

School of the Arts and Communication

Maurice L. Hall, *Dean*

The School of the Arts and Communication educates students in our disciplines and serves as an advocate for the arts and communication by engaging the campus and the larger community. We cultivate social inclusiveness, intellectual curiosity, technical mastery, disciplinary fluency, and an appreciation of the transformative power of creativity. We provide a foundation of core skills to prepare students for diverse and evolving opportunities.

The School offers a challenging undergraduate education through five academic departments: Art and Art History, Communication Studies, Interactive Multimedia, Journalism and Professional Writing, and Music. Students prepare for a wide variety of exciting careers, choosing among many majors and minors as well as concentrations within majors. Interdisciplinary programs and self-designed majors are also available.

All of our students are offered opportunities for close collaboration with faculty mentors who are respected scholars, noted artists, and dedicated teachers. Our professors are widely recognized for their commitment to students, challenging them as scholars and as citizens in the classroom as well as through collaborative research, community initiatives, and creative projects. Both faculty and students are encouraged to break down the traditional barriers between disciplines, pursuing the kind of interdisciplinary study and research that bridges divides and sparks innovation.

Supporting this rich educational experience are excellent facilities, including the Arts and Interactive Multimedia Building, a 70,000-square-foot arts education center, and Kendall Hall, a home base for film and communication studies. Our school offers all the physical spaces students need—art studios, multimedia labs, rehearsal and performance spaces, film production studios, radio and television stations—to learn, create, and communicate in their disciplines. Such practical, hands-on experience—on campus and in the community, through fieldwork, internships, and service—ensures that our students connect their knowledge with the needs of the world around them.

Art and Art History

Accredited by NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design), the department offers students a choice of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts with specializations in Fine Art, Graphic Design or Lens-Based Art as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education or Art History. In addition, the department offers minor programs in Art History, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Lens-Based Art. The BFA program enables students to develop a high level of conceptual and technical ability as well as a broader understanding of the arts beyond the studio.

Communication Studies

With the Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, students choose among three specializations: Public/Mass Communication, Radio/TV/Film, and Interpersonal/Organizational Communication. The department also offers an Interdisciplinary Concentration in Health Communication. Students often participate in a wide range of vibrant outreach activities, including the nationally top-ranked honor society chapter, Lambda Pi Eta; interdisciplinary Public Health Communication Club; WTSR radio station; Lion's TV; and the TCNJ Society for Parliamentary Debate, as well as a wide range of professional internships.

Interactive Multimedia

One of the first undergraduate majors in the country in this field, the department offers a Bachelor of Arts in Interactive Multimedia as well as a minor. The IMM program exists at the intersection of digital media, interactive computing, writing, and other fields, and combines hands-on instruction using industry-standard production tools with in-depth exploration of the cultural impact of digital and interactive technology. The IMM curriculum provides every student with a broad foundation of skills and concepts essential to the field as a whole, as well as the opportunity to focus on particular areas of interest, such as animation and video, interaction design, game design, web development, writing and storytelling, and sound and electronic music.

Journalism and Professional Writing

The Journalism and Professional Writing (JPW) curriculum is designed to provide intensive study in news and feature writing and editing, as well as corequisite training in ethics, media law, and multimedia/digital skills. JPW also offers two separate minors, one in Journalism and the other in Professional Writing. Any of these programs can be meaningfully combined with majors or minors in fields including communication studies, interactive multimedia, history, international studies, psychology, and marketing, among others.

Music

Accredited by NASM (National Association for Schools of Music), the national accreditation organization for music in the United States, the department offers a Bachelor of Music with specializations in Performance or in Music Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music. In addition to their regular coursework, music students participate in a variety of large and small ensembles as well as private studio.

School of the Arts and Communication Courses

Courses with the prefixes AMM and VPA are offered under the School of the Arts and Communication in addition to those listed under their respective departments.