

COMMUNICATION STUDIES, BPHIL COM

Curriculum

The bachelor's degree requirements (p. 1) are 42 units total and include distribution, writing, and elective courses, and the major requirements.

Communication Studies Major Requirements

Course	Title
Four Core Courses	
COMM_ST 102-CN	Public Speaking
COMM_ST 205-DL	Theories of Persuasion
Choice of one:	
COMM_ST 215-0	Principles of Rhetorical Criticism
COMM_ST 225-DL	Communication and Culture
COMM_ST 275-CN	Persuasive Images: The Rhetoric of Contemporary Culture
Choice of one:	
COMM_ST 227-0	Communication & Technology
COMM_ST 246-CN	Introduction to Health Communication
COMM_ST 270-CN	Theories of Mediated Communication
Two Seminars	
COMM_ST 294-DL	First-Year Seminar
COMM_ST 394-DL	Research Seminar
Six Communication Studies Courses	
One 200 or 300-level COMM_ST course	
Five 300-level COMM_ST courses	

Degree Requirements

The bachelor of philosophy in communication (BPhilCom) is an interdisciplinary professional degree awarded to students who major in Communication Studies (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/communication-studies/>), Communication Systems (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/communication-systems/>), or Radio/Television/Film (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/radio-television-film/>). The BPhilCom degree is conferred by the School of Communication (<https://www.communication.northwestern.edu/>).

Bachelor of Philosophy in Communication

To earn the BPhilCom degree, students must complete a total of 42 units, including a writing requirement, distribution requirements, a major and electives. Minors are optional.

Courses	Units Earned
English 111 or 205	1
English 113 or Perf St 103	1
Humanities	3
Psychology	3
Science	3
Social Sciences	3
Major Requirements	12-14

Electives	Up to 16
Total	42

About the Writing Requirement

The writing requirement ensures that students have the skills necessary to meet the rigorous writing demands of subsequent SPS courses in all majors and disciplines. The expository writing courses provide the tools to meet the demands of advanced academic writing; the courses may not be audited or taken on a pass/no credit basis.

Transfer and performance-based admission students must fulfill the writing requirement through one of two options:

Option 1: Complete an English composition course at SPS.

Demonstrate successful completion of English 111 or 205. A grade of C or higher is required.

Option 2: Successfully appeal the writing requirement via the Student Affairs Petition Form (<https://sps.northwestern.edu/main/login.php>).

Students who believe they have the writing skills necessary for university-level research and analytical papers may appeal the SPS writing requirement.

A successful appeal does not result in credit for the writing course. Students must complete another course in its place according to the needs and guidelines of their program. Writing will be evaluated for standards of good expository writing, including: a fully developed thesis; sound logic and adequate evidence in support of the thesis; effective organization, coherent structure and an overall unity; correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Appeal materials must be submitted by the quarter deadline (<https://sps.northwestern.edu/part-time-undergraduate/important-dates.php>) before entry.

About the Distribution Requirements

Students complete course work in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences to obtain a broad experience in the liberal arts. Courses that satisfy these distribution requirements include the following areas:

Humanities

Art history, classics, comparative literary studies, English literature, languages other than English (up to two units), history, music history, philosophy, religion, and some courses in African American studies, languages with literature, gender studies, performance studies, radio/television/film, and theatre.

Sciences

Astronomy, biological sciences, chemistry, earth and planetary sciences, engineering, geography, information systems, mathematics, physics and some courses in anthropology, communication sciences and disorders, psychology, radio/television/film, and statistics.

Social Sciences

Anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, political science, sociology, and some courses in African American studies, communication sciences and disorders, gender studies, psychology, and statistics.