COMMUNICATIONS, B.A. (ALTOONA)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Altoona

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (*Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

Communications, B.A. at Altoona Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15‡	3	General Education Course (GQ)‡	3
COMM 100N/AMST 106N or 150N*	3	General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
PSU 3	1	General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3	Elective	3
World Language Course Level 1	4	World Language Course Level 2	4
General Education Course	3		
	17		**14.5**

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
General Education Course (GQ)‡	3	COMM 242*	3
World Language Course Level 3	4	CAS 100‡	3
COMM 100N/AMST 106N or 150N*	3	ENGL 202B‡	3
General Education Course	3	General Education Course	3
B.A. Requirement	3	General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
		Elective	2
	16		**15.5**

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communications Theory Course*	3	Communications Theory Course*	3
Communications Application Course*	3	Communications Application Course*	3
General Education Course	3	COMM 470A or 470B*	3
COMM 260W*	3	US Cultures Course	3
B.A. Requirement	3	General Education Course	3
	15		**15**

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communications Theory Course*	3	COMM 490A*	3
Communications Application Course*	3	Communications Application Course*	3
COMM 470A or 470B*	3	B.A. Requirement	3
General Education Course	3	General Education Course	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
	15		**15**

Total Credits 123

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/).

Additional Notes
Communications Theory Courses

Code	Title	Credits
COMM 110	Media and Democracy	3
COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications	3

COMM 190	Gaming and Interactive Media	3
COMM 205	Gender, Diversity and the Media	3
COMM 250	Film History and Theory	3
COMM 251	The Nature of Media	3
COMM 261	The Literature of Journalism	3
COMM 292	Introduction to Media & Politics	3
COMM 294	Research Project Courses	1-3
COMM 296	Independent Studies	1-6
COMM 320	Introduction to Advertising	3
COMM 370	Public Relations	3
COMM 401	Mass Media in History	3
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications	3
COMM 408	Cultural Foundations of Communications	3
COMM 409	News Media Ethics	3
COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media	3
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society	3
COMM 413W	The Mass Media and the Public	3
COMM 454	Documentary in Film and Television	3
COMM 417	Ethics and Regulation in Advertising and Public Relations	3
COMM 451	Topics in American Film	3
COMM 452	Topics in International Cinema	3
COMM 494	Research Project Courses	1-12
COMM 496	Independent Studies	1-18

COMM 469	Photography for the Mass Media	3
COMM 471	Public Relations Media and Methods	3
COMM 472	Public Relations Event Planning	3
COMM 481	Advanced Multimedia Production	3
COMM 495	Internship	1-9
COMM 496	Independent Studies	1-18

Communications Application Courses

Code	Title	Credits
COMM 1	Newspaper Practicum	1-3
COMM 2	Newspaper Editorial Staff	1-3
COMM 215	Basic Photography for Communications	3
COMM 241	Graphic Design for Communications	3
COMM 242	Basic Video/Filmmaking	3
COMM 251	The Nature of Media	3
COMM 269	Photojournalism	3
COMM 270	Introduction to Multimedia Production	3
COMM 282	Introduction to Video Field Production	3
COMM 296	Independent Studies	1-6
COMM 337	Intermediate Documentary Production	3
COMM 338	Intermediate Narrative Production	3
COMM 339	Intermediate Alternative Production	3
COMM 346	Writing for the Screen I	3
COMM 360	Audio News Production	3
COMM 374	Audio Production	3
COMM 415	Advanced Photography for Communications	3
COMM 421		3
COMM 438	Advanced Narrative Production	3-6
COMM 439	Advanced Alternative Production	3-6
COMM 448	Advanced Group Production I	3
COMM 460W	Reporting Methods	3
COMM 461	Magazine Writing	3
COMM 462	Feature Writing	3
COMM 467	News Editing and Evaluation	3
COMM 468	Graphic Applications in Print Communications	3