

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

College of Arts and Sciences

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About

There is nothing on this earth more fascinating than the study of human communication. Meaning making is a complex, continuous, collaborative, dynamic process. Sometimes, we are transported into a world we could hardly imagine as we engage in deep listening and active dialogue with friends, loved ones, and colleagues. Sometimes a great speech will take us to soaring heights of understanding and even epiphany. Sometimes we are like ships passing in the night, hardly even understanding one another. And sometimes, we crash into each other like rams on a hillside, embroiled in conflict, with no apparent exit!

Friends, families, work groups, organizations, communities—we study them all, and all offer endless opportunities for study, sense making, and intervention. All of this action, and more, will confront you as you engage in your studies. And, at the end of it all, you will not only have a lifelong quest ahead of you (as you come to understand and engage in various forms and practices of communication), you will also find yourself equipped to succeed in a wide variety of fields and careers.

Mission Statement

We teach and research communication to connect people, create change, and work toward a just world.

Commitments

- We engage communication knowledge to understand, advance, and challenge human interaction processes locally and globally.
- We promote the centrality of communication to personal, professional, and public lives.
- We seek to invigorate our collective moral imagination to build a world of hope, justice, and peace.
- We engage pressing social and relational issues through written and spoken communication, active research and teaching, and involvement in the world around us.
- We foster learning and application of communication knowledge and skill to transform relationships and communities.
- We affirm, practice, and teach service and community engagement.
- We teach the art of living well together.

Values

We actively value and promote:

- Honesty
- Trust
- Respect
- Fairness
- Responsibility

- Care
- Ethics
- Justice
- Courage
- Equality
- Creativity
- Compassion
- Engagement
- Critical Thinking
- Holistic Thinking
- Incremental Thinking
- Learner-centered practice
- Independence
- Interdependence
- Difference
- Relationships
- Connection
- Self-discipline
- Focus
- Service

Philosophy of Scholarship

We believe that communication is formative and foundational to human identities, relationships, and communities—and that ethical and strategically effective communication can be the means of critiquing, constructing, and transforming identities, relationships, and communities.

We engage in communication scholarship in the form of research, teaching, and service that:

- Integrates dialogue and other approaches to communication as the foundation for scholarly inquiry and application to the world
- Cultivates diversity and respect for differences
- Promotes change that leads to more democratic, just, and peaceful relationships and communities
- Engages creative partnerships of faculty, students, and other stakeholders in addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities for improving communication

The Department offers the B.A. in Communication Studies as well as an undergraduate minor. The M.A. degree is also offered in the department. For details on the graduate program see the *University Catalog*.

The Department of Communication Studies offers required and elective courses that are designed to make productive use of differing learning styles among students: theoretical and applied, textual and experiential, topical and case study, course work and internships/service learning, individual and groups/team based performances. A number of courses involve service learning to link communication, action, and academic study.

The Department of Communication Studies provides opportunities to study relational, group, workplace, and community communication. Communication courses contribute to a liberal education by teaching creative thinking and problem-solving, critical reasoning, and effective oral, written, and mediated communication. The faculty strongly believe in the interdisciplinary nature of communication, and this curriculum encourages elective course work be taken in allied disciplines such as

African American and African Diaspora Studies, Anthropology, Business, English, Media Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies. Additionally, the Department participates in high-impact educational experiences, such as Service-Learning, the Honors Programs administered by the Lloyd International Honors College, Writing Across the Curriculum and Speaking Across the Curriculum programs, and regularly offers freshman seminars. Opportunities also exist for Study Abroad including exchanges in Europe. Communication Studies majors with a 3.0 GPA may apply to go abroad in the spring semester of their junior year to participate in various Study Abroad opportunities.

The undergraduate program in Communication Studies is designed to serve as a solid foundation for a variety of professional and entrepreneurial careers; it also provides preparatory work for graduate studies in communication, as well as related fields such as law, business, media studies, and education. Faculty and students in the Department of Communication Studies are actively involved in research, service, and consulting with community, state, regional, national, and international organizations and agencies.

Student Learning Goals

As a reflection of the mission statement, the UNC Greensboro general education goals, and in consultation with the National Communication Association, the Department of Communication Studies has the following student learning outcomes for the B.A. degree. At the completion of the major, the student should be able to:

- Speak effectively and ethically to a public.
- Utilize communication concepts and competencies to build relationships and/or community.
- Apply a communication perspective to identify and analyze social issues/problems.
- Engage communication scholarship using appropriate theory and research methods.

Graduate Programs

The Master of Arts program in Communication Studies prepares students for scholarly or applied communication careers in the social, public, and private sectors, community college teaching, or advancement to a doctoral program. As they master the tools of scholarship, students acquire:

1. A deep, research-based, critical understanding of communication in relation to public and private contexts and issues, and
2. The ability to participate in and contribute to the communication discipline as scholars and practitioners.

Professor

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G Graduate-level faculty

- Communication Studies, B.A. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-ba/>)
- Communication Studies Undergraduate Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-minor/>)
- Communication Studies Second Academic Concentration (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-second-academic-concentration/>)
- Communication Studies, M.A. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-ma/>)