Undergraduate Communication



"If you look into the mission statement, 'Prepare for a Life of Significance,' that's exactly what you'll be doing by coming here... To have a university rooted in those values, I think that speaks for itself. Our instructors having real-world experience, having been in the field, was huge for our development."

– Abby M.
Ottawa Alumni

At Ottawa University

This major will help students master the concepts and methods of communication in a wide array of settings. They will develop communication skills and strategies to achieve, effectively and efficiently, a desired outcome with a specific audience. Students gain an ethical perspective through immersive experiential learning and discover how to deploy language effectively and appropriately in order to engage their communities in meaningful dialogue. By incorporating ever-changing technologies and pedagogical techniques, faculty guide students to navigate both mediated and interpersonal communication theory in order to become exemplary citizen-leaders of local and global communities.

A BA in Communication will enhance critical listening and thinking skills and an awareness of cultural, social, intergenerational, and political diversity as it relates to communication. Students will be able to apply communication insights to their personal and professional life as a skilled problem solver, strengthen their communication abilities, and develop their own style, aesthetics and processes to achieve positive relationships in a variety of settings.

Careers

Career options include public relations, journalism, marketing, advertising, mass media, editing, technical writing, arts communication, design, government, business, and law.

Education and Qualifications

A bachelor's degree is required for most careers. For management-level positions, a master's degree may be required. Decision-making and problem-solving skills are important. Membership in professional societies, such as the Public Relations Society of America and the National Broadcasters Association, afford professionals additional networking and educational opportunities.

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Required Major Courses

COM 11023 - Speech Preparation and Delivery(3)

Provides instruction in speaking before a group. Development of speech content, organization, research, and delivery is emphasized. Includes practice of impromptu, persuasive, and informative speeches.

COM 20165 - Media Writing (3)

Covers fundamentals of news reporting and writing for broadcast media, public relations, advertising, and the Internet.

COM 24003 - Critical Listening (3)

Course examines how environments are constructed to inhibit listening. Poor listening habits lead to poor interpersonal and intercultural skills in both relational and leadership roles. This course does not address the biological process of listening (i.e. hearing) but topics instead focus on the social and communicative nature of how we come to know, embody, and share meaning as well as research in Listening Studies to discover factors that cause information to be passively back-grounded.

COM 38000 - Online Communication Strategies (2)

Despite being a crucial part of day-to-day life, navigating online environments is both difficult and poorly understood. This class examines communication strategies for personal and professional digital development: negotiating online personae; self-promoting through social media and e-portfolios; gaining functional writing skills for the web.

COM 30163 - Interpersonal Communication (3)

Examines models of relational interaction, verbal and nonverbal messages, language use, critical listening, relational dynamics, self-concept, identity-management, disclosure, intimacy, defensiveness, supportiveness, perceptual processes, emotional influences, interpersonal conflicts, and the impact of gender, race and culture on communication.

COM 30263 - Small Group Communication (3)

Examines task and social dimensions of group interaction, problem-solving, decision-making, roles, norms, leadership skills, cohesiveness, communication climates, conflict management, stages of group development, ethical behaviors, observation techniques, and analytic methods for evaluating group dynamics and accomplishments.

COM 30363 - Organizational Communication (3)

Theory and practice of communication within organizations including interpersonal factors, motivation, change and conflict resolution and communication audit practices and procedures. Participate in communication audit of a local organization. Prerequisite: COM 30163 Interpersonal Communication or consent of instructor.

COM 30464 - Family Communication (3)

Family Communication focuses on interaction patterns, relational processes, and identity within families through analysis of family as systems and subsystems. The course explores conflict in families with maintenance practices and relational repair strategies. Through applied theoretical analysis, students study practices designed to increase an understanding of their own family experiences and identify healthy communication strategies. Students explore Nonviolent Communication and related methodologies. This course is included in the Managing Conflict Sequence.

COM/ART 30563 - Visual Communication (3)

Survey of the theory and practice of visual communication. Includes theoretical explanation, visual grammar and laboratory opportunities to apply and develop visual communication literacy. Provides strategies for effective visual communication.

COM/OAD 39664 - Managing Conflict (3)

Focus on leadership as action and understanding others and interpersonal theory as the connection between leadership and communication in an organizational context. Both didactic and experiential teaching methods used.

COM 40164 - Global Communication (3)

Explores basic concepts, principles, and skills for improving interpersonal interaction among persons from different backgrounds. Examines the impact of a variety of domestic and global contexts on human communication.

COM 49100 - Seminar in Applied Communication (4)

Capstone course that guides student in applying key communication theories and research to students' chosen specialization. Emphasis on pivotal role of communication professionals in organizations. **Please note: This course is for online students. On ground students in Kansas and Arizona cannot take this option and instead take COM 49263.**

COM 49263 - Senior Comprehensive (4)

Capstone course culminating in a project or paper fulfilling senior comprehensive examination requirements for a specific communication emphasis area. Must be taken in final semester of attendance. **Please note: This course is for on ground students in Kansas and Arizona only. Online students must take COM 49100 instead.**

Concentrations Available:

- Speech
- Strategic Communication

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Program requirements reflected herein are current at time of printing but are subject to change at the discretion of the university. Consult the catalog for any curriculum changes and additional requirements. Some required courses may be met through transfer credit as determined by the advisor in consultation with the registrar. www.ottawa.edu/coursecatalog

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