• COMMUNICATION (SPE)

Communication studies focus on the concepts, theories, and practice of human communication in a variety of contexts. Students apply their understanding of communication research and principles to personal, professional, and community relationships and concerns.

The department encourages students to tailor their program of study to meet their own interests. Majors select from one of three areas of concentration described below.

The Honors Program in Communication allows qualified students to pursue advanced study. A minor in Communication is also available.

Requirements for the Major in Communication

A major in Communication requires a minimum of 36 credit hours from departmental offerings. A final grade of "D" within a departmental course will not be counted toward a Communication major. Courses may not be taken S/U where a grade option exists.

Prerequisites (State Mandated Common Prerequisites)

Students must complete SPC 2600, Public Speaking, before being admitted to the Communication major. A student can be admitted to the university without SPC 2600, but it must be completed as part of requirements for the major. A grade of "C" is the minimum acceptable grade.

Please be aware of the immunization, foreign language, and continuous enrollment policies of the university. This is a non-limited access program.

I. Prerequisites (3 hours)

This course is a prerequisite for declaring the communication major.

SPC 2600 Public Speaking (3)

In addition, admittance to the major is limited to those students who have completed at least 30 hours of college level work and have achieved an overall grade point average in all college courses of 2.5 or above.

II. Core Distribution Requirements (12 hours)

Students must take each of these four courses as early as possible in the major. These courses are prerequisites for taking many of the more advanced courses in the respective areas.

COM 2000 Introduction to Communication (3)
ORI 2000 Introduction to Communication as Performance (3)
SPC 3301 Interpersonal Communication (3)
SPC 2541 Persuasion (3)

III. Area of Concentration (9 hours)

Students must take a minimum of nine hours in one of the three areas of concentration.

Performance Communication
ORI 3950 ORI 4931 ORI 4120
ORI 4310 SPC 4201

Interpersonal and Organizational Communication
COM 3120 COM 3014 COM 4020
COM 4124 COM 4710 COM 4942
SPC 3212 SPC 3425 SPC 4305
SPC 4310 SPC 4431

Public and Cultural Communication
COM 4030 COM 4022 SPC 3230
SPC 3513 SPC 3631 SPC 3653
SPC 3680 SPC 3710 SPC 4683
SPC 4632 SPC 4680 SPC 4714

IV. Departmental Electives (12 hours)

Students must take twelve additional hours of elective coursework in the Department of Communication at the 3000-level or higher, which must include at least six hours from outside the student's "area of concentration."

The following three classes count as electives outside the area of concentration for everyone (regardless of the concentration chosen):

COM 3122 Interview Communication
SPC 3601 Advanced Public Speaking
SPC 4930 Selected Topics Course (titles and topics vary each semester)

Communication Honors Program

The Honors Program in Communication provides an opportunity for exceptional undergraduate students in Communication to work closely with a faculty member in an intensive research experience. Each Honors student is required to complete and defend an undergraduate Honors Thesis. Application to the program ordinarily occurs during the second semester of the junior year or prior to completion of 90 semester hours. Admission to the program is based on the student's overall academic record, performance in communication courses, and recommendations of faculty. To be admitted to the program, a student should have at least a 3.5 GPA in all communication courses and a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Students are required to complete 3 hours of Honors Reading and 3 hours of Honors Thesis. Students interested in the Honors Program should consult the department for further information about admission and program requirements.

Requirements for the Minor in Communication

The minor in Communication is available to students pursuing any other major at USF. The minor in Communication requires a minimum of 18 hours of departmental coursework, including:

SPC 2600 Public Speaking (3)
COM 2000 Introduction to Communication (3)

The other 12 hours may be selected from among departmental offerings and must include a minimum of 6 hours at the 3000-level or higher. A grade of "D" will not be counted toward a Communication minor. Courses may not be taken S/U where a grade option exists.