

COMMUNICATION, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-COM

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Communication is the study of basic human social processes: the creation and dissemination of meaning and information. The major prepares students for graduate study or professional positions in such fields as interpersonal and organizational communication, journalism, media production and criticism, political communication, and public relations. Students develop skills and knowledge that put them at the edge of a rapidly changing communication industry. Majors learn to construct and evaluate messages across platforms—web, print, audio and visual.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 39 credits within the major, with a minimum grade of C in each course.

Of the 39 credits applied to the major, no more than 10 credits may be from courses listed in the Degree Requirements. In addition to 12 credits of core courses, students take 21 credits of courses in a concentration and 6 credits of additional communication courses. Of these last 27 credits, at least 12 credits must be at the 300-400 level, no more than 6 credits may be in COMM 450 Internship in Communication, and no more than 3 credits may be in COMM 452 Media Production Practicum. COMM 479 Digital Media and Web Design Capstone cannot be used toward the major.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

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

Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
COMM 200	Communication Theory	3
COMM 300	Rhetorical Theory and Criticism (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ¹	3
COMM 305	Foundations of Intercultural Communication (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

COMM 400	Research Methods in Communication ²	3
Total Credits		12

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Must first complete COMM 200 Communication Theory with a grade of C or better.

2

Must first complete six credits from COMM 300 Rhetorical Theory and Criticism (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), COMM 301 Relational Communication Theory, or COMM 305 Foundations of Intercultural Communication (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) with a grade of C or better.

Concentration

Students must complete coursework in one concentration. Students may also declare a second concentration. No more than six credits can count between the two declared concentrations and no credits used within the declared concentration(s) can be used to satisfy communication elective credits. Students must declare a concentration before they earn more than 75 credits. Transfer students with 60 or more credits are encouraged to declare a concentration by the end of their first semester. COMM 399 Special Topics in Communication or other special topics courses from other concentrations may be applied toward a concentration when the topic is relevant to the concentration with prior written approval of the undergraduate director.

- Interpersonal and Organizational Communication (IOC)
- Journalism (JNL)
- Media Production and Criticism (MPC)
- Political Communication (PCOM)
- Public Relations (PR)

Concentration in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication (IOC)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COMM 301	Relational Communication Theory (core course)	3
COMM 335	Organizational Communication (core course)	3
Select one course from the following:		3
COMM 201	Small Group Communication	
COMM 332	Nonverbal Communication	
COMM 401	Interpersonal Communication in the Workplace	

Electives

Select 12 credits from the following:		12
COMM 201	Small Group Communication	
COMM 230	Case Studies in Persuasion	
COMM 304	Foundations of Health Communication	
COMM 306	Issues in Intercultural Communication	
COMM 320	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 332	Nonverbal Communication	
COMM 334	Family and Health Communication	

COMM 367	Children and Media	
COMM 385	Special Topics in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication	
COMM 395	Special Topics in Health Communication	
COMM 401	Interpersonal Communication in the Workplace	
COMM 430	Persuasion	
COMM 433	Environmental Communication	
COMM 434	Interviewing	
COMM 435	Digital Communication	
COMM 440	Ceremonial Speech Writing and Performance	
COMM 465	Topics in Communication and Gender	
Total Credits		21

Concentration in Journalism (JNL)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COMM 203	Introduction to Journalism	3
COMM 351	News Writing and Reporting	3
COMM 352	News Editing	3
COMM 475	Journalism Law	3

Electives

Select 9 credits from the following: 9

COMM 145	Newspaper Workshop I	
COMM 148	Podcasting and Radio Workshop I	
COMM 208	Introduction to Media Production	
COMM 302	Media Theory	
COMM 309	Writing across the Media	
COMM 345	Newspaper Workshop II	
COMM 353	Broadcast Journalism	
COMM 356	Video: Performance and Writing	
COMM 369	Multimedia Storytelling	
COMM 370	Feature Writing	
COMM 371	Sports Writing and Reporting	
COMM 374	Political Journalism	
COMM 387	Special Topics in Journalism	
COMM 454	Free Speech and Ethics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	

Total Credits 21

Concentration in Media Production and Criticism (MPC)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COMM 208	Introduction to Media Production	3
COMM 302	Media Theory	3
COMM 360	Digital Postproduction	3
COMM 380	Media Criticism	3

Electives

Select 9 credits from the following: 9

COMM 148	Podcasting and Radio Workshop I	
COMM 202	Media and Society	
COMM 210	Voice and Articulation	
COMM 309	Writing across the Media	

COMM 310	Performance for Communication Arts	
COMM 347	Cable TV Programming and Marketing	
COMM 348	Podcasting and Radio Workshop II	
COMM 350	Mass Communication and Public Policy	
COMM 353	Broadcast Journalism	
COMM 354	Radio Production and Podcasting	
COMM 356	Video: Performance and Writing	
COMM 358	Multi-Camera Studio Production	
COMM 359	Media Management	
COMM 363	Media Career Seminar	
COMM 364	Videography	
COMM 365	Gender, Race, and Class in the Media	
COMM 367	Children and Media	
COMM 372	Sports and the Media	
COMM 375	Digital Advertising and Promotions	
COMM 396	Special Topics in Mass Communication	
COMM 397	Special Topics in Production	
COMM 435	Digital Communication	
COMM 452	Media Production Practicum	

Total Credits 21

Concentration in Political Communication (PCOM)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COMM 302	Media Theory	3
COMM 327	Political Communication	3
COMM 430	Persuasion	3
COMM 454	Free Speech and Ethics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

Electives

Select 9 credits from the following: 9

COMM 140	Forensics Seminar I	
COMM 141	Forensics Seminar II	
COMM 142	Debate Seminar I	
COMM 143	Debate Seminar II	
COMM 230	Case Studies in Persuasion	
COMM 260	Basic Debate Theory and Practice	
COMM 261	Theories of Argumentation	
COMM 320	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 326	Rhetoric of Social Movements and Political Controversy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
COMM 340	Forensics Seminar III	
COMM 341	Forensics Seminar IV	
COMM 342	Debate Seminar III	
COMM 343	Debate Seminar IV	
COMM 362	Argument and Public Policy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
COMM 374	Political Journalism	
COMM 380	Media Criticism	
COMM 386	Special Topics in Political Communication	
COMM 412	Politics and the Mass Media	

COMM 431	New Media and Democracy	
COMM 433	Environmental Communication	
COMM 465	Topics in Communication and Gender	
Total Credits		21

Concentration in Public Relations (PR)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COMM 204	Introduction to Public Relations	3
COMM 308	Writing for Public Relations	3
COMM 331	Public Relations Campaigns	3
COMM 430	Persuasion	3
Electives		
Select 9 credits from the following:		9
COMM 203	Introduction to Journalism	
COMM 208	Introduction to Media Production	
COMM 302	Media Theory	
COMM 320	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 335	Organizational Communication	
COMM 359	Media Management	
COMM 362	Argument and Public Policy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
COMM 375	Digital Advertising and Promotions	
COMM 384	Public Relations and Social Media	
COMM 388	Special Topics in Public Relations	
COMM 389	Public Relations for Associations and Nonprofits	
COMM 390	Case Studies in Public Relations	
COMM 392	Public Relations Study Abroad	
COMM 411	Public Relations in Practice	
COMM 433	Environmental Communication	
COMM 454	Free Speech and Ethics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
Total Credits		21

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select six credits of COMM courses in consultation with an advisor (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/comm/) ¹		6
Total Credits		6

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COMM 100 Public Speaking (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) and COMM 101 Fundamentals of Communication (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

Courses Limited to 10 Credits

Of the 39 credits applied to the major, no more than 10 credits may be in these courses. In addition, no more than 6 credits of COMM 450 Internship in Communication or 3 credits of COMM 452 Media Production Practicum may be applied to the major.

Code	Title	Credits
COMM 140	Forensics Seminar I	
COMM 141	Forensics Seminar II	

COMM 142	Debate Seminar I	
COMM 143	Debate Seminar II	
COMM 145	Newspaper Workshop I	
COMM 148	Podcasting and Radio Workshop I	
COMM 340	Forensics Seminar III	
COMM 341	Forensics Seminar IV	
COMM 342	Debate Seminar III	
COMM 343	Debate Seminar IV	
COMM 345	Newspaper Workshop II	
COMM 348	Podcasting and Radio Workshop II	
COMM 398	Research Practicum in Communication	
COMM 450	Internship in Communication	
COMM 451	Facilitating Communication Education	
COMM 452	Media Production Practicum	
COMM 491	RS: Honors Research Project in Communication	
COMM 498	RS: Research Projects in Communication	
COMM 499	Independent Study in Communication	

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated as writing intensive in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in communication fulfill this requirement by successfully completing COMM 300 Rhetorical Theory and Criticism (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>).

Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
PHIL	(http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/phil/) ¹	
RELI	(http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/reli/)	

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Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253, RELI 235, RELI 333, and RELI 339 cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature>) requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) ¹		3

ANTH (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/anth/>)

CRIM (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/crim/>)

ECON (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/econ/>)

GOVT (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/govt/>)

HIST (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/hist/>) ²

LING (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/ling/>)

PSYC (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/psyc/>)

SOCI (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/soci/>)

Or choose from the following GGS courses:

GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
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GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
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GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies
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GGS 301	Political Geography (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
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GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
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GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
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GGS 305	Economic Geography
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GGS 306	Urban Geography
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GGS 315	Geography of the United States
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GGS 316	Geography of Latin America
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GGS 320	Geography of Europe
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GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
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GGS 326	Geography of Eastern Europe and Russia
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GGS 357	Urban Planning
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GGS 380	Geography of Virginia
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The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

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HIST 100 and HIST 125 may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
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Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by: ¹

Completing 3 credits in a foreign language numbered 202 (or higher level courses taught in the language) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/modern-classical-languages/)	3
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Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test

Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:

EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I	3
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EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II	3
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EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III	3
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Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu/>).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
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Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) ¹

ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
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ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 314	Zombies	3
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ANTH 317	East Asian Cultures	3
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ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
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ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
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ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
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ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3	GGG 317	Geography of China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ARAB 365	Black and Minority Cultures in Arabic Literature (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3	GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GOVT 332	Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GOVT 333	Politics of East Asia	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GOVT 338	Politics of Eurasia	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3
ARTH 317	The Black Pharaohs: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Nubia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3	GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3	HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 326	Stalinism	3
CHIN 470	Special Topics in Chinese Studies	3	HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3
DANC 118	Global Dance Perspectives I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 354	Modern China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
			HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
			HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
			HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

HIST 364	Revolution in Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 384	Global History of Christianity (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3	RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 377	The Vietnam War (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
HIST 384	Global History of Christianity (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3	WMST 407	Transnational Sexualities	3
HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3-6			
HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3			
HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3			
JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
JAPA 380	Japan in Motion	3			
KORE 300	Korean Culture and Society	3			
KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3			
KORE 385	Introduction to Korean Linguistics	3			
MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
RELI 211	Introduction to Religions of the "West" (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
RELI 212	Introduction to Religions of Asia (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
RELI 312	Islam (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3			
RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
RELI 317	Daoism	3			
RELI 318	Korean Philosophy and Religions	3			
RELI 338	Qur'an and Hadith	3			
RELI 342	Comparative Study of Mysticism	3			
RELI 344	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3			
RELI 358	Islamic Thought (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			
RELI 367	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3			
RELI 368	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3			

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A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global>) requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu/>).

Mason Core

Some Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) requirements.

Students who have completed the following credentials are eligible for a waiver of the Foundation and Exploration (lower level) requirement categories. The Integration category (upper level) is not waived under this policy. See Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-policies/#transfertext>) for more information.

- VCCS Uniform Certificate of General Studies
- VCCS or Richard Bland Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Arts and Sciences (A.A.&S.), or Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.)

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication (lower-level) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written)	3
	Oral Communication (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral)	3
	Quantitative Reasoning (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative)	3
	Information Technology and Computing (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#information-technology)	3
Exploration Requirements		
	Arts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts)	3
	Global Contexts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-contexts)	3
	Global History (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-history)	3
	Literature (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature)	3

Natural Science (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science)	7
Social and Behavioral Sciences (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#social-behavioral-science)	3
Just Societies (optional) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#justsocieties) ¹	
Integration Requirements	
Written Communication (upper-level) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written)	3
Writing Intensive (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#wi) ²	3
Mason Apex (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#apex) ³	3
Total Credits	40

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In addition to covering content related to the designated category, Exploration level courses marked with a *Just Societies* "flag" are specifically designed to help students learn how to interact effectively with others from all walks of life, including those with backgrounds and beliefs that differ from their own. Courses marked with the Just Societies flag are available for students starting in Fall 2024. Students admitted prior to the Fall of 2025 are not required to take courses with a Just Societies flag but may wish to do so to increase their knowledge and skills in this important area. Students interested in this approach to completing their Mason Core Exploration Requirements should work closely with their advisor to identify the appropriate Just Societies-flagged courses.

2

Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

3

Minimum 3 credits required.

4-Year Plan

Bachelor of Arts in Communication Sample Plan of Study

A sample four year graduation plan and degree planning worksheet can be found at <https://academicaffairs.chss.gmu.edu/undergraduate-students/advising/advising-sheets> (<https://academicaffairs.chss.gmu.edu/undergraduate-students/advising/advising-sheets/>). The plan is a recommended sequencing of courses based on prerequisites and scheduling. This may not fit every student's needs and is a guideline, not a requirement. Students should confirm major requirements with their academic advisor each semester and with their PatriotWeb Degree Evaluation to ensure they enroll in the proper courses and are on track to graduate.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Highly-qualified students may pursue advanced coursework leading to graduation with honors in the major.

Eligibility

Students are eligible to apply for honors coursework if they meet the following requirements:

- Completion of a minimum of 75 credit hours, including COMM 200 Communication Theory and two of COMM 300 Rhetorical Theory and Criticism (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), COMM 301 Relational Communication Theory, COMM 302 Media Theory, COMM 305 Foundations of Intercultural Communication (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>).
- Minimum GPA of 3.25 in all coursework completed at George Mason.
- GPA of 3.50 in all communication coursework completed at George Mason and applied to the major.

Honors coursework in communication is a fall-spring sequence. Applications may be submitted by eligible students for fall semester enrollment. The deadline is March 15 each spring, for the sequence beginning the following fall. Student eligibility will be dependent on the GPA at the time of application. If accepted to pursue honors coursework, the student must then enroll in COMM 490 Honors Research Methods in Communication. Under the guidance of the COMM 490 Honors Research Methods in Communication instructor, the student will complete a research prospectus for an honors project to be implemented in the following semester in COMM 491 RS: Honors Research Project in Communication.

Honors Requirements

To remain eligible for honors coursework, the student must

- receive a grade of 3.00 (no lower than B) in COMM 490 Honors Research Methods in Communication;
- have the research prospectus approved by the COMM 490 Honors Research Methods in Communication instructor and the honors director; and
- maintain an overall GPA of 3.25 and a minimum GPA of 3.50 in all COMM coursework completed at George Mason University and applied to the major.

In the following semester, the student enrolls in COMM 491 RS: Honors Research Project in Communication. The student conducts his/her research and prepares a written project conforming to the standards set by the instructor. Upon completion of the project, the COMM 491 RS: Honors Research Project in Communication instructor and the honors director will determine if the project is of honors quality, which is then indicated by the grade earned in COMM 491 RS: Honors Research Project in Communication. For honors designation, the student must achieve an average grade of 3.50 across COMM 490 Honors Research Methods in Communication and COMM 491 RS: Honors Research Project in Communication and must also maintain minimum GPA eligibility requirements outlined above.

Program Outcomes

Program Outcomes

1. Students should be able to explain the origins of the Communication discipline, summarize the broad nature of the Communication discipline, and identify intellectual specialization(s) in the Communication discipline.
2. Students should be able to explain, synthesize, apply, and critique Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts.

3. Students should be able to evaluate and design communication research, including the following steps: (1) articulate and refine a question or problem appropriate for Communication scholarship, (2) locate, interpret, and evaluate existing communication scholarship, (3) apply existing communication scholarship to frame inquiry, (4) distinguish between personal beliefs and evidence, (5) identify relevant ethical issues and follow ethical principles, (6) choose an appropriate research method for scholarly inquiry, and (7) explain how scholarly inquiry has value to society.
4. Students should be able to demonstrate (1) effective writing skills, (2) effective oral presentation skills, and (3) the ability to produce and disseminate effective messages via the modalities and platforms most central to the student's chosen concentration.
5. Students should be able to identify meanings embedded in messages, discuss the cultural, social, and/or political significance of messages, and recognize the impact and influence of messages.
6. Students should be able to identify ethical perspectives, explain the relevance of various ethical perspectives, and articulate and evaluate the ethical dimensions of a communication situation.
7. Students should be able to articulate the connection between communication and culture, appreciate the influence of individual and cultural similarities and differences on communication and social interaction, understand how communication can sustain and/or challenge existing relations of power and authority, and respect diverse perspectives and the ways they influence communication.

Accelerated Master's

Many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason. See the full list of degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/programs/#filter=filter_24) with accelerated programs at George Mason.