SCIENCE COMMUNICATION MINOR

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

The Science Communication (SC) minor enables students to investigate how individuals and societies create, disseminate, maintain, and challenge perceptions of science, technology, and risk in multiple contexts. The minor focuses on key debates and controversies involving science and technology, public understandings and misunderstandings of scientific and technical expertise, industry-public relations, cultures of regulation and compliance, hazards, uncertainties, crisis management, and the politics of evidence. Through hands-on projects, SC students will develop and practice specific skills for communicating about science and technology to various audiences across multiple media formats. A broad range of elective courses allows students to customize the SC minor to their particular interests, enabling them to pursue knowledge in a focused subject area or further refine communication production skills. Students completing the SC minor will be prepared to understand, engage with, respond to, and communicate about the profound challenges and choices we face related to science and technology in the 21st century. The SC minor is not open to students who have declared a minor in one of the other STS minors: Ethics, Public Policy, Science and Technology (EPPST); Gender, Race, Culture, Science and Technology (GRCST); and Media Arts, Society and Technology (MAST).

Program Learning Objectives

1. Understand and evaluate the construction, dissemination, and reception of messages in a variety of scientific, social, political, and cultural contexts.
2. Identify, analyze and contextualize the roles that various publics, scientists, and scientific groups play in communicative processes related to scientific communication.
3. Explain key concepts, terms, and frameworks from research on science communication, and apply these concepts, terms, and frameworks to conduct interdisciplinary research and/or engage in creative activities in individual and group settings.
4. Apply science communication concepts, theories, and frameworks using effective, ethical and inclusive communication skills to communicate about the complex relationships between science, technology and society to multiple audiences.
5. Recognize emergent scientific and technological challenges, promote more socially responsible scientific and technical practices, and work, collaborate, and interact more responsibly and effectively in an increasingly diverse and globalized workplace and world.

Minor Requirements and Curriculum

The minor must be completed prior to, or at the same time as, the requirements for the bachelor's degree. A major and a minor may not be taken in the same degree program, and a minor is not required for a degree. Requirements for the minor include:

- At least half of the units must be from upper-division courses (3000-4000 level).
- At least half of the units must be taken at Cal Poly (in residence).
- No more than one-third of the units will be taken with credit-no credit grading (CR/NC), not counting courses with mandatory CR/NC. Departments may further limit CR/NC grading if desired.
- A minimum 2.0 GPA is required in all units counted for completion of the minor.

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
ES/WGQS 3350	Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology	4
ISLA 1123	Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society	3
ISLA 4456	Advanced Project-Based Learning in Science, Technology & Society	4
Science Communication Core		
Select from the following:		6-8
COMS 3390	Environmental Communication	
COMS/ISLA 3395	Science Communication	
COMS 4402	Rhetorics of Science, Technology, and Medicine	
COMS 4418	Health Communication	
ENGL 2222	Introduction to Technical and Professional Communication	
ISLA 3305	Public Engagements with STEM	
JOUR 3314	Public Relations and Crisis Management	
JOUR 3350	Data Journalism	
Science Communication Electives		
Select from the following:		3-4
AGC 2205	Agricultural Communications	
COMS 3317	Technology and Human Communication	
ENGL 3315	Writing Sustainability, Equity, and Resilience	

ENGL 3317	Humanistic Perspectives in Technical and Professional Editing
ENGL 3380	Themes in Literature and Culture
ENGL 4469	Advanced Topics in Technical and Professional Communication
HIST 3350	The Scientific Revolution: 1500-1800
HIST 3355	History of Network and Information Technologies
ISLA 3303	Values and Technology
JOUR 3303	Video Storytelling
JOUR 3305	Journalism Ethics
JOUR 3313	Public Relations Campaigns
JOUR 3350	Data Journalism
MATE 3359	Living in a Material World
MSCI 4440	Communicating Ocean Sciences to Informal Audiences
NR 3323	Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Management
POLS 4451	Technology and Public Policy
PSY 3311	Environmental Psychology
SPAN 3380	Spanish for the Professions [1]
Total Units	**20**

[1] Topic courses require department approval. Please contact department for a list of approved topics.