

## **BA or BS + MS in Communication**

Students in the BA or BS in Communication program may be admitted directly into the MS in Communication program and share up to 20 credits of graduate level credit with the BA/BS and MS in Communication.

### **Admissions Criteria**

Communication majors may apply for admission to the Bachelors plus Masters program provided the following conditions have been met:

- Completed all core Communication undergraduate courses: Comm 300, Comm 311, and Comm 316 or Comm 326 with an average GPA of 3.7 or higher
- On track to complete at least 135 undergraduate credits towards the Bachelors degree before the fall term in which the student wishes to begin the Bachelors plus MS program.
- A GPA of 3.5 or above is required for all communication classes taken prior to entry into the MS program, along with a PSU institutional GPA of 3.3.

### **Other Requirements**

- All courses numbered 500 and above taken prior to entry into the master's program must receive a grade of B or better. All undergraduate classes must receive a grade of C or better. No P/NP credit will be accepted for either program.
- The departmental residency requirement for undergraduate credits prior to admission is 16 credits. The PSU institutional requirement for residency for the undergraduate program is that 45 of the last 60 credits must be taken in residence at PSU. All MS level classes must be taken at PSU, and earn a grade of B or better.

Students can apply for the Bachelors plus Masters in spring of their junior year to be eligible to take 500-level courses in their senior year. The Bachelors plus Masters program must begin in fall of their final year as an undergraduate with enrollment in Comm 521.

### **Advising**

Initially, students will be advised by their undergraduate adviser, in consultation with the graduate program director, who will assist them in preparing their application for the Bachelors plus Masters. Once students have begun the master's sequence, they will be advised by the faculty mentor assigned to them and the graduate program director.

**Table 1: Minimum Undergraduate Coursework for Enrolling in MS in Communication in Fall Term**

<b>Degree Requirement</b>	<b>Credits</b>
BS Requirements Minimum of 4 credits of math or stats and 12 credits of science classes (including 8 credits with an associated lab)  OR  BA Requirements Minimum of 4 credits of foreign language of 203 or higher, 4 credits of science, 4 credits of fine and performing arts, and 4 credits of social science	16
General Education (University Studies or Urban Honors)	43
Communication Core Courses Principles of Communication (Comm 300) Research Methods in Communication (Comm 311) Communication, Individuals, and Discourse (Comm 316) OR Communication, Society, and Culture (Comm 326)	12
Communication Electives Communication lower division electives (100 or 200 level) Communication upper division electives (300 level)	24 16 8
General electives (may include a minor field of study, or foreign language requirements for BA students)	40
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>135</b>

**Continuation Criteria**

After beginning the Bachelors plus Masters program, continuation requirements include:

- maintaining a 3.3 PSU institutional GPA (university requirement)
- a B or higher on all graduate courses taken for shared credits (university requirement)
- a minimum 3.0 GPA each academic term
- satisfactorily complete each undergraduate course attempted (C or better)
- incompletes must be resolved within one academic term
- secure a graduate advisor before completing undergraduate requirements

**Table 2: Suggested Plan for BS + MS in Communication**

Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
Freshman Inquiry	5	Freshman Inquiry	5	Freshman Inquiry	5	
General Elective	4	BS Math/Statistics	4	BS Science	4	
General Elective	4	COMM Lower Division Elective	4	COMM Lower Division Elective	4	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Credits: 39</b>
Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
Sophomore Inquiry	4	Sophomore Inquiry	4	Sophomore Inquiry	4	
BS Lab Science	4	WR Requirement	4	COMM 300	4	
COMM Lower Division Elective	4	BS Lab Science	4	Comm Upper Division Elective	4	Complete Comm 300 by end of spring term
General Elective	4	General Elective	4	General Elective	4	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits: 48</b>
Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
Upper Division Cluster	4	Upper Division Cluster	4	Upper Division Cluster	4	
COMM 311	4	COMM 316	4	COMM 326	4	Must complete Comm 311 and 316 or 326 by end of spring term with average GPA of 3.7 or higher
COMM Upper Division Elective	4	COMM Upper Division Elective	4	COMM Upper Division Elective	4	
General Elective	4	General Elective	4	General Elective	4	Apply to BS+MS in spring by May 31
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits: 48</b>
Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
COMM 521	4	COMM 531	4	Senior Capstone	6	COMM 521, 531, and three COMM 5xx electives to replace COMM #xx and 4XX electives
General Elective	4	COMM 5xx Elective	4	COMM 5XX Elective	4	
General Elective	4	General Elective	4	COMM 5xx Elective	4	Secure a graduate faculty advisor spring term
General Elective	3	General Elective	4			Apply to MS by March 1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Total Credits: 45</b>

Cumulative Credits = 180 (160 undergraduate & 20 graduate)

**Students are awarded the BS prior to entry into the MS Program**

**Year Five (28 Graduate Credits)**

Fall		Winter		Spring		Fall
COMM 5xx Elective*	4	COMM 5xx Elective	4	Comm 506 – Project	6	Choose exam committee fall term
COMM 5xx Elective	4	COMM 5xx Elective	4	COMM 5XX Elective	4	Develop reading lists by week 7 of winter term
COMM 507	1	COMM 507	1			Write exams by week 6 of spring term
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total Credits: 28</b>

**\* COMM 511 waived on strength of COMM 316 and 326 grades of A- or better for each.**

Cumulative Credits = 208 (160 undergraduate + 48 graduate credits)

**All requirements for the MS in Communication satisfied**

**Table 2: Suggested Plan for BA + MS in Communication**

Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
Freshman Inquiry	5	Freshman Inquiry	5	Freshman Inquiry	5	
BA Foreign Language 101	4	BA Foreign Language 102	4	BA Foreign Language 103	4	
BA Fine & Performing Arts	4	COMM Lower Division Elective	4	COMM Lower Division Elective	4	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total Credits: 39</b>
Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
Sophomore Inquiry	4	Sophomore Inquiry	4	Sophomore Inquiry	4	
BA Foreign Language 201	4	BA Foreign Language 202	4	BA Foreign Language 203	4	
COMM Lower Division Elective	4	Writing Requirement	4	COMM 300	4	Complete Comm 300 by end of spring term
BA Science/Social Science	4	BA Science /Math Elective	4	BA Science/Social Science	4	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits: 48</b>
Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
Upper Division Cluster	4	Upper Division Cluster	4	Upper Division Cluster	4	
COMM 311	4	COMM 316	4	COMM 326	4	Must complete Comm 311 and 316 or 326 by end of spring term with average GPA of 3.7 or higher
COMM Upper Division Elective	4	COMM Upper Division Elective	4	COMM Upper Division Elective	4	
General Elective	4	General Elective	4	General Elective	4	Apply to BA+MS in Spring by May 31
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits: 48</b>
Fall		Winter		Spring		Notes/Milestones
COMM 521	4	COMM 531	4	Senior Capstone	6	COMM 521, 531, and three COMM 5xx electives to replace COMM 3xx and 4XX electives
General Elective	4	COMM 5xx Elective	4	COMM 5XX Elective	4	
General Elective	4	General Elective	4	COMM 5XX Elective	4	Secure a graduate faculty advisor spring term
General Elective	3	General Elective	4			Apply to MS by March 1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Total Credits: 45</b>

Cumulative Credits = 180 (160 undergraduate & 20 graduate)

**Students are awarded the BA prior to entry into the MS Program**

**Year Five (28 Graduate Credits)**

Fall		Winter		Spring		Fall
COMM 5xx Elective*	4	COMM 5xx Elective	4	Comm 506 – Project	6	Choose exam committee fall term
COMM 5xx Elective	4	COMM 5xx Elective	4	COMM 5XX Elective	4	Develop reading lists by week 7 of winter term
COMM 507	1	COMM 507	1			Write exams by week 6 of spring term
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total Credits: 28</b>

**\* COMM 511 waived on strength of COMM 316 and 326 grades of A- or better for each.**

Cumulative Credits = 208 (160 undergraduate + 48 graduate credits)

**All requirements for the MS in Communication satisfied**