics
COMS 3390	Environmental Communication
COMS 4402	Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine
COMS 4435	Rhetoric and Social Change
Relationships, Organizations, and Socialization	
COMS 3301	Business and Professional Communication
COMS 3320	Intergroup Communication
COMS 3333	Race and Rhetoric

COMS/JOUR 3387	Sports Communication	
COMS 4413	Training and Development	
COMS 4420	Nonverbal Communication	
COMS 4421	Gender and Communication	
COMS 4428	Family Communication	
COMS 4430	The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication	
COMS/BUS 4458	Solving Big World Challenges	
COMS Electives		
Select any 3000-4000 level COMS courses	^{4,5}	6
SUPPORT COURSES		
STAT 1110	Applied Statistical Concepts and Methods (2)	¹ 3
GENERAL EDUCATION (GE)		
(See GE program requirements below)		34
FREE ELECTIVES		
Free Electives	^{6,7}	27
Total Units		120

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.

² Repeatable course; Major credit limited to 3 units.

³ Repeatable course; Major credit limited to 6 units.

⁴ Courses taken to meet the focus area requirement cannot be double-counted in the COMS Electives.

⁵ A maximum of 3 units may be applied toward COMS electives: COMS 4400, COMS 4480, COMS 4485.

⁶ Free electives may need to be at the 3000-4000 level to ensure completion of the required minimum of 40 units of upper-division.

⁷ If a General Education (GE) course is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.

General Education (GE) Requirements

General Education (GE) Requirements

- 43 units required, 9 of which are specified in Major and/or Support.
- If any of the remaining 34 Units is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.
- See the complete GE course listing (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: 1A (English Composition), 1B (Critical Thinking), 1C (Oral Communication), and 2 (Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning).

Lower-Division General Education

Area 1	English Communication and Critical Thinking	
1A	Written Communication	3
1B	Critical Thinking	3
1C	Oral Communication (3 units in Major) ¹	0
Area 2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	
2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (3 units in Support) ¹	0
Area 3	Arts and Humanities	
3A	Arts	3
3B	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	3
Area 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	
4A	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement)	3
4B	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Area 5	Physical and Life Sciences	
5A	Physical Sciences	3
5B	Life Sciences	3
5C	Laboratory (may be embedded in a 5A or 5B course)	1
Area 6	Ethnic Studies	
6	Ethnic Studies	3
Upper-Division General Education		
Upper-Division 2/5	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning or Physical and Life Sciences	3
Upper-Division 3	Arts and Humanities	3
Upper-Division 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.) (3 units in Major) ¹	0
Total Units		34

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.