

# ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION, B.A.

**Begin Campus:** World Campus

**End Campus:** World Campus

## Program Description

A Bachelor of Arts in Organizational and Professional Communication provides increased understanding and practice in how people communicate to influence others and shape the world around them. Modern society requires effective communication in professional, personal, social, and multicultural settings. The flexibility of the program offers preparation for a variety of careers, such as law, business, communication, health, administration, social services, and human relations. The bachelor of arts program will facilitate students' learning of effective oral and written communication, specifically helping students to understand and generate professional texts in a variety of genres.

## What is Organizational and Professional Communication?

This program prepares its students to:

- Apply and critique communication concepts and principles to a variety of organizational contexts
- Apply qualitative research methods to organizational and professional contexts
- Demonstrate logical, critical, creative, and ethical thinking about communication
- Generate communication appropriate to audience, purpose, and context
- Synthesize and assimilate information and for communication analysis and practice
- Engage diverse communities and function as a member of society

## You Might Like This Program If...

You are a working professional seeking an applied learning experience that cannot only help you advance your career, but also empower you to make critical contributions toward improved organizational practices at work, in society, and beyond.

## Direct Admission to the Major

Incoming first-year students who meet the program admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. Admission restrictions may apply for change-of-major and/or change-of-campus students.

For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the college, campus, or program contact (listed in the Contact tab).

## Degree Requirements

**For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational and Professional Communication, a minimum of 120 credits is required:**

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	12
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	48

**9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GH; and 6 credits of GS courses.**

## Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 204	Communication Research Methods	3
CAS 301	Rhetorical Theory	3
CAS 303	Communication Theory	3
CAS 390	Qualitative Research Methods	3
CAS 426W	Communication Ethics	3
CAS 452	Organizational Communication Theory and Research	3
CAS 496	Independent Studies <sup>1</sup>	3
LA 201W	Experiential Learning Portfolio	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits in speaking and argumentation from:		3
CAS 212	Professional Public Speaking	
CAS 215	Argumentation	
CAS 252	Business and Professional Communication	
CAS 340	Communication and Civility	
Select 3 credits in interpersonal communication or conflict management from:		3
CAS 203	Interpersonal Communication	
CAS 271N	Intercultural Communication	
CAS 302	Social Influence	
CAS 352	Organizational Communication	
Select 3 credits in written communication from:		3
ENGL 418	Advanced Technical Writing and Editing	
ENGL 419	Advanced Business Writing	
ENGL 420	Writing for the Web	
ENGL 480	Communication Design for Writers	
<b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 15 credits from the following courses; at least 9 credits must be at the 400-level. <sup>2</sup>		15
CAS 203	Interpersonal Communication	
CAS 212	Professional Public Speaking	
CAS 215	Argumentation	

CAS 252	Business and Professional Communication
CAS 271N	Intercultural Communication
CAS 283	Communication and Information Technology I
CAS 302	Social Influence
CAS 340	Communication and Civility
CAS 352	Organizational Communication
CAS 404	Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
CAS 455	Topics in Gender and Communication
CAS 475	Studies in Public Address
COMM 428A	Principles of Strategic Communications
ENGL 418	Advanced Technical Writing and Editing
ENGL 419	Advanced Business Writing
ENGL 420	Writing for the Web
ENGL 480	Communication Design for Writers
LHR/OLEAD 464	Communication Skills for Leaders in Groups and Organizations
LHR/OLEAD 465	Collective Decision Making
OLEAD 410	Leadership in a Global Context

<sup>1</sup> A student may only apply up to 6 credits of CAS 496 in Requirements for the Major.

<sup>2</sup> A student may not use a course as both an Additional course and as a Supporting course.

## General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

### Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

### Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

### Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

## Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

## University Degree Requirements

### First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

### Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

### Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

### Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

### Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

### Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## B.A. Degree Requirements

**Foreign Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this

category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

**Other Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

## Program Learning Objectives

- **Application of Communication Theory and Concepts:** Students in this program should discover relevance of coursework to their professional lives
- **Core Research Knowledge:** Students majoring in the program should obtain essential research skills in the core courses
- **Professional Relevance:** Apply communication concepts, principles, theories, and perspectives to a variety of organizational and professional contexts in a way that is relevant and meaningful to PSU students

## Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

## University Park and World Campus

### Undergraduate Academic Advising

301 Outreach Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-3283  
[advising@outreach.psu.edu](mailto:advising@outreach.psu.edu)

## Career Paths

### Careers

The flexibility of the Bachelor of Science in Organizational and Professional Communication program offers preparation for a variety of careers, including law, business, communication, health, administration, social services, and human relations.

### Opportunities for Graduate Studies

The flexibility of the Bachelor of Science in Organizational and Professional Communication program offers preparation for graduate studies in a variety of fields, including law, business, communication, health, administration, social services, and human relations.

## Contact

### University Park

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS AND SCIENCES  
234 Sparks Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-865-3461  
[amw306@psu.edu](mailto:amw306@psu.edu)

### World Campus

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION ARTS & SCIENCES  
234 Sparks Building  
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<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-organizational-and-professional-communication-bachelor-of-arts-degree> (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-organizational-and-professional-communication-bachelor-of-arts-degree/>)