

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES

### Communication Studies

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

Chairs: David Engen

Christopher Brown, Daniel Cronn-Mills, Kristen Cvancara, James Dimock, Deepa Oommen, Sachi Sekimoto, Kristen Treinen, Leah White

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., within the workplace, family, civic and social situations).

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**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.

**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 catalog.

Communication Studies minors may apply no more than 4 credits of CMST 498 and 4 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 8 credits of CMST 498 and 4 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 Communication 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

Degree completion = 120 credits

##### Required General Education

- CMST 101W Interpersonal Communication (4)  
CMST 203 Intercultural Communication (4)

##### Major Common Core

- CMST 102 Public Speaking (3)  
CMST 150 Introduction to Argument (4)  
CMST 190 Introduction to Communication Studies (4)  
CMST 485 Senior Seminar (4)

##### Major Restricted Electives

Argument & Ethics (choose 4 credits)

- CMST 300 Ethics and Free Speech (4)  
CMST 321 Argumentation and Debate (4)

Presentation & Performance (choose 8 credits)

- CMST 310 Performance of Literature (4)  
CMST 333 Advanced Public Communication (4)  
CMST 409 Performance Studies (4)

Rhetoric (choose 8 credits)

(CMST 415 may be repeated under different topics)

- CMST 415 Topics in Rhetoric and Culture (1-4)

##### Minor

A minor is required. Minor must be a language offered by the Department of Modern Languages (e.g., French, German, Spanish, Scandinavian Studies)

**Required Minor: Yes. Language**

#### COMMUNICATION STUDIES BS

Degree completion = 120 credits

##### Required General Education

- CMST 101W Interpersonal Communication (4)  
CMST 102 Public Speaking (3)  
CMST 203 Intercultural Communication (4)

##### Major Common Core

- CMST 150 Introduction to Argument (4)  
CMST 190 Introduction to Communication Studies (4)  
CMST 290 Communication Research (4)  
CMST 485 Senior Seminar (4)

##### Major Restricted Electives

Theory Block (choose 4 credits)

*CMST 440 only with approval of department chair*

- CMST 305 Communication & Community (4)  
CMST 403 Gender and Communication (4)  
CMST 409 Performance Studies (4)  
CMST 412 Organizational Communication (4)  
CMST 415 Topics in Rhetoric and Culture (1-4)  
CMST 440 Special Topics (1-4)

##### Major Unrestricted Electives

Select 16 credits from Communication Studies (choose 16 credits)

12 of the 16 credits must be upper-level (300-400) courses

CMST 103 through CMST 499 (CMST 100 does not count toward the major.)

**Required Minor: Yes. Any.**

#### COMMUNICATION ARTS AND LITERATURE - EDUCATION BS

##### Required General Education

- CMST 102 Public Speaking (3)  
CMST 310 Performance of Literature (4)  
HLTH 240 Drug Education (3)  
KSP 220W Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3)  
MASS 110 Introduction to Mass Media (4)

Literature, Humanities, Film (choose 4 credits)

Choose one course in literature, humanities, or film from the following list.

- ENG 110 Introduction to Literature (4)  
ENG 112W Introduction to Poetry and Drama (4)  
ENG 113W Introduction to Prose Literature (4)  
ENG 118 Diverse Cultures in Literature and Film (4)  
ENG 125 International Children's Literature (4)  
ENG 146 Introduction to Shakespeare (4)  
ENG 211W Perspectives in Literature and Human Diversity (4)  
ENG 212W Perspectives in World Literature (4)  
ENG 213W Perspectives: Ethics and Civic Responsibility in Literature (4)  
ENG 215 Topics in Literature (2-4)  
ENG 242W Introduction To Creative Writing (4)

Any 100-200 Film course. Any 100-200 Humanities course.

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONTINUED

### Major Common Core

Only two credits of CMST 201 are required. Total Major Common Core credits: 38. Total Major Restricted Elective credits: 9. Total credits in program: 47.

CMST 101W	Interpersonal Communication (4)
CMST 201	Small Group Communication (2-4)
CMST 215	Effective Listening (2)
CMST 420	Methods: Teaching Communication Arts (2)
CMST 425	Methods: Directing and Coaching Forensics (2)
ENG 275W	Introduction to Literary Studies (4)
ENG 285	Practical Grammar (2)
ENG 327	American Literature to 1865 (4)
ENG 328	American Literature: 1865 to the Present (4)
ENG 361	Teaching Literature, Grades 5-12 (4)
ENG 362	Teaching English, Writing, Grades 5-12 (4)
ENG 381	Introduction to English Linguistics (4)

### Major Restricted Electives

British Literature (choose 4 credits)

ENG 320	British Literature to 1785 (4)
ENG 321	British Literature: 1785-Present (4)

World Literature (choose 2 credits)

Only two credits of world literature are required.

ENG 433	Selected Studies in World Literature (4)
ENG 435	The World Novel (2-4)
ENG 461	World Literature for Children and Young Adults (2-4)

Young Adult Literature (choose 3 credits)

Only three credits of young adult literature are required.

ENG 463	Adolescent Literature (3)
ENG 464	Teaching Literature in the Middle School (3)

### Other Graduation Requirements

See the Secondary 5-12 & K-12 Professional Education section of the bulletin for admission requirements for professional education and for a list of required professional education courses. Students will take two credits of general electives to meet the 120-credit degree requirement.

### COMMUNICATION STUDIES MINOR

#### Required for Minor

CMST 101W	Interpersonal Communication (4)
CMST 102	Public Speaking (3)
CMST 150	Introduction to Argument (4)

#### Required Electives for Minor (8 credits)

4 of the 8 elective credits must be in upper-level classes. CMST 100 does not count toward the minor.

CMST 103 through CMST 499 Communication Studies

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN COMMUNICATIONS (27 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.

#### Minor Core

CMST 212	Professional Communication & Interviewing (4)
CMST 412	Organizational Communication (4)
ENG 271W	Technical Communication (4)
ENG 474	Research and Writing Technical Reports (4)

#### Minor Electives

Choose 11 credits from the following programs. At least one course must be at the 3/400 level.

CMST 225	Communicating With/Through Technology (4)
CMST 305	Communication & Community (4)
CMST 333	Advanced Public Communication (4)
CMST 445	Conflict Management (4)

ECON 201	Principles of Macroeconomics (3)
ECON 202	Principles of Microeconomics (3)
ENG 301W	Advanced Writing (4)
ENG 454	Persuasive Writing on Public Issues (4)
ENG 455	Advanced Writing Workshop (4)
ENG 471	Visual Technical Communication (4)
ENG 473	Desktop Publishing (4)
ENG 474	Research and Writing Technical Reports (4)
ENG 475	Editing Technical Publications (4)
IT 100	Introduction to Computing and Applications (4)
RPLS 377	Public Relations (3)
RPLS 465	Event Management (3)
URBS 150	Sustainable Communities (3)
URBS 230	Community Leadership (3)
URBS 412	Public Information and Involvement (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 (4) Interpersonal Communication

A course blending theory and practice to help individuals build effective relationships through improved communication. WI, 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 150 (4) Introduction to Argument

An introduction to the field of argument, addressing structure, types and critical analysis. Students will learn to identify types of reasoning, argument fallacies and pseudo-reasoning. Students will apply concepts in the construction and refutation of argument positions. Fall, Spring

#### CMST 190 (4) 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 (2-4) Small Group Communication

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

#### CMST 202 (4) 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 (4) 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, GE-8  
Diverse Cultures - Purple

#### CMST 212 (4) Professional Communication & Interviewing

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

## COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONTINUED

### **CMST 215 (2) 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 220 (1-4) Forensics**

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

GE-11

### **CMST 225 (4) Communicating With/Through Technology**

A course designed to help students learn effective communication using a variety of contemporary technologies. Students will be better equipped to use communication technologies to communicate personal, professional, and public messages. Variable

### **CMST 240 (1-4) 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 (4) Communication Research**

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

### **CMST 300 (4) 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 305 (4) Communication and Community**

Students examine everyday communication practices (rituals, stories, symbols) analyzing what discursive practices turn individuals into a community. Students explore the meaning of community through experiential learning by experiencing and reflecting upon the way communication creates, maintains, transforms, and repairs community.

Variable

### **CMST 310 (4) 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 320 (1-4) Advanced Forensics**

Activity course involving participation in intercollegiate forensics with primary emphasis on applying communication theories to forensic practice. Students may not enroll concurrently with CMST 220. Course may be repeated for an overall total of 4 credits.

Variable

### **CMST 321 (4) Argumentation and Debate**

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

### **CMST 333 (4) Advanced Public Communication**

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

### **CMST 340 (1-4) 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 403 (4) 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 409 (4) 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 410 (1-4) Topics in Relational Communication**

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

Fall (On-Demand), Spring (On-Demand), Summer (On-Demand)

### **CMST 412 (4) 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 415 (1-4) 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 (1-4) 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 420 (2) Methods: Teaching Communication Arts**

This course fulfills secondary licensure requirements for Communication Arts and Literature. This course covers teaching methods and materials needed to develop units for speech communication courses in grades 5-12.

Variable

### **CMST 425 (2) Methods: Directing and Coaching Forensics**

This course fulfills secondary licensure requirements for Communication Arts and Literature. The course covers methods and techniques in the development of competitive speech programs in grades 5-12.

Variable

### **CMST 435 (4) Forensics Pedagogy**

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

Fall

### **CMST 440 (1-4) 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 (4) 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 485W (4) 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

WI

### **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 (1-4) Individual Study**

Independent study under the supervision of an instructor.