Communication BA, Strategic Communication Emphasis

Strategic Communication aims to persuade and inform. Corporations, nonprofits, government agencies, and small businesses use strategic communication tactics to deliver messages to the public in order to encourage individuals to take action. It is an interdisciplinary approach that can incorporate elements from public relations, advertising, health, and organizational communication. Courses in this emphasis area target the skills students need to communicate with audiences through writing, content development, and strategic messaging. Professions that may apply strategic communication principles include advertising, public relations or any profession that communicates with the public for a specific purpose.

Students majoring in communication must complete a minimum of 36 credit-hours in communication courses. Students may complete either a general communication degree or they may select one of four different emphasis areas as a focus for their studies: Interpersonal Communication, Mass Communication, Applied Visual Communication, or Strategic Communication. To complete the degree with one of these emphases, the student must complete the 21 credit-hour core and at least 15 hours of electives from within the selected emphasis area. In addition, the skills and knowledge applied in the required Practicum/Internship should be consistent with the selected emphasis area. Students seeking a general communication degree must complete the 21 credit-hour core and can select elective courses from any combination of the emphasis areas.

General Education Requirements

Majors must satisfy the university and college general education requirements. The college's foreign language requirement may be taken in any language. Communication courses may not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Degree Requirements

At least 18 credit hours must be taken at UMSL. Furthermore, at least 12 credit hours of the communication courses completed must be numbered 3000-4999 for students seeking a general communication degree, as well as for students pursuing an emphasis area. All students must earn a C or better in each of the required core courses of the major and maintain a 2.0 grade point average in all of the courses applied to the communication degree.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1030</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication I (MOTR COMM 120)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1050</td>
<td>Introduction to Mass Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2231</td>
<td>Communication in the Organization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2332</td>
<td>Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2235</td>
<td>Professional Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3330</td>
<td>Research Methods in Communication I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose five of the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA ST 1100</td>
<td>Introduction to Advertising</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1150</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1369</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA ST 2080</td>
<td>Advertising Copywriting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2180</td>
<td>Public Relations Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA ST 2180</td>
<td>Persuasive Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2240</td>
<td>Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA ST 3150</td>
<td>Feature Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA ST 3338</td>
<td>Advertising Technique</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3355</td>
<td>Dangerous Messages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA ST 3355</td>
<td>Media Law and Regulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3368</td>
<td>Advanced Health Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3370</td>
<td>Social Media in Public Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4100</td>
<td>Communication Campaigns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4500</td>
<td>Seminar in Fundamental Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4600</td>
<td>Seminar in Fundamental Organizational Communication Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4920</td>
<td>Practicum in Applied Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or COMM 4950</td>
<td>Internship in Applied Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 21

Emphasis Area Requirements

The strategic communication emphasis area deals with public and inter-organizational communication intended to serve a specific company goal or purpose. It is an interdisciplinary emphasis that can incorporate areas from public relations, advertising, and organizational communication. 15 credits are needed.

Up to six credit hours of Special Topics Courses, Directed Readings courses, and Supervised Research courses offered by the Communication and Media Department can be applied to the emphasis area if the specific topic of the course is relevant to the emphasis area.

Choose five of the following courses:

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<thead>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 4920</td>
<td>Practicum in Applied Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or COMM 4950</td>
<td>Internship in Applied Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 21

Learning Outcomes

• Create high-quality print, digital, and video products
• Design high-impact messages tailored to specific audiences
• Learn the fundamental skills necessary to be competitive in the ever-changing communication field
• Interpret and apply strategic communication principles to design, research, and plan strategic communication campaigns
• Compose written materials in a clear and concise format following the appropriate style utilizing the best communication channel
• Create ethically sound, legally and socially responsible strategic communication tactics
## Four Year Plan

### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTDSC 1003&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>COMM 2231</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1030</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EXPLORE: Mathematics &amp; Life/Natural Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1050</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EXPLORE: Humanities &amp; Fine Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1100</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EXPLORE: Humanities &amp; Fine Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE: Mathematics Proficiency</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective or minor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE: US History &amp; Government</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>15</td>
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### Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2235</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>COMM 2322</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE: Information Literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EXPLORE: Humanities &amp; Fine Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPLORE: Mathematics &amp; Life/Natural Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EXPLORE: Mathematics &amp; Life/Natural Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGN LANG 1001</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>FGN LANG 1002</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14</td>
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### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3330</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>COMM XXXX: Strategic Communication Emphasis Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 3100</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>COMM XXXX: Strategic Communication Emphasis Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGN LANG 2101</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>COMM XXXX: Strategic Communication Emphasis Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity Requirement</td>
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<td>Elective or minor</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective or minor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective or minor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 1950</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>COMM 4920</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM XXXX: Strategic Communication Emphasis Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective or minor</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM XXXX: Strategic Communication Emphasis Course</td>
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<td>Elective or minor</td>
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Total Hours: 120

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<sup>1</sup> INTDSC 1003 is required only for first-time freshmen and transfer students with less than 24 college credits.

**Please Note:** This plan is an example of what a four year plan could look like for a typical student. Placement exam scores in math as well as the completion of coursework may change the plan. It should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor each semester. All requirements are subject to change.