THE PROGRAM

Courses for the Communication Studies (CS) major reflect a broad range of subjects that aim to foster the analytical and practical skills needed to master continually evolving global communication platforms. The CS curriculum emphasizes proficiency in public speaking, interpersonal communication, and writing. This stress on eloquence is foundational to Jesuit education, whose humanistic roots originate in antiquity and were reinvigorated during the Renaissance. Communication Studies thus reflects multiple philosophical and historical perspectives.

CS faculty work with students to give them an experience that blends practical interpersonal and public speaking skills with a critical understanding of the evolution of communication and culture.

The most successful people in any profession are almost always exceptional communicators. Therefore, to ensure that students are able to express themselves effectively in a variety of mediums, the Communication Studies major stresses practical skills, grounded in conceptual understanding. Engaging and relevant subjects, including the mass media, history, popular culture, politics, leadership, rhetoric, and current events, provide the essential source material for a wide range of CS courses. The content of CS courses continually evolves to absorb innovative communicative practices and theoretical and scientific advances. CS courses emphasize leadership and organizational communication to help students acquire the communication skills necessary to be effective in a variety of professional, social, and personal settings.

While CS courses have vast practical applicability, students also receive a firm theoretical grounding. Courses are designed to help develop their analytical powers. They also promote an appreciation and understanding of the complexities of the communication process, which, among other things, includes learning about how cultures create a sense of identity through shared values, symbols, and narratives.

In addition to its course offerings, the Communication Studies Department sponsors the annual John Quincy Adams oratory contest, a storied Gonzaga University tradition that is now a televised event. CS also sponsors the University’s nationally respected and frequently ranked intercollegiate debate program, whose home on Gonzaga’s campus is the Conway House.

THE PASSION

Communication Studies (CS) is built upon one of the pillars of the humanities: rhetoric—or the art of persuasion. Since antiquity, Western culture has valorized eloquence—ars eloquentiae—as the essence of an excellent education and evidence of superior critical judgment. This classical foundation supports a CS curriculum rich in choice and direction, enabling students to cultivate a full range of communication skills.

Curriculum

The Communication Studies Department offers a major (37 credits) and a minor (21 credits) in Communication Studies. Both majors and minors are required to take the same two lower-division introductory courses:

- COMM 101 - Introduction to Mass Communication
- JOUR 110 - Introduction to Journalistic Writing

Communication Studies majors are required to take 11 upper-division courses, whereas minors take just five total. Examples of upper-division Communication Studies courses include:

- Communication Theory & Research
- Organizational Communication
- Intercultural & International Communication
- Advanced Public Speaking
- Persuasion
- Nonverbal Communication
- Interpersonal & Small Group Communication
- Communication Training & Consulting
- Media Criticism
- Communication & Leadership
OUTCOMES

CS is the major of the future: it bridges multiple fields while preparing students for many different career paths, such as law, business, teaching, government, public service, and non-profit administration. In recent years, students have used the conceptual and practical skills from their Communication Studies degree to secure internships and jobs with a variety of companies and organizations across the country. Recent examples include:

- The Boeing Company
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Nordstrom
- Shriners International
- Special Olympics
- Target
- Teach For America
- United Way
- The Walt Disney Company

CS courses also prepare students for a range of graduate studies in communication areas that span media research, critical and cultural studies, journalism, filmmaking, and other creative arts. Recent graduates have also landed scholarships for graduate study in other disciplines, including law, fashion merchandizing, and public health. Recent graduates have been accepted to a number of excellent graduate programs, including:

- Boston University
- Gonzaga University
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- Washington State University

THE PEOPLE

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