

Undergraduate Frequently Asked Questions- 5/2014

Do I have to declare a concentration in Communication Studies? If so, why?

Yes. The major requires you to take a minimum of 12 hours within your concentration. You will take nine hours of core classes (COMM 120, 140, 160, 170) and nine hours of COMM electives. Of the 30 hours required for the major, nine of them must come from classes numbered 400 or higher. You will declare your concentration when you declare the major through the [Academic Advising Office](#).

Because Communication Studies is a broad and complex field, declaring a concentration will give you a coherent program of study while you are at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Moreover, declaring a concentration will ensure that you have a background of sufficient depth to make you an attractive candidate for employers following your graduation. So, your concentration gives you the opportunity to develop an “expertise” within Communication Studies.

Students are not permitted to declare more than one concentration. The nine hours of electives required for the major can be used to explore other concentrations, if desired.

How many hours am I allowed to take in Communication Studies?

30 hours are required for the major, but you can take up to 45 hours if you so choose. No more than 45 hours in any subject may be used towards the 120 hours required to graduate.

Do all of my 400 and above level courses have to be in my concentration?

No. Practically speaking, however, at least one of your 400 and above level courses will be in your concentration.

How do I declare my own specialized concentration?

Typically, students will choose one of four pre-selected concentrations as described in the [Undergraduate Bulletin](#).

If the student wishes to declare his or her own specialized concentration, he/she should do so in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The Director of Undergraduate Studies must approve the student’s specialized concentration. This option is approved on an infrequent basis, and is reserved for students who have truly interdisciplinary interests. In other words, simple combinations of concentrations are not approved. Simple aggregations or combinations of concentrations may be accomplished by the use of the nine hours of Communication Studies electives.

What do I need to ensure that I will graduate with a Communication Studies degree and do so on time, with minimal complications?

Students are responsible for staying on track toward graduation. The [advisors in the College of Arts and Sciences](#) are available to assist students in monitoring their progress. All official degree audits are done through the College of Arts and Sciences. Students should not expect advisors in the Department of Communication Studies to offer advice on such issues. The student should see a Fine Arts and Humanities advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences (located in Steele Building) at least once a semester. The Student Services Assistant in the Department of Communication Studies may be consulted to learn if and when certain courses will be offered.

According to the [Undergraduate Bulletin](#), students must receive a C or higher in a minimum of 18 of their credit hours in the major. Students must also earn a C (not a C-) or better in three of the four core courses for successful completion of the major.

If I earn a D in a course, do I need to take the class again?

Not necessarily. If your grade point average can sustain a D, you do not need to take a class a second time because a D is a passing grade and repeated hours do not count towards the 120 hours required for graduation. The exception to this rule is the three core courses you are required to take for Communication Studies.

The student is reminded that, according to the [Undergraduate Bulletin](#), students must successfully complete at least 120 semester hours of coursework and attain a final cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.0 to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Students should be aware that the College of Arts and Sciences tracks student progress toward graduation. Ultimately, the College of Arts and Sciences is the final arbitrator of the student's timely graduation.

How do I receive advice on the major in Communication Studies?

You may consult a variety of sources, including the [department's website](#), the Department Advisor, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Student Services Assistant, as well as other members of the faculty in the Department of Communication Studies. Students often seek the advice of faculty in their own declared or intended concentration.

May I use a Communication Studies course to fulfill a General Education requirement?

Major courses may be used to satisfy General Education requirements.

What steps must I follow to receive credit for Communication classes taken at another university (that was not approved by UNC prior to my admission to UNC)?

Transfer credit evaluations are handled by the Admissions Office. Please see <http://admissions.unc.edu/explore/academics/credit-for-outside-coursework/transfer-credit-evaluation-for-current-students/> for more information.

What limitations are placed in coursework that may be transferred to UNC?

Students who would like to take a course at another institution and have that course count towards their UNC-Chapel Hill degree need to complete the Admission's Office [Course Approval Form](#) before they take the course.

Students, including those transferring from another institution, must complete at least 45 of their total hours at UNC-CH. Students must also take at least half of their major course requirements at UNC-CH. Students transferring credits in their major must earn a grade of C (not C-) or better in at least three-fourths of those courses and credit hours in the major that are taken at UNC-CH.

Students transferring from a two- year institution can only receive transfer credit for up to 64 credit hours (this total includes transferable hours taken previously at four-year institutions). Students transferring from a four-year institution are only permitted to transfer in up to 75 hours of credit.

How do I receive credit for courses taken in study abroad program?

Undergraduate students can receive academic credit ONLY for enrollment in study abroad programs that have been formally approved and are administered by the Study Abroad Office. Individual

departments or faculty may not approve academic credits for study abroad programs that are not on the College's list of approved programs. Details of this policy and approved programs may be found at the [Study Abroad Office's website](#).

Study abroad transfer credit cannot be approved until after students return from abroad. Once they return, students will have to fill out the appropriate forms through the study abroad office and the Study Abroad Advisors will generate the paperwork that will need to be approved by the department in order for students to receive credit towards their major. Students should retain copies of all of their coursework and course syllabi (in English). Students who would like to know if the courses they are planning to take abroad are likely to be approved for credit in their MAJOR should complete the Study Abroad Credit Pre-Departure Review Form before they enroll or begin classes in their program. Students are required to review the current departmental offerings before submitting this form. Completed forms and a detailed syllabus (in English) for each proposed course should be sent to the Student Services Assistant. Please see the [Transfer and Study Abroad Credit](#) page on the department's webpage for more information.

Do I have to be a Communication Studies major to receive academic credit for an internship in Communication Studies (COMM 393)? How and when do I register for internship course credit (COMM 393)?

Yes, you have to be a COMM major, and you must also have a minimum grade point average of 2.5. Only 3 credit hours of internship may count towards the 120 hours required for graduation. Undertaking and completing the COMM 393 course (maximum of 3 credit hours) for an internship is multi-step process. This process is described in detail via this link: <http://comm.unc.edu/undergraduate-studies/internships/>. First, the student is responsible for finding and securing an unpaid internship. After the internship has been acquired, the student will need to apply for academic credit using the application found on the department's internship webpage. Students who are approved by the internship coordinator will be enrolled in COMM 393 for the number of credit hours that corresponds with the number of hours they will be working in the internship position. Students completing an internship in the fall or spring will be enrolled in the course for that semester. Students who undertake internships over the summer will be enrolled in the course the following fall semester. During the semester (or during the summer), the student works on-site and completes the readings and assignments as stipulated by their internship course syllabus.

Can I minor in Communication Studies?

At the moment, the only available minor in Communication Studies is the minor in [Writing for the Screen and Stage](#). This minor has an application process and is only available to rising sophomores and juniors.