

Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies is a community of scholars and students dedicated to communication research and education through the analysis, interpretation and production of messages.



Academic Track

Legal Communication

Law is fundamentally a profession about research and communication. The practice of law involves researching case law, constructing arguments and persuading others. It demands the ability to clearly construct, present and critically analyze arguments.

Attorneys must also have strong interpersonal skills in order to show compassion to clients, mediate disputes and negotiate settlements. With a field so steeped in verbal and nonverbal skill requirements, a background in communication can serve as an effective foundation for a career in law. Communication training, or a degree in communication, is extremely useful for admission to law schools, as well as providing skills for use after law school.

It is also valuable training for paralegals and legal secretaries. This communication specialization is intended for students who are interested in some aspect of the legal profession, including litigation, corporate law, family law and other specialties, or for those who work with attorneys and the courts.

Communication Studies Courses - 39 hours

Core Courses - 12 hours

- COMM 320: Theories of Human Communication (3 hrs)
- COMM 330: Rhetoric in Western Thought (3 hrs)
- COMM 431: Criticism of Public Discourse (3 hrs) or
COMM 433: Communication Research Methods (3 hrs)
- COMM 550: Senior Colloquium (3 hrs) or
COMM 551: Senior Honors Thesis (3 hrs)

Legal Communication Courses - choose 12 hours

- COMM 260: Intro to Trial Advocacy (3 hrs)
- COMM 325: Argumentation and Debate (3 hrs)
- COMM 326: Small Group Discussion Methods (3 hrs)
- COMM 430: Freedom of Speech (3 hrs)
- COMM 460: Advanced Trial Advocacy (3 hrs)
- COMM 475: Legal Communication (3 hrs) ***REQUIRED***
- COMM 526: Persuasion (3 hrs)
- COMM 525: Argumentation Theory (3 hrs)

Electives - 15 hours of additional COMM courses

Additional Requirement - 3 hours must be at the 500 level or above (in addition to COMM 550 or COMM 551)

POTENTIAL CAREERS

LITIGATOR

PARALEGAL

LEGAL SECRETARY

JURY CONSULTANT

CORPORATE ATTORNEY

MEDIATION/NEGOTIATION
SPECIALIST

COMPLEMENTARY MAJORS/MINORS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

LEADERSHIP STUDIES MINOR

MASS COMMUNICATIONS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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