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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Director of Graduate Teaching Assistants: Laura Jacobi Ph.D.,
Director of Graduate Studies Deepa Oommen Ph.D.,
Director of Forensics: Leah White Ph.D.,
Office Manager: Beth Teigen

Faculty: Christopher Brown Ph.D.; Daniel Crann/Mills Ph.D.; Kristen Cvancara Ph.D.;
James Dimock MFA; David Engen Ph.D.; Laura Jacobi Ph.D.; Anne Kerber Ph.D.;
Deepa Oommen Ph.D.; Justin Rudnick Ph.D.; Emily Sauter Ph.D.; Sachi Sekimoto Ph.D.;
Kristen Treinen Ph.D.; Leah White Ph.D.

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 abilities. The focus is on helping students develop interpersonal, organizational, intercultural, and public presentation 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 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 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 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.

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 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

Required General Education
CMST 101W Interpersonal Communication (4)
CMST 203 Intercultural Communication (4)

Major Restricted Electives
 Communication Skills Foundation: Choose 4 Credits
CMST 301 Communication Studies: Approaches & Perspectives (4)
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 Electives: Choose 8 Credits
CMST 301 Communication Studies: Approaches & Perspectives (4)
CMST 302 Argumentation (4)
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)

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CMST 440 Special Topics (1-4)
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

CMST 312  Professional Communication & Interviewing  [4]
CMST 412  Organizational 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.

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 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]

COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONTINUED

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

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

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.

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.

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 417 (4) Experiential Study in Communication and Culture
This is a special interest course devoted to the development of students' understanding of the strategies and practices of communication in cultural contexts. The course is an experiential course involving travel, typically outside the United States. Odd Years: Spring. Diverse Cultures: Gold

CMST 421 (1-4) Communication Studies Teaching and Coaching Methods
The course fulfills secondary licensure requirements for Communication Arts and Literature. First, the course covers teaching methods and materials needed to develop units for communication courses in grades 5-12. Second, the course covers methods and techniques in the development of competitive speech programs in grades 5-12. Spring

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 460 (4) Advanced Argumentation and Debate
This course is designed to provide students with the theoretical foundations necessary to both participate and critique arguments. Students will engage contemporary theories of argumentation and apply those theories in discussion and formal debate. Fall

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
Firsthand experience in the classroom assisting a faculty member.

CMST 498 (1-12) Internship
Provides firsthand 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.