

# Media Arts, Performance and Creative Practice Pathway

This pathway brings together a focused depth of study in the craft and aesthetics of artistic practice in Media Art, New Media, and Performance with a focus on the critical interventions the arts, storytelling, performance and media making have on society.



## Careers

- filmmaker
- playwright
- scriptwriter
- new media artist
- game designer
- documentarian
- producer
- agent of social change through creative practice
- performance artist
- media post-production

## Pathways

The Department of Communication offers **5 distinct pathways** that overlap and intersect in ways that allow students the flexibility to change paths and customize their experiences. Our other pathways are: Communication and Everyday Life, Media Technologies and Public Culture, Organization, Communication and Work, and Rhetoric, Activism, and Advocacy.

## Major in Communication

We prepare citizen-scholars to tackle the communication challenges and needs of our society through creative, critical, multi-modal, approaches that teach them to **Engage. Create. Critique.** Students pursuing must complete a minimum of 30 hours and 10 courses.

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## Pathway Requirements

### Course Guidelines

Students must take **COMM 100 Communication and Social Process** to start their journey in the Communication major. →

**Starter classes** introduce students to their chosen pathway. Students must take a minimum of two starter classes. There are ten starter classes to choose from in this pathway. →

Students must take three **100-300-level classes**, including their starter courses. There are 18 lower-level classes to choose from in this pathway. →

Students must take three **400-600-level classes**. There are 24 lower-level classes to choose from in this pathway. →

Students must take three **COMM electives** at any level within or across pathways. There are over 60 classes to choose from.

### Course Focuses

Among the ten courses needed for the Major, students must take at least one **Modes of Inquiry** class. These classes focus on teaching students research methods and technology tools. There are over 40 Modes of Inquiry courses to choose from at all levels and cut across all pathways, including COMM 360: Social Media and Society and COMM 471: Rhetorics of Public Memory.

Among the ten courses needed for the Major, students must take at least one **Representation, Identity, and Difference** class. These classes focus on the intersections of diversity, equity, and communication. There are over 40 Representation, Identity, and Difference courses to choose from at all levels and cut across all pathways, including COMM 318: Cultural Diversity and COMM 661: Race and Ethnicity.

Among the ten courses needed for the Major, students must take at least one **COMM Experience** class. These classes focus on preparing students to apply the critical tools they've amassed. There are over a dozen COMM Experience courses to choose from including internships, service learning classes, honors theses, and capstone classes.

# More about the Media Arts, Performance and Creative Practice Pathway

Courses in this pathway facilitate intellectual exchange and create community across artistic practices and with other forms of research and inquiry in the major. It centers this work as fundamental to the department's conceptualization of communication as engagement, creativity, and critique.

## Starter Classes

COMM 130 Introduction to Media Production **1M**  
 COMM 140 Introduction to Media History, Theory, and Criticism  
 COMM 150 Introduction to New Media **1M**  
 COMM 160 Introduction to Performance Studies

## Lower Level Courses

COMM 61 The Politics of Performance **2R**  
 COMM 62 African American Literature and Performance **2R**  
 COMM 63 10 The Creative Process in Performance  
 COMM 84 Make A Zine! Do-It-Yourself Writing, Publishing, and Distribution **1M**  
 COMM 88 Technologies of Popular Culture  
 COMM 89 Special Topics **4**  
 COMM 142 Popular Music  
 COMM 230 Audio/Video/Film Production and Writing **1M**  
 COMM 251 Introduction to American Film and Culture, 1965-Present  
 COMM 262 Introduction to the Performance of Culture **1M**  
 COMM 318 Cultural Diversity **1M, 2R**

## Upper Level Courses

COMM 412 Critical Theory  
 COMM 430 History of American Screenwriting  
 COMM 431 Advanced Audio Production **1M**  
 COMM 432 Visual Culture **1M, 2R**  
 COMM 435 Memory Acts  
 COMM 437 United States Black Culture and Performance **2R**  
 COMM 450 Media and Popular Culture  
 COMM 455 Sound Studies **1M**  
 COMM 463 Creating the Solo Performance **2R**  
 COMM 464 Collaborative Performance **1M**  
 COMM 466 Advanced Study in Performing Literature  
 COMM 490 Special Topics in Communication Studies **4**  
 COMM 500 Visual and Material Rhetoric **1M**  
 COMM 524 Gender, Communication, and Culture **2R**  
 COMM 534 Aesthetic and Technical Considerations in Making Short Videos  
 COMM 549 Sexuality and Visual Culture **2R**  
 COMM 561 Performance of Women of Color **2R**  
 COMM 562 Oral History and Performance **2R**  
 COMM 564 Performance and Popular Culture  
 COMM 568 Adapting and Directing for the Stage  
 COMM 576 Making and Manipulating "Race" in the United States **2R**  
 COMM 596 Advanced Independent Study/Directed Reading  
 COMM 635 Documentary Production **1M, 2R**  
 COMM 636 Interactive Media

COMM 224 Introduction to Gender and Communication **1M, 2R**  
 COMM 260 Introduction to Performance and Social Change **2R**  
 COMM 263 Performing Literature **1M**  
 COMM 330 Introduction to Writing for Film and Television

COMM 331 Writing the Short Film  
 COMM 334 Writing the One-Hour TV Drama  
 COMM 335 Film Story Analysis  
 COMM 337 Visual Storytelling for Screenwriters  
 COMM/WGST 345 Gender and Film **1M, 2R**  
 COMM 350 Practices of Cultural Studies **1M, 2R**  
 COMM 378 Environmental Filmmaking: Creative Production and Social Impact **2R**  
 COMM 390 Special Topics in Communication Study **4**  
 COMM 393 Internships **3H**  
 COMM 396 Independent Study and Directed Research

COMM 638 Game Design **1M**  
 COMM 640 Game Studio  
 COMM 644 Documentary Production: First Person Filmmaking **2R**  
 COMM 645 The Documentary Idea  
 COMM 646 Introduction to the Art and Mechanics of Two-Dimensional Digital Animation  
 COMM 647 Advanced Projects in Media Production  
 COMM 650 Cultural Politics of Global Media Economies **2R**  
 COMM 652 Media and Difference **2R**  
 COMM 653 Experimental Video  
 COMM 654 Motion Graphics, Special Effects, and Compositing  
 COMM 656 Sound for Film and Video: Theory and Practice for Motion Picture Sound Design  
 COMM 660 Advanced Projects in Performance Studies **1M**  
 COMM 661 Race and Ethnicity  
 COMM 662 Black/African Diaspora Performance **2R**  
 COMM 665 Performance, Politics, and Culture **2R**  
 COMM 666 Media in Performance **1M**  
 COMM 667 Performance Activism **2R**  
 COMM 676 Digital Media and Live Performance  
 COMM 681 Contemporary Film Theory  
 COMM 682 History of the Moving Image: Pasts, Presents, Futures  
 COMM 690 Advanced Topics in Communication Studies **4**  
 COMM 693H Honors **3H**  
 COMM 694H Honors **3H**  
 COMM 695 Field Methods **1M**

**Course Focus Legend**  
 Modes of Inquiry - 1M  
 Representation, Identity and Difference - 2R  
 COMM Experience - 3H  
 Needs approval - 4