

# Speech Communication

College of Arts & Humanities,  
Department of Speech Communication  
230 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2213  
Web site: [www.mnsu.edu/dept/spcomm/Communications/SpCommHP.html](http://www.mnsu.edu/dept/spcomm/Communications/SpCommHP.html)

Chair: Daniel Cronn-Mills

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Speech Communication is the study of how people generate shared meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols. Speech Communication majors work to develop confidence and effectiveness in their public speaking, interpersonal, and small group communication skills. The focus is not on preparing students for a specific job, but rather helping students to develop interpersonal, organizational, intercultural, and public presentational skills which will enhance the quality of their lives across a variety of contexts (e.g., within the workplace, family, civic and social situations).

**Admission to Major** is granted by the department. Minimum University admission requirements are:  
- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.  
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.20 (C).

Contact the department for application procedures. In addition to the general requirements, a cumulative GPA of 2.2 must be maintained in the courses of the major.

## SPEECH COMMUNICATION BA, BS

### Required for Major (15 credits):

SPEE 101 Interpersonal Communication (3)  
SPEE 102 Public Speaking (3)  
SPEE 190 Introduction to Communication Studies (3)  
SPEE 385 Communication Theory and Research (3)  
SPEE 485 Senior Seminar (3)

### Required for Major (Electives, 18 credits):

Choose 6 courses from the following:

SPEE 201	SPEE 202	SPEE 203
SPEE 212	SPEE 220	SPEE 233
SPEE 240	SPEE 300	SPEE 310
SPEE 315	SPEE 321	SPEE 325
SPEE 333	SPEE 400	SPEE 401
SPEE 403	SPEE 404	SPEE 410
SPEE 412	SPEE 413	SPEE 430
SPEE 440	SPEE 445	SPEE 490
SPEE 497	SPEE 498	SPEE 499

12 of the 18 elective credits must be in upper level classes.

**Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) ONLY degree:**  
Language (8)

**Required Minor: Yes. Any.**

**ENGLISH/SPEECH: TEACHING SPEECH CON-**

## CENTRATION

### Required for Major (Speech Core, 27 credits):

SPEE 101 Interpersonal Communication (3)  
SPEE 201 Small Group Communication (3)  
SPEE 203 Intercultural Communication (3)  
SPEE 212 Oral Communication for Business Professions (3)  
SPEE 310 Performance of Literature (3)  
SPEE 315 Effective Listening (3)  
SPEE 321 Argumentation and Debate (3)  
SPEE 404 Teaching of Speech Communication (3)  
SPEE 430 Directing Forensic Activities (3)  
Choose either:  
SPEE 333 Advanced Public Speaking (3)  
SPEE 220 Forensics (1-3)

### Required for Major (Electives, 9 credits):

SPEE 190 Introduction to Communication Studies (3)  
SPEE 202 Nonverbal Communication (3)  
SPEE 220 Forensics (1-3)  
SPEE 240 Special Topics (1-3)  
SPEE 300 Ethics and Free Speech (3)  
SPEE 325 Interviewing (3)  
SPEE 333 Advanced Public Speaking (3)  
SPEE 385 Communication Theory and Research (3)  
SPEE 400 American Public Address (3)  
SPEE 401 Rhetoric of Western Thought (3)  
SPEE 403 Gender and Communication (3)  
SPEE 410 Group Performance of Literature (3)  
SPEE 412 Organizational Communication (3)  
SPEE 413 Advanced Intercultural Communication (3)  
SPEE 440 Special Topics (1-3)  
SPEE 445 Conflict Management (3)  
SPEE 490 Workshop (3)  
SPEE 497 Teaching Internship (3)  
SPEE 498 Internship (3)  
SPEE 499 Individual Study (3)

### Required for Major (English, 24 credits):

ENG 275 Intro to Literary Studies (4)  
ENG 285 Practical Grammar (2)  
ENG 361 Teaching English in the High School (2)  
ENG 362 Teaching Literature and Writing (4)  
ENG 381 Intro to English Linguistics (4)  
Choose either:  
ENG 463 Adolescent Literature (2)  
ENG 464 Teaching Literature in the Middle School (3)

Choose either:

ENG 405 Shakespeare: Comedies and Histories (2)  
ENG 406 Shakespeare: Tragedies (2)

Choose one from:

ENG 320      ENG 321      ENG 327  
ENG 328

### Required General Education Courses

SPEE 102 Public Speaking (3)  
MASS 110 Introduction to Mass Communication (3)  
ENG xxx English Elective (4)

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**Required for Major (Professional Education, 30 credits):**

See the SECONDARY EDUCATION section for admission requirements to Professional Education and a list of required professional education courses.

**SPEECH COMMUNICATION MINOR****Required for Minor (9 credits):**

- SPEE 101 Interpersonal Communication (3)  
SPEE 102 Public Speaking (3)  
SPEE 190 Introduction to Communication Studies (3)

**Required for Minor (Electives, 9 credits):**

Choose up to 9 credits from the Speech department.

SPEE xxx SPEE xxx SPEE xxx

**COMMUNICATIONS MINOR**

This interdisciplinary minor is for students who wish to enhance their communication skills for use in business and other professional settings. Students completing this minor will develop an understanding of contexts and rhetorical strategies for oral and written communication among professionals. Students will also develop their own ability to communicate through written texts, oral communication, and electronic formats. These skills are highly desirable by employers in a wide range of business, government, and nonprofit organizations. Students may major in any of the programs affiliated with this minor, but the courses taken for the minor will not count toward the major.

**Required for Minor (14 credits):**

- ENG 271 Technical Communication (4)  
ENG 474 Researching and Writing Technical Reports (4)  
SPEE 325 Interviewing (3)  
SPEE 412 Organizational Communication (3)

**Electives (Choose 10 credits):**

- ART 200 Introduction to Graphic Design (3)  
ART 204 Digital Imaging and Layout (3)  
ENG 270 Advanced Composition (4)  
ENG 471 Visual Technical Communication  
ENG 473 Desktop Publishing (4)  
ENG 475 Editing Technical Publications (4)  
MASS 433 Public Relations Principles (3)  
MASS 434 Advanced Public Relations (3)  
SPEE 212 Oral Communication for the Professions (3)  
SPEE 315 Effective Listening (3)  
SPEE 333 Advanced Public Speaking  
SPEE 445 Conflict Management (3)

Students would be able to major in any of the disciplines represented in this minor, but courses would only count for the major *or* the minor; no double-counted courses.

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**POLICIES/INFORMATION**

**GPA Policy.** Students must maintain a minimum of 2.2 GPA.

**P/N Grading Policy.** Total credits in the department

must not exceed 25 percent P/N for a major or a minor.

**Internships:** Internships are P/N option only.

**Academic Probation Advising:** Refer to the information listed in the College of Arts and Humanities section of the bulletin.

Speech Communication minors may apply no more than 3 credits of SPEE 498 and 3 credits of SPEE 499 to fulfillment of the minor. Additional credits may be applied for graduation requirements. Speech Communication majors may apply no more than 6 credits of SPEE 498 and 3 credits of SPEE 499 to fulfillment of the major. Additional credits may be applied for graduation requirements. SPEE 100 does not count toward major or minor requirements.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****SPEE 100 (3) Fundamentals of Speech Communication**

A course designed to improve students' understanding in communication, including the areas of interpersonal, nonverbal, listening, small group and public speaking.  
*GE-1B*

**SPEE 101 (3) Interpersonal Communication**

A course blending theory and practice to help individuals build effective relationships through improved communication.

**SPEE 102 (3) Public Speaking**

A course in communication principles to develop skills in the analysis and presentation of speeches.  
*GE-1B*

**SPEE 190 (3) Introduction to Communication Studies**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic theories, principles, concepts, and research methodologies in the field of communication.

**SPEE 201 (3) Small Group Communication**

Development of communication skills for working with others in small group situations.

**SPEE 202 (3) Nonverbal Communication**

Investigation of the concepts and theories of nonverbal communication. Designed to assist students in increasing their awareness and understanding of their nonverbal communication and in analyzing and understanding the nonverbal communication of others.

**SPEE 203 (3) Intercultural Communication**

The course explores communication with people from other cultures, why misunderstandings occur and how to build clearer and more productive cross-cultural relationships.  
*GE-7, 8 CD-Core*

**SPEE 212 (3) Oral Communication for Business Professions**

Designed to help students improve oral communication skills in the workplace. The emphasis is on the preparation and presentation of public messages in formats com-

monly used in business and professional settings. Listening as an oral communication skill in the workplace will be explored, as will the role of intercultural communication in the workplace. Individual speeches, group presentations, and interviews are the major presentations.

### **SPEE 220 (1-3) Forensics**

Activity course involving participation in intercollegiate speech tournaments. Course can be repeated for credit.  
*GE-11*

### **SPEE 233 (3) Public Speaking for Technical Professionals**

This course is designed to introduce and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to create and present effective public communication of technical content for a technical or general audience.  
*GE-1B*

### **SPEE 240 (3) Special Topics**

Special interest courses devoted to specific topics within the field of speech communication. Topics vary, and course may be retaken for credit under different topic headings.

### **SPEE 300 (3) Ethics and Free Speech**

This course is divided into two sections. First the class explores ethical parameters involved in communication from a variety of social and cultural perspectives. Second, the class investigates current standards and issues involving freedom of speech.  
*GE-9*

### **SPEE 310 (3) Performance of Literature**

This course is designed to develop the skills to complete the artistic process of studying literature through performance and sharing that study with an audience.  
*GE-6, 11*

### **SPEE 315 (3) Effective Listening**

This course is designed to provide students with skills of effective listening, and the ability to apply that knowledge in a variety of educational and professional settings.

### **SPEE 321 (3) Argumentation and Debate**

Development of skills in the analysis, application and evaluation of argumentative communication.

### **SPEE 325 (3) Interviewing**

This course is designed to prepare students to use communication skills in a variety of interview settings.

### **SPEE 333 (3) Advanced Public Speaking**

This is an advanced course in public presentation focused on improving presentational skills of speech delivery and language choice.

### **SPEE 385 (3) Communication Theory and Research**

This course is designed to introduce students to basic theoretical approaches and research methodologies in the discipline of speech communication.

### **SPEE 400 (3) American Public Address: A Tradition**

Survey of significant American speakers and their speeches from the colonial period to the Twentieth Century.

### *CD-Related*

### **SPEE 401 (3) Rhetoric of Western Thought**

The course explores the history of rhetoric and communication from the ancient Greeks to the present day. The course is designed for students interested in expanding their understanding of rhetoric as a force in contemporary intellectual, political and academic fields.

### **SPEE 403 (3) Gender and Communication**

This course is designed to develop an understanding of how gender and communication interact. Students learn the basic theories and principles of communication as it applies to gender and develop skills to enhance communication between and among gender groups.

### *CD-Core*

### **SPEE 404 (3) Teaching of Speech Communication**

This course is designed to fulfill the Secondary Licensure requirement. The course covers teaching methods and materials needed to develop speech communication units for speech communication courses in grades 5-12.

### **SPEE 410 (3) Group Performance of Literature**

This course is a performance course. Students will learn the theory and practice of group oral interpretation by engaging in dramatic activities, developing, researching and creating a group oral interpretation script, and presenting a group oral interpretation.

### **SPEE 412 (3) Organizational Communication**

This course is designed to develop an understanding of speech communication in the organizational context. The course will aid each individual in working more effectively within any type of organization through exposure to major theories and works in the area of organizational communication.

### **SPEE 413 (3) Advanced Intercultural Communications**

This course is designed for advanced studies dealing with theories and issues raised by both international and domestic intercultural communication.

### *CD-Core*

### **SPEE 430 (3) Directing Forensic Activity**

Methods and techniques in the development of competitive speech programs in grades 5-12.

### **SPEE 440 (1-3) Special Topics**

A course designed for students who have a general interest in speech communication. Content of each special topics course will be different. May be retaken for credit.

### **SPEE 445 (3) Conflict Management**

This theory and research-oriented course examines the relationship between communication and conflict, and is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills in dealing with conflict situations.

### **SPEE 485 (3) Senior Seminar**

This is a required capstone course of all speech communication majors and involves the completion and presentation of a senior level research project. Teaching majors are excluded from this requirement.

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Pre: SPEE 190

**SPEE 490 (1-4) Workshop**

Topics vary as announced in class schedules.

**SPEE 497 (1-12) Teaching Internship**

First-hand experience in the classroom assisting a faculty member.

**SPEE 498 (1-12) Internship**

Provides first-hand experience in applying communication theories in the workplace under the direction of an on-site supervisor.

**SPEE 499 (1-3) Individual Study**

Independent study under the supervision of an instructor.