

Communication Studies

Faculty: Ryan, Chair; D'Angelo, Hu, Johnson-Frizell, Lawrence, Li, Pollock.

Mission Statement

The Department of Communication Studies seeks to engage students and members of the TCNJ community in the study of human communication in its many forms. Working within a framework of five departmental specializations—*Digital Filmmaking and Television*, *Emerging Communication Technologies*, *Health and Wellness Communication*, *Interpersonal and Strategic Communication*, and *Mass Media and Social Media*—along with an interdisciplinary concentration in Health Communication and a close partnership with the Public Health major, the department excels in its dedication to undergraduate teaching and student scholarship. Core departmental and disciplinary values include inclusiveness, intellectual curiosity, written and oral fluency, visual literacy, technical mastery, and the appreciation of the transformative power of effective communication and media. As a faculty, the Department of Communication Studies is committed to building on its local, national, and international reputation as a leader in student-faculty engagement and undergraduate teaching and research, as well as providing experiences that challenge its students and foster a collegial learning environment.

The Communication Studies Program

As an academic field, Communication is the study of the processes and procedures that people, groups, and organizations use in developing and sending informative and persuasive messages. Communication Studies at TCNJ is a liberal arts major emphasizing theory and practice in a variety of settings for human and mediated communication. Topics include *impact of media on society* (mass media effects, health communication campaigns, American political communication, strategic public relations, mass media and the First Amendment, computer-mediated communication and social media); *impact of society on media* (international communication); *communication research methods*, *communication theory* (introduction to media theory, theories of persuasion); *digital film, television and audio production* (introduction to digital filmmaking, directing, editing, lighting and cinematography, documentary, screenwriting); *film and television studies* (film and society, feminism and film, African American film, issues in film history); *interpersonal and strategic* (interpersonal skills, organizational behavior, intercultural/racial communication, sexual communication, group problem solving); and *mass media and social media* (public relations, emerging communication technologies, social media). All courses provide critical and conceptual frameworks for assessing a wide variety of messages. Students in the major should be engaged and curious learners.

Students enrolled in the Communication Studies major choose among five specializations: *Digital Filmmaking and Television*, *Emerging Communication Technologies*, *Health and Wellness Communication*, *Interpersonal and Strategic Communication*, and *Mass Media and Social Media*. In addition, students may choose to focus their College Core requirements by choosing the [Interdisciplinary Concentration in Health Communication](#). The individual specializations require completion of core courses but permit accommodation to individual interests through elective courses. Closely mentored, students work with faculty advisors to plan a program of study. Communication Studies students are also encouraged to develop their creative talents and to apply classroom learning through participation in vibrant outreach activities, such as internships, research, film/video production, film/video festival participation and conference presentations. In addition, the department also participates in the interdisciplinary Leadership Minor and the interdisciplinary Broadcast and Multimedia

Journalism minor which are both open to Communication Studies majors, as well as students in other majors.

Graduates from the Department of Communication Studies are strong candidates for positions in areas including administration, public relations, corporate communication, advertising, health communication, media production and editing, social media management, fundraising, journalism, human resources, and market research. They also are prepared for graduate study in fields such as mass communication, interpersonal communication, media production, health communication, public health, strategic/risk communication, law, and public relations. Students considering graduate school should take courses beyond the minimum requirement of 12 course units.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for Communication Studies:

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these critical content courses:
 - For all specializations: COM 103/Introduction to Communication Theory (a grade of “C+” or better is required)
 - For the Emerging Communication Technologies specialization: COM 265 Emerging Communication Technologies (a grade of C+ or higher).
 - For the Health and Wellness specialization: COM 292 Health Communication or COM 293 Messaging for Health Communication (a grade of C+ or higher).
 - For the Interpersonal and Strategic Communication specialization: COM 242 Interpersonal Communication (a grade of C+ or higher).
 - For the Mass Media and Social Media specialization: COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication or COM 201 Social Media: History, Theory, Practice (a grade of “C+” or higher is required)
 - For the Digital Filmmaking and Television specialization: COM 117/ Introduction to Film Studies *or* COM 118/Introduction to Television Studies; and COM 212/Introduction to Television Studio (a grade of “C+” or higher is required)
- Transfer into the program from another program within the College is based upon an application process and a grade of “C+” or better in any one of the following courses: COM 103/Introduction to Communication Theory, COM 117/Introduction to Film Studies, COM 118/Introduction to Television Studies, COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication, or COM 242/Interpersonal Communication. Information on the transfer process can be obtained on the department website or in person from the department office. Students taking more than one course in the semester applying must meet a grade of “C+” or better in all COM courses. Students taking one or more of these courses during a semester(s) prior to applying must then have earned a “C+” or better in all of them.

- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0 in the major.

Major Requirements in Communication Studies:

The major is composed of 12 courses, which include core courses, selected courses within a specialization, and electives. Each specialization has its own set of core courses. In addition, it is recommended that students in all specializations complete a course in statistics.

Common Core Course for Communication Studies (1 course unit):

COM 103/Introduction to Communication Theory

(All Communication Studies Students are required to complete Com 103 with “C+” grade or better.)

Requirements based on student’s specialization within the department.

Emerging Communication Technologies Specialization Additional Core (4 Units)

COM 117/ Introduction to Film Studies **or COM 118/**Introduction to Television Studies **or COM 172/**Introduction to Media Communication **or COM 242/**Interpersonal Communication **or COM 292/**Health Communication

COM 265/Emerging Communication Technologies

COM 345/New Media and Health Communication

COM 390/ Methods of Comm Research **or** COM 411/Intercultural/Racial Comm

Elective Courses (4 course units from those listed below must include at least 2 COM classes that have not been taken as core classes. Courses in italics may be in the process of curriculum update/approval. Please consult PAWS for a current list of active coursework):

COM 201/Social Media: History, Theory, Practice

COM 212/Intro to Digital Filmmaking

COM 220/Editing for Social Media

COM 270/ Digital Advertising

COM 310/Theories of Persuasion

COM 312/The Art of Editing

COM 365/Communication Approaches to User Experience

COM 370/Special Topics: Virtual Reality for Social and Health Impact

COM 370/Special Topics: Advocacy Communication in the Digital Age

COM 370/Special Topics: Digital Technology and Relationships

COM 394/Global Health and Risk Communication Campaigns

COM 411/Intercultural/Racial Communication
COM 487/Advanced Student-Faculty Research
CSC 102/ Introduction to Computational Thinking
IMM 120/Introduction to Interactive Computing
IMM 170/What's Old is New: A History of Innovation
JPW 250/Writing for Interactive Media
JPW 301/Data Journalism
JPW 322/The Future of News
IST 320/Data Base Management
IST 340/Web Design and Development

Health and Wellness Communication Specialization Additional Core Courses (5 units)

COM 117/ Introduction to Film Studies **or COM 118/**Introduction to Television Studies **or**
COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication **or COM 242/**Interpersonal Communication **or**
COM 265/Emerging Communication Technologies
COM 292/ Health Communication **or COM 293/** Messaging for Health Communication
COM 390/Communication Research Methods **or COM 411/**Intercultural/Racial Communication
COM 394/Global Health and Risk Communication Campaigns
COM 415/International Communication

Elective Courses (3 course units from those listed below that have not been taken as core classes):

COM 261/Introduction to Public Relations
COM 292/ Health Communication
COM 293/ Messaging for Health Communication
COM 310/Theories of Persuasion
COM 330/ Sexual Communication: Identities, Relationships, and Health
COM 335/ Interpersonal Health Communication

COM 342/ Lifespan Communication

COM 345/New Media and Health Communication

COM 371/ Strategies of Public Relations

COM 411/ Intercultural/Racial Communication

COM 487/ Advanced Student-Faculty Research

Interpersonal and Strategic Communication

Specialization: Additional Core Courses (4 units):

COM 242/Interpersonal Communication

COM 172/ Introduction to Media Communication *or* COM 265 /Emerging Communication Technologies *or* COM 292/ Health Communication *or* COM 310/Theories of Persuasion

COM 335/Interpersonal Health Communication *or* COM 371 Strategies of Public Relations *or* COM 394 Global Health and Risk Communication Campaigns

COM 390/Methods of Communication Research *or* COM 411 Intercultural/Racial Communication

Elective Courses (4 course units from those listed below that were not taken as core classes):

COM 172/ Introduction to Media Communication

COM 201/ Social Media: History, Theory, Practice

COM 240/Public Speaking in Business and Government

COM 250/Small Group Communication

COM 261/Introduction to Public Relations

COM 265/ Emerging Communication Technologies

COM 293/ Messaging For Health Communication

COM 300/Intergender Communication

COM 330/Sexual Communication: Identities, Relationships, and Health

COM 335/ Interpersonal Health Communication

COM 342/ Lifespan Communication

COM 343/Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism, and Film

COM 345/New Media and Health Communication

COM 371/Strategies of Public Relations

COM 377/Conflict and Collaboration

COM 394/Global Health and Risk Communication Campaigns

COM 411/Intercultural/Racial Communication

COM 441/Organizations & Leadership
 COM 487/Student-Faculty Advanced Research
 JPW 250/Foundation of Interactive Writing
 JPW 320/Social Media Strategy
 JPW 335/Health and Environmental Journalism

Other Electives (3 course units):

Any additional Communication Studies courses, including courses from other tracks as well as Topics in Communication Studies (COM 270/370), Internship (COM 399), and Independent Study (COM 391) may be taken to complete the major.

One unit each of internships or independent studies may count as electives toward the major.

Mass Media and Social Media Specialization

Additional Core Courses (4 units):

COM 117/ Introduction to Film Studies **or** COM 118/Introduction to Television Studies *or* COM 242/Interpersonal Communication **or** COM 265 Emerging Communication Technologies **or** COM 292/ Health Communication
 COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication **or**
 COM 201/Social Media: History, Theory, Practice
 COM 372/Theories and Effects of Media Communication
 COM 390/Methods of Communication Research and Analysis

Elective Courses (4 course units from those listed below that were not taken as core classes):

COM 117/Introduction to Film Studies
 COM 118/Introduction to Television Studies
 COM 201/Social Media: History, Theory, Practice
 COM 209/Broadcast Journalism
 COM 210/Mass Media and the First Amendment
 COM 220/Editing for Social Media
 COM 240/Public Speaking in Business and Government
 COM 241/Argumentation and Debate
 COM 242/Interpersonal Communication
 COM 271/Film and Society
 COM 261/Introduction to Public Relations
 COM 265 Emerging Communication Technology
 COM 280/American Political Communication
 JPW 320/ Social Media Strategy
 COM 345/New Media and Health Communication
 COM 371/Strategies of Public Relations
 COM 372/Theories and Effects of Media Communication
 COM 380/News in Our Lives Today

COM 411/Intercultural/Racial Communication
 COM 415/International Communication
 COM 441/Organizations and Leadership

COM 487/Student-Faculty Advanced Research

Other Electives (3 course units):

Any additional Communication Studies courses, including courses from other tracks. Topics in Communication Studies (COM 270/370), Internship (COM 399), and Independent Study (COM 391) may be taken to complete the major. One unit each of internships or independent studies may count as electives toward the major.

Digital Filmmaking and Television Specialization

Additional Core Courses (6 units):

COM 117/Introduction to Film Studies *or* COM 118/Introduction to Television Studies
 COM 212/Introduction to Digital Filmmaking
 COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication *or* COM 242/Interpersonal
 Communication *or* COM/310 Theories of Persuasion *or* COM 265 Emerging
 Communication Technologies
 COM 312/The Art of Editing
 COM 381/Issues in Film History *or* COM 390/ Methods of Communication Research
 and Analysis
 COM 442/Senior Practicum

Elective Courses (2 course units at the 300 or 400-level from those listed below that were not taken as core classes):

COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication
 COM 209/ Broadcast Journalism
 COM 212/ Intro to Digital Filmmaking
 COM 220/ Editing for Social Media
 COM 225/ Writing and Announcing for Broadcast
 COM 255/ Acting for Stage and Screen
 COM 269/ Intro to Audio Production
 COM 271/ Film & Society
 COM 325/ Writing for Film and Television
 COM 343/ Looking at Women: Representation, Feminism & Film
 COM 350/ Documentary Production
 COM 375/ Writing the TV Pilot
 COM 368/ Lighting & Cinematography
 COM 369/Advanced Audio Production
 COM 370/TPCS in Comm. (when topic relates to DFT)
 COM 381/ Issues in Film History
 COM 430/ Directing for the Camera
 COM 487/Advanced Student-Faculty Research (when

topic relates to DFT)

Other Electives (3 course units):

Any additional Communication Studies courses, including courses from other tracks as well as Topics in Communication Studies (COM 270/370), Internship (COM 399), and Independent Study (COM 391) may be taken to complete the major.

One unit each of internships or independent studies may count as electives toward the major.

Suggested first-year sequence in *Emerging Communication Technologies* or *Health and Wellness, Interpersonal and Strategic Communication*, or *Mass Media and Social Media specializations*:

FYW First-Year Writing or FYS First-Year Seminar* 1 course unit

COM 103/Introduction to Communication Theory 1 course unit

COM 172/Introduction to Media Communication
or

COM 242/Interpersonal Communication

or

COM 292/ Health Communication

or

COM 265/ Emerging Communication Technologies 1 course unit

FYS First-Year Seminar* 1 course unit

Second Language (if not exempted)** 1-2 course units

Quantitative Reasoning (College Core)*** 1 course unit

College Core 1-2 course units

**Based on placement. Students who take FYW in fall will take FYS in the spring. Students who place out of FYW will take FYS in the fall and a College Core course in the spring.*

*** Chinese 151 and 152 and Japanese 151 and 152 are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

**** It is recommended that all specializations complete a course in statistics.*

Total for year

8 course units

Suggested first year sequence in **Digital Filmmaking and Television specialization**:

FYW First-Year Writing or FYS First-Year Seminar*	1 course unit
COM 103/Introduction to Communication Theory	1 course unit
COM 117/Introduction to Film Studies <i>or</i> COM 118/Introduction to Television Studies unit	1 course unit
COM 212/Introduction to Digital Filmmaking unit	1 course unit
FYS First-Year Seminar* 1 course unit Second Language (if not exempted)** units	1-2 course units
College Core	1-2 course units

**Based on placement. Students who take FYW in fall will take FYS in the spring. Students who place out of FYW will take FYS in the fall and a College Core course in the spring.*

*** Chinese 151 and 152 and Japanese 151 and 152 are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

Total for year

8 course units

Minor: Communication Studies

Students must take five courses for a minor in Communication Studies. One of these must be the common core course (COM 103/Introduction to Communication Theory). The four remaining courses should be selected in consultation with a faculty advisor in Communication Studies and must include at least two courses at the 300-400 level. Independent studies and internships cannot be included in the minor but may be used as free electives for further credit toward graduation.