

# The Communication Major

While many departments at Fairfield University offer minors and special concentrations, some of them are particularly well suited to the intellectual interests and professional aspirations of Communication majors.

- Applied Ethics
- English: Professional Writing
- International Studies
- Management
- Marketing
- Media/Film/Television
- Politics
- Sociology/Anthropology
- Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

## Overview

To earn a 30-credit major in communication, students follow a program of study designed to develop breadth and depth of knowledge about communication processes in a variety of contexts. The communication major consists of ten three-credit courses. All communication majors complete a set of five (three-credit) required courses known as **Communication Foundations**. With the aid of the communication faculty, students then have the ability to focus their studies in one of several areas known as **Communication Interests** and to develop a personalized trajectory that best suits their theoretical and applied interests.

## Some Special Features of the Major in Communication

- With the approval from the Department Chair, double majors can “double count” up to two courses from their second major as communication electives. Some second major and minor programs may also choose to “double count” communication courses to satisfy the second major or minor requirements. Students should check with those second major or minor chairs for approval.
- Internships (CO 398 and 399) can be counted toward the major one time only. Although two internships can be completed for academic credit (up to 6 credits) only 3 credits will count toward the CO major.
- Independent studies do not count toward the communication major, but are available with great faculty.
- Special topics courses (CO 329, CO 339 and CO 349) can each be taken twice for credit if the titles of the courses are different.

## Communication Foundations (15 credits)

All students must take the following five courses that we consider foundational to the understanding of the field of Communication. Students are reminded to consult available resources including the Departmental website, the University Catalog and other advising resources for information about current offerings, prerequisites and other information.

**CO 100:** Human Communication Theories

**CO 101:** Argument and Advocacy

**CO 130:** Mass Media and Society

**CO 200:** Interpersonal Communication Theories (prerequisite: CO 100)

**CO 309:** Communication Capstone (Seniors only)

## Some Important Things To Remember

- Note that not all courses are offered every semester.
- These 5-course areas of interest are just suggestions, and a full list of courses that might be considered in each area is available on the department website: [www.fairfield.edu/communicate](http://www.fairfield.edu/communicate).
- Communication Courses cannot be double counted for University Core.
- CO 100 and CO 101 are the foundational courses in the communication major. Students should plan to take both courses during the same semester, preferably during their first or second year.
- Many courses have pre-requisites and you should check the University catalog for detailed course descriptions

## Communication Interests (15 credits)

All majors must also select five additional CO courses, at least one of which must be a 300-level course (that does not include internships, independent studies or capstone experiences). This document provides several suggestions for possible areas of interest, but ultimately students should work with their faculty advisor to create their own academic plan that satisfies their intellectual and professional interests. This sheet also shows some possible professional outcomes that might follow one of these areas of interest. Not all elective courses are listed here, these are just some sample elective paths. Check on the department website for many other options. The major is also excellent preparation for graduate work in a variety of fields.

