

# Communication COMM

**Degrees:**

- A.A. – Communication
- AA-T – Communication Studies for Transfer

**Division of Humanities and Fine Arts**  
**Chris Iwata, Dean**  
**Performing Arts Center 137**  
**916-558-2551**

## 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 of 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.

**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.

**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.

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

- demonstrate an understanding of classical and contemporary human communication theories and their intra – and interdisciplinary natures.
- critically analyze a wide array of evidence and reasoning to identify and provide appropriate and credible support for written and oral communication.
- identify and demonstrate effective and appropriate written and oral communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal, in a variety of communication contexts.
- identify and demonstrate effective and appropriate written and/or oral communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal, across diverse contexts.
- identify and demonstrate ethical communication across a variety of contexts.
- perform as an active listener and provide appropriate feedback.

**Required Program**

	<b>Units</b>
COMM 301 Introduction to Public Speaking .....	3
A minimum of 6 units from the following:.....	6
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 311 Argumentation and Debate (3)	
COMM 321 Interpersonal Communication (3)	
COMM 325 Intercultural Communication (3)	
COMM 331 Group Discussion (3)	
COMM 351 Mass Media and Society (3)	
or ENGWR 384 Mass Media and Society (3)	
or JOUR 310 Mass Media and Society (3)	
COMM 374 Forensics Laboratory (1 – 3)	
A minimum of 3 units from the following:.....	3
COMM 305 Oral Interpretation (3)	
COMM 311 Argumentation and Debate (3)	
COMM 315 Persuasion (3)	
COMM 316 Advanced Argumentation and Critical Thinking (3)	
COMM 321 Interpersonal Communication (3)	
COMM 325 Intercultural Communication (3)	
COMM 331 Group Discussion (3)	
COMM 335 Conflict Management (3)	
COMM 341 Organizational 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)	
COMM 361 The Communication Experience (3)	
COMM 374 Forensics Laboratory (1 – 3)	

**Total Units Required**

**18**

**Suggested Electives**

COMM 305, 316, 335, 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 Studies

### Associate in Arts for Transfer

#### Program Information

The Communication Department offers a variety of courses designed to meet students' needs for graduation, transfer, and personal and professional development.

This degree is designed for students who plan to transfer to a California State University (CSU). Completion of the CSU General-Breadth Requirements or IGETC general education pattern is required. It is highly recommended that students meet with a counselor because major requirements vary for each CSU campus.

Students earning the Associate in Arts in Communication Studies for Transfer degree will be able to understand and apply human communication concepts relating to presentational speaking, critical thinking, group and interpersonal relationship development, and professional growth.

The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) student completion requirements (as stated in SB1440 law):

- (1) Completion of a minimum of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
  - (A) The Intersegmental GE Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements (CSU GE-B).
  - (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.
- (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a "C" or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis.

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

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- critically analyze a wide array of evidence and reasoning to identify and provide appropriate and credible support for written and oral communication.
- identify and demonstrate effective and appropriate written and oral communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal, in a variety of communication contexts.
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#### Total Units Required

18

#### Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree

The Associate in Arts in Communication Studies for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

## Communication (COMM)

### COMM 270 Communication Laboratory .5-3 Units

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Corequisite:* Concurrent enrollment in at least one Communication course.

*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 communication, forensics speaking, intercultural communication, and interpersonal communication. 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 as Pass/No Pass. Students earn 0.5 units for every 27 hours of coursework completed, allowing them to earn from 0.5-3 units.

### COMM 301 Introduction to Public Speaking 3 Units

*Prerequisite:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGWR 300 through the assessment process

*Advisory:* ENGWR 300 and LIBR 318 with a grade of "C" or better, and 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: academic, professional, social, and political. Students develop skills in ethical research, analytical thinking and listening, organization and outlining, and effective verbal and nonverbal delivery of messages for diverse audiences. Each student will complete a minimum of twenty-two minutes of evaluated speaking time. This course is designed for students who already have college-level writing skills. Students conduct primary and secondary research to create informative and persuasive oral presentations and incorporate this research into formal outlines using APA or MLA style citations. Recording equipment may be used as an aid to the student's self-analysis and improvement. Access to a computer with online capabilities may be required and is available on campus. Students may also be required to record speeches for instructor and peer feedback. (C-ID COMM 110)

### COMM 305 Oral Interpretation 3 Units

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* COMM 301, ENGRD 310, and ENGWR 301 with grades 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. (C-ID COMM 170)

### COMM 311 Argumentation and Debate 3 Units

*Prerequisite:* ENGWR 300 with a grade of "C" or better with, or placement through the assessment process.

*Advisory:* Completion of COMM 301 with a grade of "C" or better, LIBR 320 with a grade of "C" or better, and 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. Recording equipment may be used as an aid to the student's self-analysis and improvement. (C-ID COMM 120)

### COMM 315 Persuasion 3 Units

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

*Advisory:* Completion of LIBR 320 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. (C-ID COMM 190)

### COMM 316 Advanced Argumentation and Critical Thinking 3 Units

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

*Advisory:* LIBR 325 or LIBT 325 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

This course is designed to extend students' critical thinking, argumentation, and reasoning in the context of the communication environment. The goal is to expand understanding of their logical processes and their relation to both written and spoken communication. Students will develop the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate for ideas; to reason inductively and deductively; and to reach well-supported factual or judgmental conclusions. Elementary inductive and deductive processes will be covered, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies of language and thought and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from issues of judgment or opinion. Significant emphasis will be on the sophistication of written skills surrounding argument and rhetoric. Students will write a minimum of 6,500 words.

**COMM 321 Interpersonal Communication 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement into ENGWR 300 through the assessment process, and completion of ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 with a grade of "C" or better.

*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 communication effectiveness through heightened awareness and greater skill as both a sender and receiver of shared messages. (C-ID COMM 130)

**COMM 325 Intercultural Communication 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement into ENGWR 300 through the assessment process, and completion of ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 with a grade of "C" or better.

*General Education:* AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4G

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 54 hours LEC

This course introduces students to the challenges and promises of intercultural communication emphasizing the various aspects of co-cultures within the United States. Variations and commonalities in communication patterns across cultures are examined. Communication processes and outcomes between persons of different cultural backgrounds are also explored. The course emphasizes practical application of factors that influence communication between individuals of different cultures. (C-ID COMM 150)

**COMM 331 Group Discussion 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGWR 300 through the assessment process

*Advisory:* ENGWR 300 and LIBR 318 with a grade of "C" or better, and 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 understand and analyze group dynamics and to function more effectively in task and social groups. The course addresses communication concepts and behaviors including problem solving, decision making, leadership, group roles, norms, and conformity. Each student will complete a minimum of twenty-two minutes of evaluated speaking time through oral presentations (individual or group). This course is designed for students who already have college-level writing skills. Students conduct primary and secondary research to create informative and persuasive oral presentations and incorporate this research into formal outlines using APA or MLA style citations. Recording equipment may be used as an aid to the student's self-analysis and improvement. Access to a computer with online capabilities may be required and is available on campus. (C-ID COMM 140)

**COMM 335 Conflict Management 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement into ENGWR 300 through the assessment process, and completion of ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 with a grade of "C" or better.

*General Education:* AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D7; IGETC Area 4  
*Course Transferable to UC/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 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement into ENGWR 300 through the assessment process, and completion of ENGRD 110 or ESLR 320 with a grade of "C" or better.

*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 communication from preparation and presentation to effective observation and analysis. Students will explore the dynamics of organizational communication in various situations including focus groups, quality control groups, ad hoc committees, conflict negotiation teams, and problem solving and decision making groups. The roles of internal and external messages in the communication process and organizational effectiveness will be examined and analyzed.

**COMM 351 Mass Media and Society 3 Units**

*Same As:* ENGWR 384 and JOUR 310

*Prerequisite:* ENGWR 51 or ESLW 310 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 through the assessment process

*Advisory:* ENGWR 101 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 only one section of either COMM 351, ENGWR 384, or JOUR 310. (C-ID JOUR 100)

**COMM 361 The Communication Experience 3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* ENGWR 101 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better; or placement into ENGWR 300 through the assessment process  
*Advisory:* ENGWR 300 and LIBR 318 with a grade of C or better, and 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

In this course, students analyze and practice effective communication in a variety of settings with diverse audiences. Focus is placed on effective communication in groups, facilitation of interpersonal relationships, and methods of managing conflict, as well as message design and delivery for multiple purposes and to diverse audiences. Students are required to actively participate in groups and deliver individual and group oral presentations. Each student will complete a minimum of twenty-two minutes of evaluated speaking time through oral presentations. This course is designed for students who already have college-level writing skills. Students conduct primary and secondary research to create informative and persuasive oral presentations, and incorporate this research into formal outlines using APA or MLA style citations. Recording equipment may be used as an aid to the student's self-analysis and improvement. Access to a computer with online capabilities may be required and is available on campus.

**COMM 374 Forensics Laboratory 1-3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Advisory:* COMM 301 or COMM 311 with grades 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, or literature interpretation, students will develop speaking, organization, and listening skills, as well as the ability to recognize matters of political, social, and economic importance. This course helps students develop their skills as critical thinkers and competent speakers, giving practice in preparing for and participating in at least one officially sanctioned intercollegiate forensics competition. Areas of interest include academic debate, platform speeches (persuasive, informative, speech to entertain, communication analysis), limited preparation speeches (impromptu, extemporaneous), and oral interpretation of literature performances. As all students must participate in at least one intercollegiate forensics tournament, field trips to tournaments and other speaking events are required. The course may be taken four times for a maximum of twelve units. (C-ID COMM 160B)

**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. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.

**COMM 495 Independent Studies in Communication 1-3 Units**

*Prerequisite:* None.

*Course Transferable to UC/CSU*

*Hours:* 162 hours LAB

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. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.

**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. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.