

Communication COMM

Associate in Arts Degree

Division of Humanities and Fine Arts

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Communication

Associate in Arts Degree

Program Information

The Communication Department offers a variety of courses designed to meet students' needs for graduation, transfer, and personal and professional development. Students earning the Associate in Arts degree in Communication will be able to understand and apply human communication concepts relating to presentational speaking, critical thinking, group and interpersonal relationship development, and professional growth.

Career Opportunities

The number one skill employers seek is effective communication. Courses in communication enhance understanding and skills for transfer preparation, professional development, and personal growth. The degree and program enhances opportunities for employment and promotion in fields including education, law enforcement, law, health, management, organizational development, psychology, public service, sales, training, entertainment, and social services.

Recommended High School Preparation

Standard college preparatory program.

Transfer

Courses offered by the Communication Department meet a wide range of lower division transfer requirements for CSU and UC colleges. The department offers many courses designed to prepare students for transfer to a variety of disciplines including Business, Communication Studies, Criminal Justice, Education, Liberal Arts, Pre-Law, Mass Media, Management, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work.

Forensics

The Los Rios Forensics team helps students improve their critical thinking and oral presentation skills. The Forensics team provides a high level of intercollegiate competition through the Forensics Laboratory course. Students who participate in this award-winning team compete in debate, public speaking, oral interpretation of literature/drama, impromptu speaking, and reader's theater. This program enhances the college experience and polishes the skills that employers actively request.

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the history, evolution and multidisciplinary nature of communication theories.
- identify and differentiate amongst various perspectives across the communication discipline.
- critically analyze evidence and reasoning to identify and provide appropriate and credible support for written and oral communication.
- identify and demonstrate effective and appropriate written and/or oral communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal, across diverse contexts.
- demonstrate individual responsibility, integrity, respect and influence to effectively and appropriately communicate with diverse people.
- identify and access a variety of professional and academic opportunities related to the communication discipline.

Required Program

	Units
COMM 301 Introduction to Public Speaking.....	3
COMM 311 Argumentation and Debate	3
COMM 321 Interpersonal Communication.....	3
COMM 331 Group Discussion.....	3

A minimum of 6 units from the following:..... 6

- COMM 315, Persuasion (3)
- COMM 374 Forensics Laboratory (1 - 3)
- COMM 325 Intercultural Communication (3)
- COMM 351 Mass Media and Society (3)
- or ENGWR 384 Mass Media and Society (3)
- or JOUR 310 Mass Media and Society (3)

Total Units Required

18

Suggested Electives

COMM 305, 345, 335, 316, 361

Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree

The Associate in Arts degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See SCC graduation requirements.

Communication (COMM)

COMM 270 Communication Laboratory .5-3 Units

Prerequisite: None

Hours: 162 hours LAB

This course provides individualized, self-paced and/or small group instruction in basic oral communication skills. Individualized instructional modules are designed to help the student acquire or improve communication skills in specific areas including public speaking, argumentation, small group, forensics speaking, and interpersonal communication. Although this course is most effective for students concurrently enrolled in Communication courses, any students who need assistance in communication skills can benefit. Course offerings vary, depending upon the student's needs and abilities. Students may work with peer tutors and instructors to improve their understanding and skills in speech organization, preparation of presentation aids, delivery of oral messages, creating group agendas, etc. The course is graded Pass/No Pass. Students earn 0.5 units for every 27 hours. They may earn 0.5-3 units per semester and repeat this class until reaching the maximum of 6 units. Students may enroll until the end of the 12th week of instruction.

COMM 301 Introduction to Public Speaking 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

Advisory: Concurrent enrollment in COMM 270.

General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; IGETC Area 1C

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course prepares students to speak in a variety of rhetorical situations: as college students, as employees, as opinion leaders in the community. The course is designed to assist students in developing ethical research methodology, analytical thinking skills, organization and outlining skills, effective delivery, and appropriate speech presentation skills. Emphasis is on researching, preparing, organizing, and presenting a variety of speeches for varied audiences. Video and/or audio taping equipment may be used as an aid to the student's self-analysis and improvement. Access to a computer with on-line capabilities may be required and is available on campus.

COMM 302 Persuasive Speech 3 Units

Prerequisite: COMM 301 with a grade of "C" or better

Advisory: Concurrent enrollment in COMM 270 (Communication Training Laboratory)

General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; 1C

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is designed to give students instruction and practice in designing and orally delivering persuasive messages. Emphasis is placed on use of proofs, language, logical thinking, and delivery. Students will prepare, present, and evaluate multiple types of persuasive speeches.

COMM 305 Oral Interpretation 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

Advisory: ENGRD 310 or ESLR 320 with a grade of "C" or better

General Education: AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C1; IGETC Area 3A

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces students to the field of performance studies through the oral interpretation of various literary forms, including Western and Non-Western forms of literature. Theoretical issues and historical developments are examined and applied to the current performance trends in solo, duo, and interpreters' theater. The focus is on audience analysis, selection and thematic analysis of literature, discussion and application of vocal and physiological delivery techniques, program performance, and post-performance evaluation.

COMM 311 Argumentation and Debate 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

Advisory: Recommended concurrent enrollment in COMM 270.

General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; CSU Area A3;

IGETC Area 1C

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces students to the role of argument in public discourse. Students develop presentational skills necessary for public advocacy. Assignments include researching, preparing, and presenting sound arguments, as well as developing strategies for refuting others' arguments. Students will explore areas of social, economic, and political controversy through the format of academic debate. Video taping equipment may be used as an aid to the student's self-analysis and improvement.

COMM 315 Persuasion 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 300 or ESLW 340 with a grade of "C" or better

General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A3

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course presents fundamental theories and techniques of persuasion as they occur in various communication contexts, including commercial, interpersonal, public, and mass media. Students develop critical thinking skills by engaging in oral and written analysis, evaluation, and composition of persuasive messages and by examining the personal, political, cultural, and social impacts of persuasion. Students explore ethical considerations of persuasive communication; learn about types of reasoning; and identify fallacious arguments as they occur in persuasion.

COMM 316 Advanced Argumentation and Critical Thinking 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 300 or ESLW 340 with a grade of "C" or better

General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A3; IGETC Area 1B
Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

The primary emphasis of this course is on argumentation as the study of analysis, evidence, reasoning, refutation, and rebuttal, in written, oral, and visual communication. Significant components of instruction will be in written argumentation, with special attention to the essay form. Students write a minimum of 8,000 words divided among at least five essays all of which require research. Curriculum includes "critical thinking" approaches to commercial, legal, political, and academic argumentation and persuasion.

COMM 321 Interpersonal Communication 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 50 or ESLW 310 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D7; IGETC Area 4G

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course focuses on the exploration of communication skills associated with establishing and maintaining satisfying interpersonal relationships. Through theory, discussion, simulations, and structured exercises, students will explore various approaches to successful communication in interpersonal contexts. This course strives to increase an individual's interpersonal personal communication effectiveness through heightened awareness and greater skill as both a sender and receiver of shared messages.

COMM 323 Listening 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

General Education: AA/AS Area III(b)

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course focuses on the listener's role in the communication process. The student will learn about the listening process, barriers to listening, and strategies to improve listen skills in a variety of contexts. This course develops competence in listening skills in informal, formal and professional settings.

COMM 325 Intercultural Communication 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area II(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D3; CSU Area D7; IGETC Area 4G

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces students to the challenges and promises of intercultural communication in U.S. domestic situations. Variations and commonalities in communication patterns across cultures are examined. Communication processes and outcomes between persons of different cultural backgrounds are also explored. Practical application of factors which influence communication between individuals of different cultures is emphasized.

COMM 328 Gender Communication 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: COMM 301, COMM 321, ENGWR 100, ESLW 320, PSYC 300, or SOC 341/FCS 326 with a grade of "C" or better.

General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D4; IGETC Area 4D

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course examines gender as it is created and recreated through the process of communication. Gender is the social construction of femininity and masculinity within cultures. Gender stereotypes are behaviors that are stereotypically associated with males and females but are not necessarily accurate reflections of actual communication behavior. Verbal and nonverbal similarities and differences are examined within historical, social, psychological, and cultural perspectives. This course focuses on gender and gender stereotypes in four primary contexts: intimate relationships, the educational setting, the media, and the workplace.

COMM 331 Group Discussion 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

Advisory: Concurrent enrollment in COMM 270.

General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; IGETC Area 1C

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is designed to increase students' understanding of group communication and to prepare students to function more effectively in groups. The course primarily focuses on communication in task and social groups, and assignments will include oral presentations (individual and/or group). The course addresses communication concepts and behaviors related to problem solving, decision making, leadership, group roles, norms, and conformity.

COMM 335 Conflict Management 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.

Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.

General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D7

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course examines the communication behaviors involved in the process of interpersonal, work group, and organizational conflicts. Course content will focus on conceptual understanding of theoretical foundations in the social sciences. Application and activities will address the components of conflict and the strategies by which conflict may effectively be managed in personal and professional settings.

COMM 341 Organizational Communication 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320; with grades of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area D7
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
 This course is designed to allow students to examine both theoretical and pragmatic essentials of effective organizational messages from preparation and presentation to effective observation and analysis. Students will explore the dynamics of organizational communications in various situations including focus groups, quality control groups, ad hoc committees, conflict negotiation teams, and problem solving/decision making groups. The roles of internal and external messages on the communication process and organizational effectiveness will be examined and analyzed.

COMM 343 Oral Communication in Business 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area II(b)
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
 This course offers students the opportunity to study contemporary communication principles and practices in modern organizations. Emphasis is placed on enhancing personal, and professional communication in the workplace. Students will receive instruction in utilizing various technologies in research, preparation, and presentation. Content focuses on identifying communication styles, improving presentational skills in formal and informal settings, working in and managing small groups, recognizing persuasive strategies as used in organizations, and developing fundamental skills in interviewing and promotion.

COMM 345 Interviewing 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a course grade of "C" or better, or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area II(b)
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
 This course introduces students to the basic skills and fundamental concepts necessary for effective participation in the interview process. Special emphasis is given to practical experiences in a variety of interview contexts such as journalistic/probing, survey, and selection interviews.

COMM 351 Mass Media and Society 3 Units

Same As: ENGWR 384 and JOUR 310
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a "C" or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D4; IGETC Area 4G
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
 This is an interdisciplinary course exploring aspects of communication and the impact of mass media on the individual and society. The survey includes basic communication models, books, magazines, newspapers, recordings, movies, radio, television, advertising, public relations, the Internet, theories of communication, relationships between mass media and business and government, and processes and effects from a social science perspective. (Credit may be awarded for COMM 351, ENGWR 384 or JOUR 310.)

COMM 361 The Communication Experience 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.
Advisory: Concurrent enrollment in COMM 270.
General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; IGETC Area 1C
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
 This course introduces students to basic skills and introductory concepts necessary for effective communication in a variety of settings with a variety of audiences. Special emphasis is placed on practical experiences within groups, facilitation of interpersonal relationships, and methods of conflict resolution. As part of this course, students will be required to actively participate in groups and deliver individual and group oral presentations.

COMM 363 Introduction to Communication Theory 3 Units

Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D7; IGETC Area 4G
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
 This course will introduce the student to the symbolic process of human communication through the study of basic communication models, fundamental theory, and relevant research findings. Emphasis will be placed on achieving an understanding of the communication process and the process through which researchers in the field add to their existing body of knowledge.

COMM 371 Voice and Diction 3 Units

Prerequisite: ENGWR 100 or ESLW 340 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement through the assessment process.
Advisory: COMM 270
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
 This course covers the analysis and effective use of the voice to express thought and feeling, including innuendo and mixed messages in a variety of communication situations. Included is the study of the attributes of the vocal mechanism and speech process, including proper breathing, articulation and voice production, and the interpretation of literary selections to achieve planned audience response.

COMM 374 Forensics Laboratory 1-3 Units

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: COMM 301 or COMM 311 with a grade of "C" or better
Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC; 108 hours LAB

Through individualized instruction and participation in public speaking events, academic debate, literature interpretation, public campaigns, and/or training presentations, students will develop listening skills, organization skills, and the ability to recognize matters of political, social, and economic importance. This course helps students develop their skills as critical thinkers and competent speakers. This is a lecture/laboratory course giving practice in preparing for and participating in the Student Speaker's Bureau and/or Intercollegiate Forensics competition. Areas of interest include debate, persuasive speaking, oral interpretation of literature, impromptu speaking, expository speaking, readers' theater, training presentations and campaign development. Field trips to tournaments or other speaking events may be required. The course is open entry/open exit and may be taken four times for a maximum of twelve units. Students earn 1 unit of credit for every 18 hours of lecture or 54 hours of lab.

COMM 494 Topics in Communication .5-4 Units

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB

This course is designed to enable both communication and non-communication majors to learn about recent developments in communication. Selected topics would not be part of current course offerings. This course may be taken four times providing there is no duplication of topics.

COMM 495 Independent Studies in Communication 1-3 Units

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course involves an individual student or small groups of students in study, research, or activities beyond the scope of regular offered courses, pursuant to an agreement among college, faculty members, and students. Independent studies in communication offers students a chance to do research that is more typical of industry and graduate student work. This course may be taken four times providing there is no duplication of content areas.

COMM 499 Experimental Offering in Communication .5-4 Units

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 72 hours LEC

This is an experimental course offering designed to provide students with courses not normally offered by the Communication department. Course topics will be structured around new and emerging issues related to the field of Communication.