The Communication major prepares 21st century students to become critical thinkers, avid consumers of information, and effective problem solvers in both their personal and professional lives.

The goal of the Communication course of study is for undergraduates to learn about communication from a broad liberal arts perspective. Students will study the nature of effective communication across domains, develop effective communication skills, and gain knowledge of how to help others improve their skills. Students gain theoretical and practical knowledge of public advocacy and debate and the critical capacity to evaluate the face-to-face and mediated political and cultural information upon which we all depend. They also should achieve a sophisticated understanding of the political and social import of communication on all aspects of public and private life, from public policy and health care to cultural norms, personal interactions, and notions of racial, class, gender, and sexual identity.

Communication is an appropriate major for:

- students seeking a general liberal arts education, with a particular focus on communication issues
- students preparing for careers in many different fields involving communication skills (for example, law, business management, sales, public relations, human resources, corporate communication, consulting, media-related fields, or politics)
- students preparing for graduate work in areas such as communication, media studies, public policy, or public health
- students preparing for advanced study in law, medicine, business, or human resources

CMN Class Schedule (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/CMN)

Courses

CMN 101  Public Speaking  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/101)
Preparation and presentation of short informative and persuasive speeches; emphasis on the selection and organization of material, methods of securing interest and attention, and the elements of delivery. Credit is not given for both CMN 101 and either CMN 111 or CMN 112.

CMN 102  Intro to Comm Theory & Res  credit: 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/102)
Survey of the questions probed, the methods employed, and the current status of knowledge in the study of communication.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Social Beh Sci - Beh Sci

CMN 102  Business Communication  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/211)
Focus on relevant theory and research on communication strategies and skills vital to diverse business contexts. Topics include personal branding and self-marketing; job interviewing basics; business ethics; business writing; networking; professional etiquette and behaviors; and business presentations. Activities include presentations, written assignments, and practice interviews. Prerequisite: CMN 101.
CMN 212  Intro to Organizational Comm  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/212)
Considers major theories, research questions, and approaches to organizational communication.

CMN 213  Small Group Communication  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/213)
Considers major theories, processes, and practical measures contributing to effective communication in small group and team contexts. Credit is not given for CMN 113 and CMN 213.

CMN 215  Interviewing Principles & Practices  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/215)
Provides a survey of communication-based interviewing theories and practices. Students will learn theoretical and practical principles related to major types of interviews, the ethics and legalities of interviewing, and apply this knowledge through repeated practice, as both an interviewer and interviewee, leading to competency in employment, informational, and persuasive scenarios. Credit is not given for both CMN 115 and CMN 215. Prerequisite: CMN 101 or CMN 111 and CMN 112.

CMN 220  Communicating Public Policy  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/220)
Study of the nature of policy-oriented communication; analysis and formulation of positions on issues of professional, personal, or public interest; design and presentation of public policy messages addressed to varying tasks and audiences, with special emphasis on advanced writing skills. Prerequisite: Completion of campus Composition I general education requirement.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Advanced Composition

CMN 230  Intro to Interpersonal Comm  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/230)
Study of communication theory and its application to interpersonal relationships; extensive discussion of problems of conflict and misunderstanding in personal affairs to facilitate the development of knowledge, insights, and skills in the processes of face-to-face interaction.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

CMN 231  Communication and Conflict  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/231)
Examines how people experience and manage conflict in both private and public settings. Units focus on conflict in interpersonal, small group, and organizational contexts.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Beh Sci

CMN 232  Intro to Intercultural Comm  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/232)
Introduction to the study of intercultural communication in a variety of contexts, including domestic and international; examines theory and research to explain what happens when people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds interact. Requires students to think critically about the ways in which "taken-for-granted" ways of thinking, acting, and interacting are culturally specific.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Cultural Studies - Non-West
Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

CMN 234  Communication Internship  credit: 1 to 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/234)
Directed internship experience for Communication majors. Students must have consent of the Internship Coordinator. May be repeated in separate terms to a maximum of 6 hours.

CMN 250  Social Movement Communication  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/250)
Examines the communication strategies of social movements, concentrating on the types of messages that social movements create (including rhetorical messaging, social protest, grassroots organizing, fundraising, and media outreach). Focuses on the communication of major 19th, 20th, and 21st century social protest movements, including movements for civil rights, environmentalism, women's rights, and others. Emphasizes the functions of communication for identity formation, promulgation, and social change. Provides knowledge and tools for the analysis and production of messages.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Cultural Studies - US Minority

CMN 260  Intro to Health Communication  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/260)
Introduces theory and research on communication in health and illness contexts. Explores how messages from media, interpersonal, and organizational sources affect health beliefs and behaviors.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Beh Sci
Cultural Studies - Western

CMN 275  Media, Money and Power  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/275)
Describes the political economy of the media in the U.S. Acquaints students with a core understanding of how the media system operates, and with what effects, in a capitalist society. Examines the role of advertising, public relations, corporate concentration, and government regulation upon news reporting, entertainment, culture, and participatory democracy. Also examines issues related to the Internet, globalization, and public broadcasting.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

CMN 277  Introduction to Mediated Communication  credit: 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/277)
Survey of the history, structure, forms, and social effects of the American mass media, with significant focus on study of how media shape perceptions of people of color and other stigmatized groups.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci
Cultural Studies - US Minority

CMN 280  Comm Technology & Society  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/280)
Introduction to theory and research on both old and new communication technologies; focus will be on how these technological systems develop and are used, and what implications of these systems have for culture and society.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

CMN 304  Communication Internship  credit: 1 to 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/304)
Directed internship experience for Communication majors. Students must have consent of the Internship Coordinator. May be repeated in separate terms to a maximum of 6 hours.

CMN 310  The Rhetorical Tradition  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/310)
Survey of major trends in the development of rhetorical theory from Homer to the present.
CMN 312 Communicating for Innovation credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/312)
This course challenges the notion that good ideas are produced by "lone geniuses." Surveying theories from organizational communication, we will explore the important role communication plays in fostering innovation and creativity in the workplace. Some topics discussed include: socialization, group decision-making, information sharing, positive workplace environments, the role of communication technologies, and social networks. Students will analyze real-world cases and participate in class activities designed to demonstrate innovation processes in action.

CMN 320 Comm Controversy Public Policy credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/320)
Examines how public policy shapes American life, by providing an advanced analysis of the controversies, discourses and effects of public policy with a focus on sustainability issues. Explores the American landscape, energy sources, environment, food systems, political process, and government lobbying rules and reform. Provides in-depth analysis of the definitions and histories of public policy and the tensions between public and private spheres that shape it. Develops a fundamental understanding of public versus private spheres; analyzes and critiques how public policy shapes American historical and cultural landscapes; increases skillfulness in oral and written analysis of controversies, institutions, political and economic power brokers, and social norms. Prerequisite: CMN 220 or consent of instructor.

CMN 321 Strategies of Persuasion credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/321)
Studies of powerful instances of public persuasion; students examine key means of public influence.

CMN 323 Argumentation credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/323)
Study of the theory of argument, e.g., evidence, reasoning, and construction of briefs; practice in formal and informal forms of debate and public discourse on current public questions. Prerequisite: CMN 101.

CMN 325 Politics and the Media credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/325)
Same as MACS 322 and PS 312. See PS 312.

CMN 326 Mass Media and the Audience credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/326)
Presents information on how to conceptualize audiences, mass media use, and reception of media messages. Also examines the character of the audience experience, uses and gratifications of mass media, social cognition, and studies of audiences as interpretive communities.

CMN 336 Family Communication credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/336)
Examines the nature and functions of communication in various family configurations (e.g. nuclear families, single-parent families, stepfamilies); discusses both problematic interaction patterns and links between family interaction and strong families.

CMN 338 Relationships and Technologies credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/338)
Examines the uses, functions, and effects of communication technologies in personal relationships (e.g., friendships, dating relationships, families). Emphasis on contemporary and emerging modes of communication with some consideration of historical and enduring modes of interaction.
CMN 375  Popular Media and Culture  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/375)
Using the critical lens of theories on race, class, gender, and sexuality, this class will investigate the complicated relations among popular media and culture, including how our everyday life and attitudes are thought to be shaped by the media, and how cultural systems can be said to inform the media. By exploring a wide range of media (e.g., film, television, music, the internet, and computer games), students will investigate the national, political, and personal dimensions of popular media and the varied ways in which media construct, reflect and intersect with specific cultural systems, identities, and classifications. May be repeated in separate terms to a maximum of 6 hours.

CMN 377  Propaganda and Modern Society  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/377)
Traces the social, economic, and political underpinnings of propaganda and public relations. Examines the rise of corporate propaganda in the early 20th century and explores how these strategies were adapted by a wide range of social and political actors. The second part of the course discusses the above issues from contemporary perspectives. The role of WWI, WWII, and the more recent Iraqi war, in solidifying the role of government and commercial propaganda in society and the frequently blurry distinctions between government propaganda and commercial public relations will also be discussed. The relationship between propaganda, PR and the mass media will constitute a constant site of inquiry. This course focuses on theory, especially critical theory.

CMN 390  Individual Study  credit: 1 to 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/390)
Individual investigation of special problems. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite: Twelve hours of communication coursework; a grade-point average of 3.25; and consent of head of department.

CMN 396  Special Topics in Comm  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/396)
Special topics in communication not treated in regularly scheduled courses. See Class Schedule for current topics. May be repeated as topics vary.

CMN 410  Workplace Comm Technology  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/410)
Focusses on how communication technologies are designed, implemented, adopted, and used within and across organizations. Reviews a broad array of theories used to conceptualize technology in the workplace. Emphasis on how theory may be used to understand applications such as knowledge management, telecommuting, distributed work, and virtual organizations. Further focus on analyzing real-world cases to develop skills necessary for working in contemporary organizations. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 411  Organizational Comm Assessment  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/411)
Organizational communication theory applied to the assessment of communication practices in organizations; systematic procedures for diagnosing communication problems and facilitating effective communication in organizations. Extensive use of case studies. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: CMN 212.

CMN 412  Adv Organizational Comm  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/412)
Advanced study of theory and research in organizational communication; considers such topics as communication networks, superior-subordinate communications, task-related and social information processing, and communicating with the external environment. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: CMN 212.

CMN 413  Adv Small Group Communication  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/413)
Advanced study of theory, research, techniques, and training methods in interviewing and group discussion; emphasis on empirical research findings concerning communication processes in face-to-face groups. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 415  Classical Rhetorics  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/415)
Survey of the contributions to the theory and practice of rhetoric from Homer to the Renaissance. Same as CLCV 415 and MDVL 415. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 416  Early Modern Rhetorics  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/416)
Significant developments in European rhetorical theory from 1500 to the 20th Century. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 417  Contemporary Rhetorics  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/417)
Major contributors to rhetorical theory from I.A. Richards to the present. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 421  Persuasion Theory & Research  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/421)
Survey of major theories of persuasion, research on factors influencing persuasive effectiveness, and application to problems of persuasive discourse. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 423  Rhetorical Criticism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/423)
Methods of interpreting and judging persuasive discourse with emphasis on political speaking and writing; extensive practice in criticism of rhetorical texts. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 424  Campaigning to Win  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/424)
Using a case study approach to illustrate how campaigns attempt to persuade and mobilize voters, students learn how to plan and manage effective political campaigns. Same as PS 411. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 427  Children and the Media  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/427)
Examines the role of the mass media in the lives of children. Focuses on how developmental differences influence how children process and respond to the media. Topics include media violence, media advertising, stereotypes in the media, and educational content. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 429  Race and the Mass Media  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/429)
Presents an overview of racial stereotypes in the mass media and the effects of stereotypical imagery on viewers. Discussion of the structural and social origins of stereotypical media from multiple perspectives focusing on published scholarship that systematically assesses the content and effects of racial representations from a social scientific perspective. Intersections between race, ethnicity, class, and gender also will be explored. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.
CMN 432  Gender and Language  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/432)
Study of actual and perceived differences and similarities in the use of language by women and by men; emphasizes the social contexts of speech. Same as GWS 432, and LING 432. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 435  Adv Interpersonal Comm  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/435)
Study of the major processes involved in an individual's adjustment to the communication situations of everyday life; emphasis on the development of interpersonal competency and orientations, social perception, interpersonal sentiment and hostility, trust, and the social context as factors influencing the understanding and evaluation of interpersonal messages. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: CMN 230 or consent of instructor.

CMN 437  Comm in Personal Relationships  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/437)
Examines theories of communication within personal relationships, including family, friendship, and romantic associations. Specific topics include relationship development, conflict, power, self-disclosure, and relational uncertainty. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 450  Adv Topics in Public Discourse  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/450)
Study of selected periods and genres of public discourse in historical context, including British, American, French, Russian, German, Chinese, and Japanese. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated as topics vary to a maximum of 12 undergraduate hours or 16 graduate hours. Prerequisite: One course in rhetorical criticism or consent of instructor.

CMN 462  Interpersonal Health Comm  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/462)
Examines the role of communication in the management of mental and physical health. Focuses on topics such as communication and illness identity, health and interpersonal relationships, health care provider-patient interactions, impacts of technology on health communication, and health education and prevention efforts. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 463  Organizational Health Comm  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/463)
Focuses on organizational issues shaping communication between providers, patients, and consumers of health care and information, including background on financing personal medical services; organizations, professions, and their interrelationships involved in providing medical services; theorizing communication and organization in personal medical services; and communication between organizations and the public on health issues. Topics include managed care, professional communication, the hospital as a unique communication site, ethics in health communication, direct-to-consumer drug advertising, and health crisis communication. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 464  Health Communication Campaigns  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/464)
Focuses on the theoretical principles behind designing, implementing, and evaluating a health communication campaign. Students will be exposed to campaigns pertaining to alcohol abuse, illicit drug use, organ donation, safe sex, tobacco use, among others. The first part of the course reviews theories used in health communication campaigns, derived from the disciplines of communication, social psychology, and public health. The second part of the course focuses on designing campaigns and creating messages as well as evaluating the effects of those campaigns and messages. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 465  Social Marketing Health&Behav  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/465)
Applies marketing concepts and practices to bring about behavior change for a social good. Social marketing is an approach to planning and implementing projects and programs that emphasizes a customer-centered mindset to learn what people want and need to change their behavior. Designed to give students a thorough orientation to the discipline of social marketing and its application to a range of problems with an emphasis on issues in health contexts. Topics will include audience research, segmentation strategies, communication channels, marketing mix, and the application of behavioral theory. Students will acquire practical skills in the design, implementation, and evaluation of health intervention initiatives that use social marketing. Same as CHLH 465. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 467  Communication & Health Equity  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/467)
Explores the role that communication plays as both a potential contributor to existing health inequalities and a means of helping to reduce them. Drawing on theories and research from communication, public health, and related social science disciplines, the course reviews relevant academic literature and utilizes media and policy examples to engage with key topics, such as communication inequalities and public discourse surrounding inequality and social determinants of health. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Junior standing or above.

CMN 476  Commercialism and the Public  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/476)
Explores the influences of advertising and commercialism and their role in defining our political culture, social institutions, and personal lives. Through readings, written reflection, visual presentations, and class discussions, the course explores a wide range of advertising and consumer issues and discusses how consumers negotiate these forces. The first part of the course is devoted to a historical overview; discussing the risk and evolving nature of advertising throughout the 20th century. Having established a historical framework, the course offers six contemporary topics to be discussed in the remainder of the semester. Topics may include, but not be limited to: the commercial mass media; the public relations industry; gender in advertising; commercialization of childhood; the commercialization of medicine and science; contemporary consumer society; advertising in schools; and food, advertising, and body image. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

CMN 491  Honors Individual Study  credit: 2 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/491)
Individual investigation of special problems. 2 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 undergraduate hours. Prerequisite: Twelve hours of communication; a grade-point average of 3.50; and consent of head of department.
CMN 493  Honors Senior Thesis  credit: 2 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/493)
Individual study leading to a thesis for honors in the Department of Communication. 2 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 undergraduate hours. Prerequisite: Senior standing; a grade-point average of 3.50; and consent of head of department.

CMN 496  Adv Topics in Communication  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/CMN/496)
Advanced topics in communication not treated in regularly scheduled courses; see Class Schedule for current topics. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated as topics vary.