

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION MAJOR: VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA OPTION (B.S.)

<https://cps.unh.edu/online/program/bs/professional-communication-visual-communication-social-media-option>

Description

The Bachelor of Science in Professional Communication hones the skills of analytical thinking, compelling writing, effective persuasion, and clear expression to prepare graduates to work in an information-based economy and to be engaged citizens of a media-driven culture. The major is well-suited to students interested in careers or further studies in such areas as public relations, public service, nonprofit advocacy, and corporate communications. Courses provide students the opportunity to study fundamental theory and multiple sectors of practice in the discipline of communication and to prepare to contribute to public and private enterprises that consistently need to convey messages effectively, manage information appropriately, and respond ethically and effectively to opportunities and to crises.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 120 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 30 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 2.0 is required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: General Education Program

Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

**GPA: Major and any state certification GPA requirements may be higher and are indicated in program details.*

A minimum grade of C- is required in all Major coursework. Some programs may have higher grade requirements for Major coursework as noted in the Major requirements section below. Students are allowed a maximum of two course overlaps. Overlaps can be used between Major, Minor, and General Education requirements with only 8 credits overlapped between the Major and Minor. Please note that Option requirements are considered part of the Major. Students must complete 16 upper-level credits in majors within the College of Professional Studies, Online.

General Education Program Requirements

A minimum grade of D- is required in all General Education coursework. Students are allowed a maximum of two course overlaps. Overlaps can be used between Major, Minor and General Education requirements with only 8 credits overlapped between the Major and Minor.

All General Education requirements must be taken prior to the capstone.

Code	Title	Credits
ENG 420	The Writing Process	4
COM 460	Interpersonal Communication and Group Dynamics	4
COM 480	Visual Communication	4
CRIT 501	Introduction to Critical Inquiry	4
Select one of the following:		4
MTH 402	Math for Our World	
MTH 504	Statistics	
MTH 510	Pre-Calculus	
Knowledge of Human Behavior & Social Systems		4
Knowledge of the Physical & Natural World		4
Knowledge of Human Thought & Expression		4
CRIT 602	Advanced Critical Analysis and Strategic Thinking	4
IDIS 601A	Interdisciplinary Seminar: Being Happy	4
or IDIS 601B	Interdisciplinary Seminar: Business of Beer	
or IDIS 601C	Interdisciplinary Seminar: Paranormal Activities	
Total Credits		40

Writing Program Requirements

All bachelor's degree candidates are required to complete four writing intensive courses as part of the University [Writing Program Requirements](#) as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
ENG 420	The Writing Process	
One Writing Intensive course in the Major		
One Writing Intensive course at the 600-level or above		
One Additional Writing Intensive Course		

Writing Intensive courses are identified with the label "Writing Intensive Course" in the "Attributes" section of the course description and/or a W following the course number.

Major Requirements

Prior to capstone enrollment, students are expected to complete all General Education program requirements. Students should consult with their advisor regarding specific major courses that may be completed with their capstone. Refer to the Degree Plan for a sample course sequence. Academic Advisor approval is required for registration to be processed.

Code	Title	Credits
Major in Professional Communication		
<i>Foundational Courses</i>		
COM 440	Persuasive Communication	4
COM 460	Interpersonal Communication and Group Dynamics	4
COM 465	Communication Theory	2
COM 480	Visual Communication	4
COM 560	Intercultural Communication	2
or COM 562	Gender and Communication	
<i>Intermediate Courses</i>		
COM 590	Professional Communication	4
COM 665	Media and Strategic Communication	4
COM 670	Advanced Visual Communication	4
<i>Advanced Courses</i>		
COM 765W	Strategic Communication	4
<i>Option in Visual Communication and Social Media</i>		
COM 504	Web Development I	4
COM 535	Visual Media Production	4
COM 680	Trends in Digital and Social Media	4
COM 660W	Leveraging AI in Workplace Communication	4
Select two of the following:		8
ART 512	Fundamentals of Design	
COM 685	Web Development II	
MKT 510	Principles of Marketing	
MKT 600	Social Media Marketing	

MKT 615	Digital Storytelling and Brand Management	
MKT 720	Digital Advertising	
<i>Integrative Capstone</i>		
COM 797	Integrative Capstone: Project in Professional Communication	4
Total Credits		60

Electives

Open electives are courses students will need to take in addition to their general education and major requirements in order to satisfy the remaining credit totals for their programs. Open electives are defined as any credit course offered by the College not already included in the student's general education, major, option or minor. Students will need 120 credits total to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the Online Division of the College of Professional Studies.

Degree Plan

This degree plan is a sample and does not reflect the impact of transfer credit or current course offerings. UNH CPS Online undergraduate students should develop individual academic plans with their academic advisor during their first year at UNH.

Sample Course Sequence

First Year

Fall		Credits
COM 440	Persuasive Communication	4
ENG 420	The Writing Process	4
General Education Course		4
Elective		4
Credits		16

Spring

COM 465	Communication Theory	2
COM 480	Visual Communication	4
CRIT 501	Introduction to Critical Inquiry	4
MTH 402	Math for Our World	4
or MTH 504	or Statistics	
or MTH 510	or Pre-Calculus	
Credits		14

Second Year

Fall		Credits
COM 460	Interpersonal Communication and Group Dynamics	4
COM 504	Web Development I	4
COM 535	Visual Media Production	4
Elective		4
Credits		16

Spring

COM 590	Professional Communication	4
General Education Course		4
General Education Course		4
Elective		4
Credits		16

Third Year

Fall

ART 512	Fundamentals of Design	4
or COM 685	or Web Development II	
or MKT 510	or Principles of Marketing	
or MKT 600	or Social Media Marketing	
or MKT 720	or Digital Advertising	
COM 665	Media and Strategic Communication	4
CRIT 602	Advanced Critical Analysis and Strategic Thinking	4
Elective		4
Credits		16

Spring

COM 670	Advanced Visual Communication	4
COM 685	Web Development II	4
or ART 512	or Fundamentals of Design	
or MKT 510	or Principles of Marketing	
or MKT 600	or Social Media Marketing	
or MKT 720	or Digital Advertising	
COM 765W	Strategic Communication	4
Elective		4
Credits		16

Fourth Year

Fall

COM 680	Trends in Digital and Social Media	4
IDIS 601A	Interdisciplinary Seminar: Being Happy	4
or IDIS 601B	or Interdisciplinary Seminar: Business of Beer	
or IDIS 601C	or Interdisciplinary Seminar: Paranormal Activities	
COM 660W	Leveraging AI in Workplace Communication	4
Elective		2 - 4
Credits		14-16

Spring

COM 797	Integrative Capstone: Project in Professional Communication	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		12
Total Credits		120-122

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Survey foundational theories of communication relating to individuals, groups, and mass media.
- Create and deploy distinct messages suited to specific audiences and situations, in written, verbal, and digital formats.
- Compose, design, and deliver targeted and engaging presentations.
- Identify and respond to complex communication practices and challenges within organizations, and effect strategic improvements thereto.
- Analyze and critique rhetorical strategies and communication methods specific to cultural and industry norms.

- Employ an understanding of the impact of cultural differences on communication in a global context.
- Integrate individual reflection on questions of ethics and citizenship, particularly in digital contexts, to include the personal and professional ramifications of netiquette, digital footprint, and digital citizenship.
- Demonstrate aptitude with research methods, both quantitative and qualitative, as these inform and are applied in the field of professional communication.
- Develop specialized knowledge and skill in a specific aspect or professional practice within professional communication.