The interdisciplinary minor in political communication is offered jointly by the Schar School of Policy and Government and the CHSS Department of Communication.

Political communication explores the interaction among members of the public, the media, advocacy groups, and politicians in democratic society. This minor uses a diverse approach to questions of how mass and interpersonal communication influence democratic functioning, including:

1. how political actors use strategic messaging to persuade and mobilize the public
2. how citizens make sense of these messages and their impact on engagement, deliberation, efficacy, knowledge, and participation
3. the role of the mass media in facilitating or hindering this relationship

Political communication includes explicitly political activities like voting and political campaigns. It also encompasses any issue of public debate or deliberation, including culture and social movements.

**Faculty**
Daigle (minor advisor for Schar)

**Admissions & Policies**

**Admissions**
This minor is available to all Mason undergraduate students with the exception of communication majors pursuing a concentration in political communication.

**Policies**
For policies governing all minors, see AP.5.3.4 Minors.

**Requirements**

**Minor Requirements**
Total credits: 18

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

**Coursework**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 327</td>
<td>Political Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>COMM 412</td>
<td>Politics and the Mass Media</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or GOVT 412</td>
<td>Politics and the Mass Media</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
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COMM 386 Special Topics in Political Communication may be substituted for any other COMM course with the permission of the minor director, depending on the specific topic.

GOVT 319 Issues in Government and Politics may be substituted for any other GOVT course with the permission of the minor director, depending on the specific topic. Courses from the Schar School of Policy and Government may be substituted in the cultural politics, persuasion theory, or political process categories, with the permission of the minor director.