

BA IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES (GENERAL COMMUNICATION)



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. 2025-10-31T19:37:16Z
Phillip Reese (phillip.reese): Approved for COMS Committee Chair
2. 2025-10-31T21:30:22Z
S. Zuckerman (sdzuck): Approved for COMS Chair
3. 2025-10-31T22:01:39Z
Rebekkah Mulholland (rebeccakah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
4. 2025-10-31T22:05:37Z
Shawna Malvini Redden (malviniredden): Approved for ALS Dean

History

1. Apr 30, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Aug 9, 2018 by Janett Torset (torsetj)
3. Nov 5, 2018 by 212408496
4. Apr 28, 2020 by 220267334
5. Apr 20, 2021 by 220267334

Program Discontinuation Proposal

Date Submitted: 2025-10-31T19:14:08Z

Viewing: BA in Communication Studies (General Communication)

Last approved: Tue, 20 Apr 2021 19:38:07 GMT

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Changes proposed by: Shawna Malvini Redden (201158507)

Final Catalog

2026-2027 Catalog

Provide reasons for the program suspension.

We are discontinuing the BA in Communication Studies (General Communication) as part of our curriculum revision project and the development of new Communication Studies Concentrations.

Indicate any programmatic or fiscal impact suspension of the program will have on other academic units' programs.

There are no programmatic or fiscal effects on other academic units as the program is being replaced by new concentrations.

Describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units.

We have been in consultation with Undergraduate Studies (Director Sharyn Gardener) and the TOPSS director (Will Mechling) about the transitions between the existing degree program and the new concentrations. They are both in full support of these changes.

Explain provisions to ensure currently enrollment students have a reasonable opportunity to complete the program.

As the new concentrations are primarily a reorganization/clarification of the existing curriculum, with all of the existing courses remaining, currently enrolled students will be able to complete their existing programs without interruption.

Indicate what resources will be freed up or shifted to other programs as the result of the program suspension.

N/A The program is being replaced by new concentrations.

Academic Group: (College)

Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

Communication Studies

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

Type of Program:

Major

Title of the Program:

BA in Communication Studies (General Communication)

University Learning Goals

Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Competence in the disciplines
Integrative learning
Personal and social responsibility
Intellectual and practical skills

Program Learning Outcomes

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Catalog Description:

Units Required for Major: 39

Total units required for BA: 120

Program Description

Communication Studies is a broad-based discipline concerned with the exchange of messages in interpersonal and mediated situations and with the impact of such exchanges on society. Courses focus on understanding the communication process and developing skills to communicate effectively. The Department offers a wide range of courses in interpersonal, group, and organizational communication, rhetorical theory and criticism, public relations, mass communication, research methodologies, and digital media (video or multimedia).

This concentration is designed to:

- improve student awareness, understanding, and practice of communication in professional and social interactions;
- enhance the traditional citizenship role in the democratic process; and
- train students in communication skills in preparation for professions within the public or private sectors of the economy

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Lower Division Core Courses (9 Units)		
COMS 2	Argumentation ¹	3
COMS 8	Interpersonal Communication Skills	3
COMS/JOUR 55	Media Communication and Society	3
Required Upper Division Core Courses (9 Units)		
COMS 100A	Survey of Communication Studies	3
COMS 100B	Rhetoric and Social Influence 	3
COMS 100C	Social Scientific Methods in Communication Research	3
Research Methods (3 Units)		
Select one of the following:		3
COMS 164	Visual Communication	
COMS 165	Communication and Religion	
COMS 168	Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism	
COMS 170	Data Analysis in Communication Research	
COMS 171	Survey Methods in Communication Research	
COMS 172	Content Analysis	
Theory and Seminar Pair (6 Units)		
Select one of the following pairs:		6
<i>Intercultural Communication</i>		
COMS 116	Intercultural Communication	
COMS 188	Senior Seminar in Intercultural Communication	
<i>Interpersonal Communication</i>		
COMS 143	Theories of Interpersonal Communication	
COMS 182	Senior Seminar in Interpersonal Communication	
<i>Film as Communication</i>		
COMS 142	Film As Communication	
COMS 192	Senior Seminar in Film	
<i>Mass Communication</i>		
COMS 150	Mass Communication Theories and Effects	
COMS 183	Senior Seminar in Media Issues and Ethics	
<i>New Media</i>		
COMS 150	Mass Communication Theories and Effects	
COMS 191	New Media and Society	
<i>Organizational Communication</i>		
COMS 145	Organizational Communication	
COMS 180	Senior Seminar in Organizational Communication	
<i>Rhetoric and Social Influence</i>		
COMS 167	Systems and Theories of Rhetoric	
COMS 169	Television Criticism	
<i>Small Group Communication</i>		
COMS 105	Communication in Small Groups	
COMS 181	Senior Seminar in Small Group Communication	
Upper Division Electives (12 Units)		
Select four approved courses ²		12
Total Units		39

¹ Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

² Select any four COMS and/or JOUR upper division courses numbered 100 or above in consultation with your major advisor.

General Education Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (3-6 Units)		
A1 - Oral Communication ²		0 - 3
A2 - Written Communication		3
A3 - Critical Thinking ³		0
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)		
B1 - Physical Science		3
B2 - Life Forms		3
B3 - Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)		1
B4 - Math Concepts		3
B5 - Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)		
C1 - Arts		3
C2 - Humanities		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area D: The Individual and Society (9 Units)		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)		
Area E Course		3
Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)		
Area F Course		3
Total Units		43-46

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Department recommends COMS 4 or COMS 5 to meet Area A1.

³ Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

Graduation Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (6 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government		3
Writing Intensive (WI) ²		0
Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement ³		6

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² Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement

³ If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://>

www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html (<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>)

Key: 9