

Academic + Career Planning

If you plan well, you can achieve all your academic and career objectives. The following is just a guideline to help you plan your major program of study and gauge your academic progress as a Communication or Public Relations major. Planning can be challenging if you want to do a double major or more than one minor, if you study abroad, and/or if you begin the major after Sophomore year. In order to maximize the value of your degree and prepare you to make contributions in the new global arena, we strongly encourage you to “internationalize” your education through coursework, service, travel, and study abroad opportunities. It is never too early to begin considering your professional aspirations and to take advantage of resources on campus that will have you prepared for life after Fairfield.

Freshman Year (or as soon as you declare the major)

- ➔ Declare the Communication or Public Relations major by seeing the Department Chairperson
- ➔ Begin planning academic program, including strategic use of core classes
- ➔ Consider new or continuing foreign language if this requirement is complete
- ➔ Work with student newspaper, radio station, StagsTV, or other campus media to gain experience
- ➔ Attend study abroad fair to learn about international study
- ➔ Get familiar with the departmental web pages and online resources

Sophomore Year

- ➔ Comm majors should take CO 100 and CO 101 in the fall if neither taken freshman year, take CO 200 and CO 130 in sequence
- ➔ PR majors should take CO 102 and CO 101 in the fall if neither taken freshman year, take CO 220 and CO 130 in sequence
- ➔ Decide on an area of interest within the major that suits you
- ➔ Get involved in Comm.Unity, the Communication and PR Club
- ➔ Get involved in community service, many community service opportunities can offer practical experience related to your major
- ➔ Attend Communication Career Night in the Spring to hear from graduates of the program
- ➔ Consider new or continuing foreign language
- ➔ Plan for study abroad (optional, 2.8 GPA req.)

Junior Year

- ➔ Take 1-3 electives related to your area of emphasis, minor, or other academic interests
- ➔ Take a leadership position in Comm.Unity, the Communication Club and/or student media
- ➔ Study abroad or have an international experience through a course or with campus ministries
- ➔ Plan for and arrange internship
- ➔ Attend presentations on campus that help you connect with thought leaders and thinkers
- ➔ Meet with Career Planning to discuss your resume, attend career events sponsored by the Career Planning office.
- ➔ Meet with an advisor to chart academic progress in the major and discuss possible awards, scholarships, and other honors

Senior Year

- ➔ Take CO 309: Research Capstone
- ➔ Take 1-3 electives as needed to complete your area of emphasis, minor, or other academic interests
- ➔ Do an internship
- ➔ Take a leadership position in Comm.Unity, the Communication Club and/or student media
- ➔ Check eligibility for Lambda Pi Eta, the Communication Honor Society
- ➔ Consider a directed independent study opportunity with a Communication faculty member
- ➔ Meet with your advisor to strategize plans for after graduation (take GRE if necessary)