

COMMUNICATION STUDIES, B.A.

Faculty

- Chairperson: Jason Leigh Jarvis
- Professors: Bryant Keith Alexander, Michele L. Hammers
- Associate Professors: Christopher J. Finlay, Jason Leigh Jarvis, Meng Li, Nina Maria Lozano, Allison Noyes, Patricia Oliver, Kyra L. Pearson, Craig O. Rich
- Assistant Professors: Ivey Fofie, Sergio Juárez, Corrina Laughlin, Natalie Ngai, Romy RW
- Clinical Professors: Thomas Dowd, Kathleen Norris
- Instructors: Rebecca Avalos

Mission Statement

The Communication Studies Department provides students from across the LMU community with the communication competencies necessary to pursue their personal, professional, and civic goals. Our faculty and students examine how messages and meanings are produced, interpreted, and consumed. In particular, our program rigorously engages the following:

- The production and evaluation of communication messages,
- The role of communication in shaping the performance of identity and community,
- The processes and technologies by which people relate to and collaborate with each other, and
- The importance of principled advocacy across our personal, professional and public lives.

Throughout all aspects of our program, we encourage self-reflection and critical engagement with disciplinary subject matter and contemporary social and political events at the local and global level. We encourage our students and faculty to nurture personal habits of lifelong learning and service.

In addition, our students and faculty produce scholarship that advances our knowledge of human communication, enhances the quality of public deliberation, and bridges the gap between our curriculum and real world experiences. To serve these goals, the Communication Studies Department creates an environment where students and faculty pursue scholarship, community engagement, and leadership in civic, corporate, and international arenas.

Finally, we develop students' professional competencies and enable them to maximize their post-graduation opportunities for career development. In seeing professional development as a shared responsibility, students are empowered to cultivate their communication skills outside of the classroom through engaged forms of learning and professional development.

Potential Career Pathways

A degree in Communication Studies (CMST) from Loyola Marymount University provides students with the opportunity to develop essential skills—writing, oral communication, critical thinking, and teamwork—that are in high demand in today's challenging and ever-changing world.

CMST students take a variety of courses that allow for both depth and breadth of study across five curricular areas (relational communication, intercultural communication, organizational and strategic communication, rhetoric, and media studies). We feature a rigorous Internship Practicum course for our juniors and seniors as well as several career or professional skills-based courses. CMST students often pursue minors in fields such as business, journalism, political science, or the arts to complement their CMST coursework.

With careful academic planning, CMST graduates are prepared for a variety of entry-level positions emphasizing both internal and external communication management across corporate, nonprofit, and/or public fields.

Below are a few of those fields:

- Corporate and Non-profit Communication
- Public Relations and Advertising
- Social Media Management
- Human Resources
- Training and Development
- Development and Fundraising
- Campaign Strategy
- Sales and Marketing

Our graduates often successfully pursue additional education, including advanced degrees, in a variety of academic fields. These fields include:

- Communication Studies and related fields
- Law
- Business
- Mediation/Conflict Resolution
- Media Studies
- Education

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the Communication Studies degree, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate subject matter knowledge of the communication studies discipline, including:
 - a. The history of the discipline;
 - b. The nature of theory and its role in the study and practice of human communication; and
 - c. The foundational theoretical concepts from multiple sub-disciplines within the major.
2. Express ideas and relay information using conventions and forms appropriate to the intended audience.
3. Test or generate new knowledge using research methods appropriate to the communication studies discipline.
4. Articulate the relationship among disciplinary subject matter, research methodologies and one or more non-academic contexts.
5. Demonstrate the value of multiple theoretical, pedagogical, and socio-cultural perspectives.
6. Collaborate effectively and ethically in group problem-solving and decision-making situations.
7. Demonstrate and value respectful engagement with individual and group differences in interactions with all others.

- 8. Apply ethical standard to communication practices across multiple contexts.
- 9. Apply communication principles in service of justice for self, others, and society.
- 10. Innovate, justify, and enact solutions based on: inquiry, discernment, evidence, and analysis.
- 11. Demonstrate and value the pursuit of ethical actions through critical reason and reflection.
- 12. Demonstrate and value a self-reflexive approach to the study and practice of communication.

Major Requirements

(44 semester hours) (CMST)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Lower Division Requirements		
CMST 1600	Nature of Theory	4
CMST 1700	Nature of Inquiry	4
CMST 2800	Advanced Public Communication	4
Select three of the following:		12
CMST 2100	Relational Communication	
CMST 2200	Intercultural Communication	
CMST 2300	Organizational Communication	
CMST 2400	Contemporary Rhetorical Theory	
CMST 2500	Media Studies	
Subtotal		24
Upper Division Requirements		
20 semester hours of upper division coursework		
Select four advanced topics courses selected from among a list of approved 3000-level courses ¹		16
Select one Senior Capstone course from among a list of approved 4000-level courses ²		4
Total Semester Hours		44

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CMST 3100 -CMST 3195 , CMST 3200 -CMST 3295 , CMST 3300 -CMST 3395 , CMST 3400 -CMST 3495 , CMST 3500 -CMST 3595 , CMST 3600 -CMST 3695 , CMST 3700 -CMST 3795 , CMST 3800 -CMST 3895 .

Course offerings and topics will vary each semester

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CMST 4100 -CMST 4195 , CMST 4200 -CMST 4295 , CMST 4300 -CMST 4395 , CMST 4400 -CMST 4495 , CMST 4500 Media Studies Capstone-CMST 4595 , CMST 4700 -CMST 4795 .

Note:The Department may offer additional courses that count as University Electives but do not satisfy CMST major requirements. Students should select courses carefully to ensure that all major requirements are being met.

Communication Studies Model Four-Year Plan

Course	Title	Semester Hours
First Year		
Fall		
CMST 1600	Nature of Theory	4
FFYS 1000	First Year Seminar	4
University Core		3-4
University Core		3-4
Semester Hours		14-16
Spring		
CMST 1700	Nature of Inquiry	4
Select one of the following:		3-4
RHET 1000	Rhetorical Arts	
University Core		
University Core		3-4
Lower Division Elective ¹		3-4
Semester Hours		13-16
Sophomore Year		
Fall		
Select one of the following:		4
CMST 2800	Advanced Public Communication	
CMST 2X00 ²		
CMST 2X00 ²		4
University Core		3-4
University Core		3-4
Semester Hours		14-16
Spring		
Select one of the following:		4
CMST 2800	Advanced Public Communication	
CMST 2X00 ²		
CMST 2X00 ²		4
CMST 2X00 ²		4
University Core		3-4
University Core		3-4
Semester Hours		18-20
Junior Year		
Fall		
CMST 3XXX ³		4
University Core		3-4
Lower or Upper Division Elective ¹		3-4
Upper Division Elective ¹		3-4
Semester Hours		13-16
Spring		
CMST 3XXX ³		4
CMST 3XXX ⁴		4
University Core		3-4
Upper Division Elective ¹		3-4
Semester Hours		14-16
Senior Year		
Fall		
Select one of the following:		4
CMST 3XXX ³		
CMST 4XXX ⁴		
Select one of the following:		3-4
University Core		
Upper Division Elective ¹		
Select one of the following:		3-4
University Core		

Upper Division Elective ¹	
Select one of the following:	3-4
University Core	
Upper Division Elective ¹	
Semester Hours	13-16
Spring	
Select one of the following:	4
CMST 3XXX ²	
CMST 4XXX ³	
Select one of the following:	3-4
University Core	
Upper Division Elective ¹	
Select one of the following:	3-4
University Core	
Upper Division Elective ¹	
Select one of the following:	3-4
University Core	
Upper Division Elective ¹	
Semester Hours	13-16
Minimum Semester Hours	112-132

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Students are required to take Lower and Upper Division Elective courses outside the CMST major, with the exception of CMST 2998 Special Studies and CMST 3998 Special Studies.

2

Students are required to take three (3) courses from the following list: CMST 2100 Relational Communication, CMST 2200 Intercultural Communication, CMST 2300 Organizational Communication, CMST 2400 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory, or CMST 2500 Media Studies.

3

Students are required to take four (4) courses from the following list: CMST 3100 -CMST 3195 , CMST 3200 -CMST 3295 , CMST 3300 -CMST 3395 , CMST 3400 -CMST 3495 , CMST 3500 -CMST 3595 , CMST 3600 -CMST 3695 , CMST 3700 -CMST 3795 , CMST 3800 -CMST 3895 .

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Students are required to select a Senior Capstone Course from the following list: CMST 4100 -CMST 4195 , CMST 4200 -CMST 4295 , CMST 4300 -CMST 4395 , CMST 4400 -CMST 4495 , CMST 4500 Media Studies Capstone-CMST 4595 .

Notes:

This is a sample schedule. The sequence of courses may vary slightly among students and students are expected to consult with their academic advisors.

Students are required to take a total of 124 semester hours to complete their degree in Communication Studies. Because semester hours for courses may vary, students should work closely with their academic advisor to ensure that they take an average of 16 hours a semester across all semesters. In some semesters, students may need to take an additional course or courses.