Communication Learning Outcomes

The Department of Communication at Portland State University has four undergraduate learning objectives, each of which are ‘filtered’ through an ethical ‘lens.’ That is, for each of the following four objectives, students will be able to apply relevant ethical principles.

1. Students will understand, and be able to ethically employ, the theories, principles, and perspectives of Communication as a discipline.

Students will understand the nature, origin, and general focus of communication as a discipline (including its sub-disciplines), including its uniqueness relative to other disciplines. Students will understand the career pathways in the discipline of Communication. Students will be able to understand and ethically employ the theories, principles, and perspectives of Communication as a discipline.

2. Students will be able to ethically engage in Communication inquiry.

Students will be able to ethically interpret, evaluate, and apply Communication scholarship. Students will be able to formulate Communication questions. Students will be able to utilize discipline-specific research/analysis methods in order to answer Communication questions.

3. Students will be able to ethically create and critically evaluate effective messages.

Students will be able to ethically conduct audience analyses, create effective messages, competently and credibly present messages, and evaluate the influence of messages on audiences.

4. Students will understand, and be able to ethically investigate and evaluate, the effects of different cultural worldviews on processes of communication.