



Communication @ Fairfield

A major in Communication at Fairfield University gives students a broad liberal arts education in communication theory, human communication behavior, and mediated communication. This stimulating program combines required and elective courses offered in the Communication Department with selected interdisciplinary electives from other departments and programs. The Communication Department has nine full-time faculty members who have expertise in a variety of areas of this multifaceted discipline, and many associated faculty who teach related courses in their respective fields.

{Why Communication?}

Our program has been designed so that Communication majors will acquire a critical understanding of human communication processes and contemporary communication media, improve their abilities in oral and written communication, heighten their visual awareness, develop sound research skills, and learn to make connections between communication practices and the social world. Communication courses engage students actively in understanding human interaction in interpersonal, organizational, public, and mediated settings. Employers regularly cite “strong communication skills” as the number one thing they look for in new employees and Communication is one of the most popular majors at Fairfield because of our strong faculty, engaging course offerings, dynamic Internship program and strong training for life after Fairfield.

What do we study?

Celebrity culture, soap operas, global business interactions, reality television, new media technologies, media policies and regulations, public discourse, the role of media in developing nations, body image, spirituality in recovery programs, workplace communication strategies, inter-racial conflict, patient and provider discourse in healthcare settings, product placements on television, the portrayals of minorities in media, advertising, consumer culture, gender and sexuality in popular culture and countless other topics are the focus of faculty and student research in our department. We’re constantly thinking about the ways in which communication brings us together and helps us build culture. The major is broadly divided into three areas of inquiry:

Organizational Communication, Media Studies and Communication and the Human Condition.

What can I do with a Communication major?

A major in Communication prepares students for careers in a variety of communication industries, other industries, as well as for graduate study in areas such as communication, education, law, politics, public administration, social work, and business. Our majors and minors will also develop the skills necessary to make valuable contributions to society, and develop a commitment to influence the media and other organizations to become more just and socially responsible. Many students participate in our Department’s **Internship Program** that allows students to earn credit while working at sites such as “The Today Show,” Polo Ralph Lauren, ESPN, MTV, and a host of non-profit firms, advertising agencies, public relations firms, media channels and marketing companies. After graduation our students have been highly successful finding careers in communication and information industries. The department regularly sponsors career events to help students think about their future careers and how communication classes connect to communication practice.

Want to know more?

Stop by and see and Communication faculty member or check out our **web page** at fairfield.edu to find out specific major requirements, the latest happenings in our department, information about our Internship Program, details about our **student communication club** Comm.unity, and upcoming events.