

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES

### Communications Studies

College of Arts & Humanities,  
Department of Communications Studies  
230 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2213  
Web site: [www.mnsu.edu/cmst](http://www.mnsu.edu/cmst)

Chair: Kristen Treinen

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Communication Studies is the exploration of how people generate shared meaning through the use of verbal and nonverbal symbols. Communication Studies 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., with in the work place, 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 2.0.

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.

#### 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.

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

**Course Repeat Policy.** Students with a major/minor in Communications Studies may repeat any course in the department in an effort to improve grades. A student may repeat a specific course only once. In exceptional circumstances, a student may appeal to the department chair for a second repeat of a course. The official grade for the course, listings on a student's transcript, and other matters related to course repeats will adhere to appropriate university policies.

#### COMMUNICATION STUDIES BA, BS

##### **Required for Major (15 credits)**

CMST 101W	Interpersonal Communication (3)
CMST 102	Public Speaking (3)
CMST 190	Introduction to Communication Studies (3)
CMST 290	Communication Research (3)
CMST 485	Senior Seminar (3)

##### **Choose One Course**

CMST 403	Gender and Communication (3)
CMST 409	Performance Studies (3)
CMST 412	Organizational Communication (3)

CMST 413	Advanced Intercultural Communications (3)
CMST 415	Topics in Rhetoric and Culture (3)

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

Choose up to 18 credits from the Department of Communication Studies. 12 of the 18 elective credits must be in upper-level classes.

CMST xxx	CMST xxx	CMST xxx	CMST xxx	CMST xxx
CMST xxx				

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

**Required Minor:** Yes. Any.

#### COMMUNICATION ARTS AND LITERATURE - EDUCATION

##### **Communication Studies (36 credits)**

##### **Required General Education Courses**

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

##### **Required for Major (Core 27 credits)**

CMST 101W	Interpersonal Communication (3)
CMST 201	Small Group Communication (3)
CMST 203	Intercultural Communication (3)
CMST 310	Performance of Literature (3) <b>OR</b>
CMST 409	Performance Studies (3)
CMST 315	Effective Listening (3)
CMST 321	Argumentation and Debate (3)
CMST 404	Teaching of Speech Communication (3)
CMST 430	Directing Forensic Activity (3)
Choose one:	
CMST 212	Oral Communication for Business and the Professions (3)
CMST 220	Forensics (3)
CMST 333	Advanced Public Speaking (3)

##### **Electives (9 credits)**

Choose up to 9 credits from the Communication Studies Department  
CMST xxx    CMST xxx    CMST xxx

##### **English (23-24 credits)**

##### **Required (23-24 credits)**

ENG 275	Intro. to Literary Studies (4)
ENG 285	Practical Grammar (2)
ENG 362	Teaching English, Grades 5-12 (4)
ENG 381	Introduction to English Linguistics (4)
ENG 463	Adolescent Literature (4) <b>OR</b>
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

#### COMMUNICATION STUDIES MINOR

##### **Required for Minor (9 credits)**

CMST 101W	Interpersonal Communication (3)
CMST 102	Public Speaking (3)
CMST 190	Introduction to Communication Studies (3)

##### **Required for Minor (3 credits)**

Choose a minimum of three credits at the 300-400 level.

##### **Required for Minor (Electives, 6 credits)**

Choose up to 6 credits from the Communication Studies Department.  
CMST xxx    CMST xxx    CMST xxx

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN COMMUNICATIONS (24 credits)**

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. Students must earn a "C" or better in English courses in order to apply them to the minor.

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

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

#### **Electives (Choose 10 credits)**

ART 202	Introduction to Digital Media (3)
ART 204	Digital Imaging (3)
ENG 301W	Advanced Writing (4)
ENG 471	Visual Technical Communication (4)
ENG 473	Desktop Publishing (4)
ENG 475	Editing Technical Publications (4)
MASS 433	Public Relations Principles (4)
MASS 434	Advanced Public Relations Writing (4)
CMST 212	Oral Communication for the Professions (3)
CMST 315	Effective Listening (3)
CMST 333	Advanced Public Speaking (3)
CMST 445	Conflict Management (3)

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **CMST 100 (3) Fundamentals of Communication**

A course designed to improve a student's understanding in communication, including the areas of interpersonal, nonverbal, listening, small group and public speaking.

GE-1B

#### **CMST 101W (3) Interpersonal Communication**

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

GE-1C, GE-2

#### **CMST 102 (3) Public Speaking**

A course in communication principles to develop skills in the analysis and presentation of speeches.

GE-1B

#### **CMST 190 (3) Introduction to Communication Studies**

Course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the history, scholarly writing, and academic journals in the communication discipline, thus preparing the student for more advanced courses in the Department of Communications Studies.

#### **CMST 201 (3) Small Group Communication**

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

#### **CMST 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.

#### **CMST 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.

Diverse Cultures - Purple

GE-7, GE-8

#### **CMST 212 (3) Oral Communication for Business and the 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 commonly 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.

GE-1B

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

Activity course involving participation in intercollegiate speech tournaments. Course can be repeated for credit.

GE-11

#### **CMST 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

#### **CMST 240 (1-3) Special Topics**

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

#### **CMST 290 (3) Communication Research**

An introduction to the theory and practice of research in communication studies, including the critical evaluation of contemporary communication research.

#### **CMST 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

#### **CMST 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, GE-11

#### **CMST 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.

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

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

#### **CMST 325 (3) Interviewing**

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

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

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

#### **CMST 340 (1-3) Special Topics**

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

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## COMMUNICATION STUDIES

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### **CMST 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.

Diverse Cultures - Purple

### **CMST 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.

### **CMST 409 (3) Performance Studies**

This course is an overview of key performance studies concepts, including cultural performance, of everyday life, theories of play, social influence, and identity performance. Students will develop and present performances as a means to understand theoretical concepts.

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

This course is designed to develop an understanding of communication studies 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.

### **CMST 413 (3) Advanced Intercultural Communication**

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

### **CMST 415 (3) Topics in Rhetoric and Culture**

Special interest courses devoted to specific topics within the intersecting fields of rhetoric and culture. Topics vary, and course may be retaken for credit under different topic headings.

### **CMST 416 (3) Topics in American Public Address**

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

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

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

### **CMST 435 (3) Forensics Pedagogy**

A course designed to give students a theoretical understanding of competitive speech and debate.

Fall

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

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

### **CMST 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.

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

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

Pre: CMST 190

### **CMST 490 (1-4) Workshop**

Topics vary as announced in class schedules.

### **CMST 497 (1-12) Teaching Internship**

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

### **CMST 498 (1-12) Internship**

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

### **CMST 499 (1-3) Individual Study**

Independent study under the supervision of an instructor.