

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Communication is a discipline concerned with the study of how people use messages to generate meaning within and across various contexts, cultures, channels, and media. The discipline promotes the effective and ethical practice of human communication. Courses in communication examine the nature, use, and role of messages among individuals and within small groups, organizations, and society in whatever form they assume—oral, written, visual, mediated, and technological. While the roots of the study of communication trace back to the ancient arts of philosophy, rhetoric and aesthetics, its contemporary practices speak to the opportunities and dilemmas of participating in a globalized, mediated, and multicultural society.

Classes are organized into seven pathways: community service and public affairs, health communication, legal communication, media studies, strategic communication, political communication and government and critical toolbox courses. Across these pathways, students are encouraged to merge theoretical studies with practical applications, including service learning courses, travel study, internships, and social justice projects.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major/faculty advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas_advising@ucdenver.edu

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) Building 1030

303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

EJ Yoder - ej.yoder@ucdenver.edu

Student Commons Building Room 3002

Yvette Bueno Olson - yvette.buenoolson@ucdenver.edu

Student Commons Room 3004

Visit the department website [here](#)

303-315-1919

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS hours at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** semester hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 56 semester hours in major department/prefix courses
- 16 semester hours Pass/Fail
- 12 semester hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 semester hours of internship credit
- 8 semester hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Communication B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 39 COMM credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 15 upper-division (3000-level and above) COMM credit hours.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C-(1.7) in all major courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in the major GPA. Students cannot complete major or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 18 COMM credit hours, 15 of which must be upper division, with CU Denver faculty.
5. Communication majors may complete up to 6 credit hours of internship (COMM 3939).
6. A maximum of 6 credit hours of independent study courses may be applied to the major.
7. Students may transfer in up to 21 COMM credits.
8. In addition to required Communication courses, students are required to take seven elective courses (21 hours), which may consist of classes chosen from any combination of Communication Pathway and Inquiry and Analysis courses. See department for approved courses.

LYNX CONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver Lynx Connect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the Lynx Connect [website](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	CLAS Graduation Requirements
COMM Major Requirements	39	15 semester hours must be upper-division
COMM Required Courses		
COMM 1011 Fundamentals of Communication	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science
COMM 1021 Introduction to Media Studies	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science
COMM 2020 Communication, Citizenship, and Social Justice	3	
COMM 2075 Researching and Writing in Comm	3	
COMM 1001 Presentational Speaking or COMM 2050 Business and Professional Speaking	3	
COMM Major Electives	21	*See major advisor. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Communication Exit Course	3	*See major advisor. Choose from: COMM 3939, 4040, 4051, 4430, 4500, 4525, 4550, 4558, 4660, 4688, 4700, or 4995. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Estimated General Electives	12 - 32	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
Total Minimum Program Hours:	120	45 semester hours must be upper-division

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Year One	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS	
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3		ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3		CU Denver Core Humanities	3
	COMM 1011 ^C , 1021 ^C , or 2020	3		COMM 1011 ^C , 1021 ^C , or 2020	3
	CU Denver Core Social Science / First-Year Seminar	3		CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	15		Total Credit Hours	16
Year Two	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS	
	COMM 1001 or 2050	3		COMM 2075	3
	COMM 1011 ^C , 1021 ^C , or 2020	3		COMM Major Elective	3
	CU Denver Core Arts	3		CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity ^M	3
	General Elective	3		CLAS Humanities	3
	CLAS Biol/Phys Science without lab	3		CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
Total Credit Hours	15	Total Credit Hours	16		
Year Three	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS	
	COMM Major Elective	3		COMM Upper-Division Major Elective	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3		CLAS Social Science	3
	CLAS Second Language Semester I	5		CLAS Second Language Semester II	5
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	14	Total Credit Hours	14		
Year Four	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS	
	COMM Upper-Division Major Elective	3		COMM Exit Course ^{PE or PR}	3
	COMM Upper-Division Major Elective	3		COMM Upper-Division Major Elective	3
	COMM Upper-Division Major Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	15		Total Credit Hours	15