
COMMUNICATION STUDIES BA, BS AND MINOR

Communication Studies

College of Arts & Humanities,
Department of Communication Studies
230 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2213
Website: www.mnsu.edu/cmst

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Communication Studies is the exploration of how people generate shared meaning through the use of verbal and nonverbal symbols. Communication Studies majors work to develop confidence and effectiveness in their public speaking, interpersonal, and small group communication skills. The focus is not on preparing students for a specific job, but rather helping students to develop interpersonal, organizational, intercultural, and public presentational skills which will enhance the quality of their lives across a variety of contexts (e.g., within the workplace, family, civic and social situations).

Academic Map/Degree Plan at www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All

POLICIES/INFORMATION

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Minimum University admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Contact the department for application procedures. In addition to the general requirements, a cumulative GPA of 2.2 must be maintained in the courses of the major.

Waiver of CMST 102: Students who take CMST 100 and CMST 333 will have CMST 102 waived for the BS major in Communication Studies.

GPA Policy. Students must maintain a minimum of 2.2 GPA.

P/N Grading Policy. Total credits in the department must not exceed 25 percent P/N for a major or a minor.

Internships. Internships are P/N option only.

Academic Probation Advising. Refer to the information listed in the College of Arts and Humanities section of the catalog.

Communication Studies minors may apply no more than 4 credits of CMST 498 and 4 credits of CMST 499 to fulfillment of the minor. Additional credits may be applied for graduation requirements. Communication Studies majors may apply no more than 8 credits of CMST 498 and 4 credits of CMST 499 to fulfillment of the major. Additional credits may be applied for graduation requirements. CMST 100 does not count toward major or minor requirements.

Course Repeat Policy. Students with a major/minor in Communication Studies may repeat any course in the department in an effort to improve grades. A student may repeat a specific course only once. In exceptional circumstances, a student may appeal to the department chair for a second repeat of a course. The official grade for the course, listings on a student's transcript, and other matters related to course repeats will adhere to appropriate university policies.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES BA

Degree completion = 120 credits

Required General Education

- CMST 101W Interpersonal Communication (4)
CMST 203 Intercultural Communication (4)

Major Common Core

- CMST 102 Public Speaking (3)
CMST 301 Communication Studies: Approaches and Perspectives (4)
CMST 302 Argumentation (4)
CMST 485 Senior Seminar (4)

Major Restricted Electives

- Argument & Ethics (choose 4 credits)
CMST 321 Argumentation and Debate (4)
CMST 330 Ethics and Free Speech (4)
Presentation & Performance (choose 8 credits)
CMST 310 Performance of Literature (4)
CMST 333 Advanced Public Communication (4)
CMST 409 Performance Studies (4)
Rhetoric (choose 8 credits)
(CMST 415 may be repeated under different topics)
CMST 415 Topics in Rhetoric and Culture (1-4)

Minor

A minor is required. Minor must be a language offered by the Department of Modern Languages (e.g., French, German, Spanish, Scandinavian Studies)

Required Minor: Yes. Language

COMMUNICATION STUDIES BS

Degree completion = 120 credits

Required General Education

- CMST 101W Interpersonal Communication (4)
CMST 102 Public Speaking (3)
CMST 203 Intercultural Communication (4)

Major Restricted Electives

- Communication Skills Foundation Choose 4 Credits
Courses may not double count in the major.
CMST 310 Performance of Literature (4)
CMST 312 Professional Communication & Interviewing (4)
CMST 333 Advanced Public Communication (4)

Communication Skills Electives

- Choose 4 Credits
CMST 340, 490, and 498 require approval of program advisor.
CMST 201 Small Group Communication (2-4)
CMST 202 Nonverbal Communication (4)
CMST 215 Effective Listening (2)
CMST 225 Communicating With/Through Technology (4)
CMST 310 Performance of Literature (4)
CMST 312 Professional Communication & Interviewing (4)
CMST 333 Advanced Public Communication (4)
CMST 335 Communication & Community (4)
CMST 340 Special Topics (1-4)
CMST 445 Conflict Management (4)
CMST 490 Workshop (1-4)
CMST 498 Internship (1-12)

Communication Analysis Foundation

- Choose 8 Credits
CMST 301 Communication Studies: Approaches & Perspectives (4)
CMST 302 Argumentation (4)

Communication Analysis Electives

- Choose 4 Credits
CMST 440 requires approval of program advisor.
CMST 330 Ethics & Free Speech (4)
CMST 403 Gender and Communication (4)
CMST 409 Performance Studies (4)
CMST 410 Topics in Relational Communication (1-4)
CMST 412 Organizational Communication (4)
CMST 415 Topics in Rhetoric and Culture (1-4)
CMST 416 Topics in American Public Address (1-4)
CMST 440 Special Topics (1-4)

Communication Research

- Choose 8 Credits
CMST 306 Communication Research Methods (4)
CMST 485W Senior Seminar (4)

Major Unrestricted Electives

- Choose 8 Credits
Courses may not double count in the major.
CMST 200 - 499

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONTINUED

COMMUNICATION STUDIES MINOR

Required for Minor

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| CMST 101W | Interpersonal Communication (4) |
| CMST 102 | Public Speaking (3) |
| CMST 302 | Argumentation (4) |

Required Electives for Minor (8 credits)

4 of the 8 elective credits must be in upper-level classes. CMST 100 does not count toward the minor.

CMST 103 through CMST 499 Communication Studies

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN COMMUNICATIONS (27 credits)

This interdisciplinary minor is for students who wish to enhance their communication skills for use in business and other professional settings. Students completing this minor will develop an understanding of contexts and rhetorical strategies for oral and written communication among professionals. Students will also develop their own ability to communicate through written texts, oral communication, and electronic formats. These skills are highly desirable by employers in a wide range of business, government, and nonprofit organizations. Students may major in any of the programs affiliated with this minor, but the courses taken for the minor will not count toward the major. Students must earn a "C" or better in English courses in order to apply them to the minor.

Minor Core

| | |
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| CMST 312 | Professional Macrocommunication & Interviewing (4) |
| CMST 412 | Organizational Communication (4) |
| ENG 271W | Technical Communication (4) |
| ENG 474 | Research and Writing Technical Reports (4) |

Minor Electives

Choose 11 credits from the following programs. At least one course must be at the 3/400 level.

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|----------|--|
| CMST 225 | Communicating With/Through Technology (4) |
| CMST 335 | Communication & Community (4) |
| CMST 333 | Advanced Public Communication (4) |
| CMST 445 | Conflict Management (4) |
| ECON 201 | Principles of Macroeconomics (3) |
| ECON 202 | Principles of Microeconomics (3) |
| ENG 301W | Advanced Writing (4) |
| ENG 454 | Persuasive Writing on Public Issues (4) |
| ENG 455 | Advanced Writing Workshop (4) |
| ENG 471 | Visual Technical Communication (4) |
| ENG 473 | Desktop Publishing (4) |
| ENG 474 | Research and Writing Technical Reports (4) |
| ENG 475 | Editing Technical Publications (4) |
| IT 100 | Introduction to Computing and Applications (4) |
| RPLS 377 | Public Relations (3) |
| RPLS 465 | Event Management (3) |
| URBS 150 | Sustainable Communities (3) |
| URBS 230 | Community Leadership (3) |
| URBS 412 | Public Information and Involvement (3) |

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CMST 100 (3) Fundamentals of Communication

A course designed to improve a student's understanding in communication, including the areas of interpersonal, nonverbal, listening, small group and public speaking. GE-1B

CMST 101W (4) Interpersonal Communication

A course blending theory and practice to help individuals build effective relationships through improved communication. WI, GE-2

CMST 102 (3) Public Speaking

A course in communication principles to develop skills in the analysis and presentation of speeches. GE-1B

CMST 201 (2-4) Small Group Communication

Development of communication skills for working with others in small group situations.

CMST 202 (4) Nonverbal Communication

Investigation of the concepts and theories of nonverbal communication. Designed to assist students in increasing their awareness and understanding of their nonverbal communication and in analyzing and understanding the nonverbal communication of others.

CMST 203 (4) Intercultural Communication

The course explores communication with people from other cultures, why misunderstandings occur and how to build clearer and more productive cross-cultural relationships.

GE-7, GE-8

Diverse Cultures - Purple

CMST 215 (2) Effective Listening

This course is designed to provide students with skills of effective listening, and the ability to apply that knowledge in a variety of educational and professional settings.

CMST 220 (1-4) Forensics

Activity course involving participation in intercollegiate speech tournaments. Course can be repeated for credit.

GE-11

CMST 225 (4) Communicating With/Through Technology

A course designed to help students learn effective communication using a variety of contemporary technologies. Students will be better equipped to use communication technologies to communicate personal, professional, and public messages. Variable

CMST 240 (1-4) Special Topics

Special interest courses devoted to specific topics within the field of communication studies. Topics vary, and course may be retaken for credit under different topic headings.

CMST 301 (4) Communication Studies: Approaches and Perspectives

Course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the history, scholarly writing, and academic journals in the communication discipline, thus preparing the student for more advanced courses in the Department of Communication Studies. Fall, Spring, Summer On Demand

CMST 302 (4) Argumentation

An exploration of the field of argument, addressing structure, types and critical analysis. Students will learn to identify types of reasoning, argument fallacies and pseudo-reasoning. Students will apply concepts in the construction and refutation of argument positions.

Fall, Spring

CMST 306 (4) Communication Research

An introduction to the theory and practice of research in communication studies, including the critical evaluation of contemporary communication research.

CMST 310 (4) Performance of Literature

This course is designed to develop the skills to complete the artistic process of studying literature through performance and sharing that study with an audience. GE-6, GE-11

CMST 312 (4) Professional Communication & Interviewing

Designed to help students improve oral communication skills in the workplace. The emphasis is on the preparation and presentation of public messages in formats commonly used in business and professional settings. Listening as an oral communication skill in the workplace will be explored, as will the role of intercultural communication in the workplace. Individual speeches, group presentations, and interviews are the major presentations. GE-1B

CMST 320 (1-4) Advanced Forensics

Activity course involving participation in intercollegiate forensics with primary emphasis on applying communication theories to forensic practice. Students may not enroll concurrently with CMST 220. Course may be repeated for an overall total of 4 credits.

Variable

CMST 321 (4) Argumentation and Debate

Development of skills in the analysis, application and evaluation of argumentative communication.

CMST 330 (4) Ethics and Free Speech

This course is divided into two sections. First, the class explores ethical parameters involved in communication from a variety of social and cultural perspectives. Second, the class investigates current standards and issues involving freedom of speech. GE-9

COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONTINUED

CMST 333 (4) Advanced Public Communication

This is an advanced course in public presentation focused on improving presentational skills of speech delivery and language choice.

CMST 335 (4) Communication and Community

Students examine everyday communication practices (rituals, stories, symbols) analyzing what discursive practices turn individuals into a community. Students explore the meaning of community through experiential learning by experiencing and reflecting upon the way communication creates, maintains, transforms, and repairs community.

Variable

CMST 340 (1-4) Special Topics

Special interest courses devoted to specific topics within the field of communication studies. Topics vary, and course may be retaken for credit under different topic headings.

CMST 403 (4) Gender and Communication

This course is designed to develop an understanding of how gender and communication interact. Students learn the basic theories and principles of communication as it applies to gender and develop skills to enhance communication between and among gender groups.

Diverse Cultures - Purple

CMST 409 (4) Performance Studies

This course is an overview of key performance studies concepts, including cultural performance, of everyday life, theories of play, social influence, and identity performance. Students will develop and present performances as a means to understand theoretical concepts.

CMST 410 (1-4) Topics in Relational Communication

Special interest courses devoted to specific topics within relationship communication. Topics vary, and course may be retaken for credit under different topic headings. Fall (On Demand), Spring (On Demand), Summer (On Demand)

CMST 412 (4) Organizational Communication

This course is designed to develop an understanding of communication studies in the organizational context. The course will aid each individual in working more effectively within any type of organization through exposure to major theories and works in the area of organizational communication.

CMST 415 (1-4) Topics in Rhetoric and Culture

Special interest courses devoted to specific topics within the intersecting fields of rhetoric and culture. Topics vary, and course may be retaken for credit under different topic headings.

CMST 416 (1-4) Topics in American Public Address

Special interest courses devoted to specific topics within field of American Public Address. Topics vary, and course may be retaken for credit under different topic headings.

CMST 420 (2) Methods: Teaching Communication Arts

This course fulfills secondary licensure requirements for Communication Arts and Literature. This course covers teaching methods and materials needed to develop units for speech communication courses in grades 5-12.

Variable

CMST 425 (2) Methods: Directing and Coaching Forensics

This course fulfills secondary licensure requirements for Communication Arts and Literature. The course covers methods and techniques in the development of competitive speech programs in grades 5-12.

Variable

CMST 435 (4) Forensics Pedagogy

A course designed to give students a theoretical understanding of competitive speech and debate.

Fall

CMST 440 (1-4) Special Topics

A course designed for students who have a general interest in communication studies. Content of each special topics course will be different. May be retaken for credit.

CMST 445 (4) Conflict Management

This theory and research-oriented course examines the relationship between communication and conflict, and is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills in dealing with conflict situations.

CMST 485W (4) Senior Seminar

This is a required capstone course of all Communication Studies majors and involves the completion and presentation of a senior level research project. Teaching majors are excluded from this requirement.

WI

CMST 490 (1-4) Workshop

Topics vary as announced in class schedules.

CMST 497 (1-12) Teaching Internship

First-hand experience in the classroom assisting a faculty member.

CMST 498 (1-12) Internship

Provides first-hand experience in applying communication theories in the workplace under the direction of an on-site supervisor.

CMST 499 (1-4) Individual Study

Independent study under the supervision of an instructor.