

MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD YOUR DEGREE

As you make progress toward graduating with a Communication degree, consider how you will pace yourself in taking courses. Generally, you can expect four more semesters after you have completed the Communication core courses and are accepted into an Upper Division major – Public Communication, Communication Studies, Broadcasting or Journalism.

You may find that, with scheduling flexibility, you can complete the Upper Division in three semesters plus summers. On the other hand, you may choose to slow your scheduling pace – because of a job, family responsibilities, illness, failure to satisfactorily complete courses, or some other reason. If this happens, you will need additional time to complete your graduation requirements. Here are recommended schedules for courses in each Upper Division major:

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (0703)

Semester 1: 301; 307/322

Semester 2: 308; 401, 307/322/COM elective

Semester 3: 418; 307/322; COM elective

Semester 4: 450; 488 Internship/elective

BROADCASTING (0707)

Semester 1: 304; 328/329

Semester 2: 317; 328/329; COM elective

Semester 3: 400; 438/439; COM elective

Semester 4: 450; 488 Internship/elective

COMMUNICATION STUDIES (0706)

Semester 1: Oral/Written/VisCom course;
COM elective

Semester 2: Oral/Written/VisCom course;
Theory course; COM elective

Semester 3: Oral/Written/VisCom course;
Theory course: COM elective

Semester 4: 450; COM elective

JOURNALISM (0708)

Semester 1: 302; 303/337; 400

Semester 2: 319/338; COM elective

Semester 3: 325/440; 450; COM elective

Semester 4: 405; 488 Internship/elective

The time it takes to meet graduation requirements is mainly your decision; your faculty will work with you for as long as it takes to fulfill your degree requirements. Realize, however, that we will not waive prerequisite courses or maximum semester credit hours just because a student is in a hurry or feels behind schedule. Try to not overload any semester with too many courses in your major – no more than three major courses a semester. Savor your Communication classes; enjoy the thrill of preparing for your eventual career; allow your skills to build gradually; and realize that some things simply cannot be rushed. Both academic and professional success are built steadily over time.

Note that the College requires you to have a minimum GPA of 2.0 for graduation. The department accepts no grade lower than C in the major and requires a 2.6 major GPA to be eligible for an internship in Broadcasting, Journalism or Public Communication; students in Communication Studies generally do not prepare for internships.

Beyond these minimum requirements, your instructors encourage you toward loftier goals. In recent semesters, Communication seniors have graduated with an average GPA of 3.15, and we hope you will help this trend continue.

Ron Smith, Communication Department Chair