

# Communication Studies

The Communication Studies program provides students with a theoretical and methodological foundation of the nature of communication in its various forms and contexts as well as the uses, effects, and relevancy of communication in their own lives.

Students take communication courses to prepare to transfer with a major in communication or to meet general education requirements.

A bachelor's degree in communication can lead to a career in advertising, broadcasting, community relations, consulting, counseling, education, film, foreign service, fundraising, human resources, journalism, international relations, law, management, marketing, mediation, ministry, politics, public relations, sales, speech writing, and social work.

## Academic and Career Pathway

Languages, Communication, and Humanities (<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/languages-communication-and-humanities/>)

## Contact Information

**Chair:** Leola Powers  
**Dean:** Lauren Halsted  
<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/languages-communication-and-humanities/communication-studies/index.html> (<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/languages-communication-and-humanities/communication-studies/>)

**Department:** Communication Studies  
**Office:** Building OC3600, 760.634.7876

## Full-Time Faculty

Sam Arenivar  
 Rachel Hastings  
 Anthony Ongyod

Leola Powers  
 Eric Robertson

## Associate Degree

### Associate in Arts Degree

#### Communication Studies for Transfer 2.0

Students completing this associate degree will have completed lower-division major preparation requirements for a communications degree, an emphasis or option within a communications degree, or a degree considered similar to communications at a participating California State University (CSU) campus.

Following transfer to a participating CSU campus, students will be required to complete no more than 60 units to obtain

a bachelor's degree; however, some CSU campuses may require additional lower-division major preparation. This degree may not be appropriate preparation for students transferring to a CSU campus not accepting this degree or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system. Students should consult with a MiraCosta counselor for further information regarding the most efficient pathway to transfer as a communications major and to determine which CSU campuses are participating in this program.

## Graduation Requirements

- ▶ Complete a minimum of 60 CSU-transferable semester units.
- ▶ Complete all courses in the major with a "C" or "P" or better.
- ▶ Complete the Cal-GETC (<https://catalog.miracosta.edu/degreecertificate-transferinfo/general-education-plans/planc/>) general education pattern.
- ▶ Obtain a minimum CSU-transferable grade point average of 2.0.
- ▶ Complete a minimum of 12 semester units in residence at MiraCosta College.

## Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to present clear and effective messages and understand the relevance of the theories and methods of communication.

## Course Requirements

Required Core:

COMM C1000	Introduction to Public Speaking *	3
COMM 207	Interpersonal Communication	3
List A: 6 Units. Select two courses.		6
COMM 106	Group Communication	
COMM 111	Narrative Performance	
COMM 120	Principles of Human Communication *	
COMM 212	Argumentation	
COMM 215	Intercultural Communication *	
COMM 220	Introduction to Mass Communication *	
List B: 6 Units. Select two courses.		6
Any course from List A not already used.		
COMM 135	Gender Studies in Communication *	
COMM 144	Race and Ethnicity in Communication	
COMM 186	Social Media Strategies for Communication Studies	

**Total Units** **18**

\* Course satisfies a general education requirement on the Cal-GETC general education pattern. To ensure this degree is completed with no more than 60 units, students should select courses that will also satisfy a general education requirement.

**NOTE:** Students are strongly advised to select courses that meet lower-division major preparation requirements at their transfer university and to complete the History, Constitution, and American Ideals requirement prior to transfer.

## Courses

### **COMM C1000: Introduction to Public Speaking**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limitation: Not open to students with prior credit in COMM 101.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

In this course, students learn and apply foundational rhetorical theories and techniques of public speaking in a multicultural democratic society. Students discover, develop, and critically analyze ideas in public discourse through research, reasoning, organization, composition, delivery to a live audience and evaluation of various types of speeches, including informative and persuasive speeches. (Formerly COMM 101). C-ID COMM-110.

### **COMM 106: Group Communication**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course introduces students to group communication processes and principles and the necessary role of discussion in society. While addressing current topics of controversy, students learn and apply theories of group problem-solving, roles, conflict resolution, leadership, ethics, and decision-making. Students develop group communication skills in verbal and nonverbal interaction, participation, organization, and cultural diversity. Students learn to prepare, deliver, and evaluate various types of speeches, including informative and persuasive speeches. C-ID COMM-140.

### **COMM 111: Narrative Performance**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course introduces narrative performance and analysis of narrative works of art in their intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic forms. Class readings include traditional and contemporary approaches to storytelling and types of narratives, such as prose, poetry and drama. Students develop methods for constructing narratives and performance strategies for telling stories, including vocal and physical expressiveness, variety, and flexibility through narrative performance. C-ID COMM-170.

### **COMM 120: Principles of Human Communication**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Advisory: ENGL C1000

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course introduces human communication concepts and theories. It focuses on the role and significance of communication in and across different contexts, and it covers the basic structures and processes of communication. Topics include message production, message reception, and varying influences on human communication, such as interpersonal, intercultural, and mediated contexts. C-ID COMM-180.

### **COMM 135: Gender Studies in Communication**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course examines the different gender communication patterns. It studies differences and similarities in verbal and nonverbal behaviors, perception, conflict, leadership, and interpersonal relationships. Students develop an awareness and appreciation of gender as an important variable in human communication, in both public and private settings.

### **COMM 144: Race and Ethnicity in Communication**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course provides both a theoretical and a practical exploration of how we communicate race and ethnicity in the United States. Topics include how contemporary and historical constructions of race and ethnicity influence identity construction, everyday interactions, and intercultural social dynamics. The course emphasizes developing racial and ethnic awareness concerning situations where perceived racial or ethnic differences factor into communication outcomes. Students engage with qualitative analysis, social, cultural, and political theories, and power relations related to the representations of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and/or Latinas/os in contemporary popular culture in the US.

**COMM 186: Social Media Strategies for Communication Studies**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course explores the growing need for social media technology from a communication perspective within and across multiple online contexts. Students gain the knowledge and skills to effectively apply communication theories and concepts to social media and digital contexts to gain an understanding of online behaviors and practices. Students learn how to communicate messages for an intended audience within social media environments and are introduced to social media technologies and digital communication methods, such as branding, content creation, team organization, distribution channels, strategies, and ways to assess digital platforms.

**COMM 207: Interpersonal Communication**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course provides for the study of communication within an interpersonal context. It includes the study of the communication process, perception, the symbolic nature of language, nonverbal codes, principles of effective communication, and the effects of communication on people in society. Students learn to prepare, deliver, and evaluate various types of speeches, including informative and persuasive speeches. C-ID COMM-130.

**COMM 212: Argumentation**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course examines the psychological and logical basis of argument and principles of effective organization. It teaches the development and application of critical thinking skills as well as the practice of creating and evaluating arguments so students can become more skilled and responsible advocates. C-ID COMM-120.

**COMM 215: Intercultural Communication**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Advisory: ENGL C1000

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course analyzes the cultural factors and variables that influence human-communication choices and actions. It focuses on perception, language, reasoning, nonverbal messages, values, beliefs, attitudes, and rules. Students learn to identify the cultural principles and variables of communication so as to act effectively and responsibly when interacting with diverse persons in various contexts. C-ID COMM-150.

**COMM 220: Introduction to Mass Communication**

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course covers the history, role, and impact of mass media in the United States. It demonstrates various media operations in the US and their societal and cultural effects. The course enables students to be informed, critical consumers of mass media and to understand how the media influence attitudes, values, beliefs, and perceptions. C-ID JOUR-100.

**COMM 292: Internship Studies**

Units: 0.5-14

Prerequisites: None

Corequisite: Complete 54 hours of work per unit, paid or unpaid.

Enrollment Limitation: Instructor, dept chair, and Career Center approval. Fourteen unit maximum in any combination of work experience education and/or internship studies per semester.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course provides students the opportunity to apply the theories and techniques of their discipline in an internship position in a professional setting under the instruction of a faculty-mentor and site supervisor. It introduces students to aspects of the roles and responsibilities of professionals employed in the field of study. Topics include goal-setting, employability skills development, and examination of the world of work as it relates to the student's career plans. Students must develop new learning objectives and/or work/intern at a new site upon each enrollment.

### **COMM 296: Topics in Communication**

Units: 1-3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Lecture 1 hour.

Lecture 2 hours.

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: To be arranged

This course gives students an opportunity to study topics in Communications that are not included in regular course offerings. Each Topics course is announced, described, and given its own title and 296 number designation in the class schedule.

### **COMM 299: Occupational Work Experience Education**

Units: 0.5-14

Prerequisites: None

Corequisite: Complete 54 hours of work per unit, paid or unpaid.

Enrollment Limitation: Career Center approval. Fourteen unit maximum in any combination of work experience education and/or internship studies per semester.

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer

This course is intended for students who are employed in a job directly related to their major or career area of interest. It allows such students the opportunity to apply the theories and skills of their discipline to their position and to undertake new responsibilities and learn new skills at work. Topics include goal-setting, employability skills development, and examination of the world of work as it relates to the student's career plans. Students must develop new learning objectives and/or work/intern at a new site upon each enrollment.