COMMUNICATION: COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC SERVICE, BA

General Comm Degree Description:

Communication is an interdisciplinary field that draws from the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. The undergraduate Communication program focuses on the theoretical, critical, and empirical examination of fundamental communication systems, institutions, processes, and effects. Comm majors gain deep insight into how communication shapes our individual and collective social, political, economic, and cultural lives; both historical and contemporary, local and global. Our majors learn and employ a range of theories and research methods, including quantitative approaches such as survey research, experiments, content analysis, and computational science; and qualitative approaches such as historical, textual and discourse analysis, focus groups, and ethnographic fieldwork. In doing so, they produce scholarship that is rigorous, relevant, and multi-modal.

The major in Communication is granted by the College of Arts and Sciences, but the major curriculum is designed, administered, and taught by the Annenberg School for Communication.

In addition, the Comm curriculum also offers opportunities for thesis research (https://www.asc.upenn.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/curriculum-and-major-requirements/thesis-requirements/), independent study (https://www.asc.upenn.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/curriculum-and-major-requirements/independent-study/), internships (https://www.asc.upenn.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/academic-opportunities/internship-program-and-seminar/), and study abroad (https://www.asc.upenn.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/curriculum-and-major-requirements/study-abroad-and-transfering-credit/).

Communication and Public Service

A Communication major with a focus in Communication and Public Service (ComPS) offers students a special program that combines individual research opportunities with hands-on experience in the public arena. Classes, seminars, internships, field experiences, and individual research projects provide students with opportunities to meet and learn from current and former officeholders, journalists, and public servants who have been leaders in government and civil society. The program is closely matched to the undergraduate Communication major, and like the Communication major, ComPS students must complete 14 courses.

The minimum total course units (https://www.college.upenn.edu/credits-needed-major/) for graduation in this major is 34. Double majors may entail more course units.

Students must meet the following minimum requirements as a condition of application to the major. Meeting these prerequisites is NOT a guarantee of admission to the major.

1. Completion of at least two of the following introductory core survey courses:
   - Critical Approaches to Popular Culture
   - Introduction to Communication Behavior
   - Media Industries and Society
   - Research Methods course from an approved list.

2. Completion of a third Communication course. Students may submit the application for the major after enrollment in the third course.

3. Cumulative GPA at time of application should be at least 2.0.

For more information: https://www.asc.upenn.edu/communication-and-public-service/

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/) page.
Please visit the website (https://www.asc.upenn.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/curriculum-and-major-requirements/course-requirements%20%20/) for a listing of approved Research Method Courses.

1 of the 3 COMM elective courses must be 300 to a 499 level.

Study abroad and study away courses are normally assigned the number COMM298. Students can complete up to 2 COMM298 courses toward their COMM elective requirements.

See listing of ComPS course options here (https://www.asc.upenn.edu/communication-and-public-service/).

1 COMM298 course can count toward the ComPS requirement, but must receive prior permission before enrollment.

All ComPs students are required to complete a yearlong 2 CU senior thesis course. See notes below regarding receipt of honors.

1 Non-COMM elective can be at the introductory level. Courses must be related to the ComPS program and preapproved by a member of the COMM Undergraduate Advising Team (https://www.asc.upenn.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/advising-appointments/).

**Honors**

A capstone thesis project is completed over two semesters during the senior year. Students choose the topic of the capstone thesis from a range of public policy or public service issues. During the year they work with a thesis advisor and are enrolled in a thesis seminar to complete their project. A credit is earned in both semesters. **Students who achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and earn an A- or higher on their project will graduate with honors.**

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2021 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.