

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, BPHIL COM

Curriculum

Students are required to complete 42 units, leading to the bachelor of philosophy in communication (BPhilCom) degree (p. 1). The degree includes distribution, writing, and elective courses, and the major requirements.

Communication Systems Major Requirements

Course	Title
Communication Foundation	
COMM_ST 102-CN	Public Speaking
COMM_ST 205-DL	Theories of Persuasion
COMM_ST 220-CN	Theories of Argumentation
COMM_ST 250-DL	Team Leadership and Decision Making
COMM_ST 270-CN	Theories of Mediated Communication
Organizational Processes	
COMM_ST 360-CN	Theories of Organizational Communication
COMM_ST 362-CN	Professional-Client Communication
COMM_ST 363-CN	Bargaining and Negotiation
COMM_ST 364-CN	Collective Decision Making and Communication in Organizations
Computer Information Technology	
CIS 130-DL	Tools and Technology of the Web
CIS 212-DL	Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming
CIS 313-DL	Telecommunications and Computer Networks
CIS 317-DL	Database Systems Design and Implementation
CIS 345-CN	Information Security

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.