

MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES



Communication Studies majors gain a versatile, liberal arts education that prepares them to thrive in today's ever-evolving workplace, where having multiple careers is increasingly common. This dynamic major encompasses many facets of film and media studies, relational and organizational communication, and rhetoric and civic engagement. Along with courses in communication studies, the major requires courses in arts and humanities, social sciences, history, and a minor or second major.

The department aims to provide undergraduate majors with an outstanding education in communication studies, enhance their understanding of human communication, and develop their leadership abilities. Through this approach, we prepare students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and fulfilling lives.

Learning Objectives

- **Knowledge** about the history and practice of our discipline in three specific areas: film and media studies, relational and organizational communication, and rhetoric and civic engagement. Students will be able to explain the utility of theories from these areas and utilize research methods to explore questions from each area of inquiry.
- **Skills** that allow students to apply their knowledge of the major as they address contemporary issues salient to their personal, professional, and civic lives. Students develop proficiency in both oral and written communication, enabling them to craft and deliver coherent, well-organized arguments to specific audiences. They also develop critical thinking skills that allow them to analyze texts, situations, or issues using credible evidence while following a logical, systematic, and/or precise structure.

Accelerated Program

The major in Communication Studies includes an accelerated program option (<https://provost.colostate.edu/accelerated-programs/>) for students to graduate on a faster schedule. Accelerated Programs typically include 15-16 credits each fall and spring semester for three years, plus 6-9 credits over two to three summer sessions. Students who enter CSU with prior credit (AP, IB, transfer, etc.) may use applicable courses to further accelerate their graduation. Visit the Office of the Provost website for additional information about Accelerated Programs (<https://provost.colostate.edu/accelerated-programs/>).

Potential Occupations

The Communication Studies major, like many liberal arts majors, provides students with a broad academic background suitable for a variety of jobs in the public and private sectors. Majors are trained to think independently and critically, communicate effectively, and function in a multicultural world. Employers appreciate communication studies majors for their multiple skills and their ability to adapt to a variety of tasks and work environments.

Many majors find employment in public relations/marketing, politics, sales, human relations, government, business management, convention and meeting planning, education, and social media. Some students move on to graduate work in communication studies and to post-graduate study in business, law, and theology.

Career opportunities include, but are not limited to, employee relations specialist, employment counselor, human resources consultant, industrial relations representative, public relations specialist, labor relations consultant, training director, vocational rehabilitation counselor, advance agent, business communicator, equal opportunity representative, foreign service officer, cooperative extension service worker, politician, lobbyist, speechwriter, press agent, literary agent, interviewer, sales representative, scriptwriter, filmmaker, lawyer, and teacher.

Internships are available to Communication Studies majors and are highly recommended to enhance practical training and development. Graduates who seek advanced studies can attain positions with higher responsibilities and can rise to top professional levels.

Change of Major

To change your major to Communication Studies, you can either call the College of Liberal Arts Academic Advising Center (<https://advising.libarts.colostate.edu/>) at 970-491-3117, or send them an email (cla_advising@colostate.edu).