

# COM Communication Studies Degree Program

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COMMUNICATION STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE MOODY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020*

**TYPE OF CHANGE:**<sup>1</sup>  Academic Change  
 Degree Program Change (THECB<sup>2</sup> form required)

**PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION:**<sup>3</sup>  Exclusive  General  Major

**1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.**

- Is this a new degree program? Yes  No
- Is this program being deleted? Yes  No
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes  No
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes  No

**2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:**

Policies that already existed, but have been moved to college-level section (policy may be edited in its new location. Appears struck-through and in red.)

- A. Policies regarding minimum amount of upper division coursework, maximum amount of transfer credit counted toward the degree, and maximum amount of hours in a single field of study are Moody College-wide policies and have been moved to Academic Policies and Procedures.
- B. The item under Major Requirements regarding taking courses on the pass/fail basis has been moved to Academic Policies and Procedures.
- C. The paragraph under Special Requirements of the Major referring to earning a C in coursework has been moved to Academic Policies and Procedures with some minor changes indicated there.

Policies that moved within this section (policy may be edited in the new location. Appears struck through and in red in its old location; underlined and in red in its new location. New text/policy is underlined and in black.)

- D. The already-existing policy that students must take six hours of coursework in Moody but outside of their major coursework has been moved from Major Requirements to Prescribed Work.
- E. The entire Special Requirements of the Major section has been moved to appear below the Major Requirements section to improve flow and clarity.

Changes to the degree requirements/policies (Appears in the standard way: old policies/text are struck through; new policies/text are underlined)

- F. Included creative writing in the first requirement under “Prescribed Work” in order to clarify that students may take courses under the field of study CRW, which are offered by the Department of English.
- G. The Moody College is revising its foreign language requirement to give students an option to complete this requirement with a mix of language and culture courses (in addition to the already existing option for

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intermediate proficiency) in order to broaden the concept of foreign language study to better meet the needs of students in our communication fields of study.

- H. Creation of a *Methods* course requirement (three hours to be selected from a list of approved courses). Familiarity with communication research methods improves student understanding and achievement in upper division Communication Studies courses, and enables students to engage in their own research when required in CMS and other courses. The ability to conduct research is increasingly attractive in communication-related careers.
- I. Creation of a *Career Preparation* requirement (three hours to be selected from a list of approved courses). This is intended to provide Communication Studies undergraduates with the support and resources necessary to achieve the skills, experiences, and co-curricular knowledge to prepare them for life after graduation. Enables students in the major to connect learning in courses to a communication career or graduate/professional school. One new course option in this requirement will be CMS 307K (lower-division internship) which will be added to the Course Inventory in September, 2017.
- J. Increase of Communication Studies hours required to complete the degree from 30 to 36 . This is to provide greater depth of coursework, with the inclusion of both the Methods and Career Preparation requirements.
- K. Increase of upper division Communication Studies hours from 15 to 18, since the minimum major hours to complete the degree is also increasing (see above). This is to ensure that at least half of the major is completed at the upper division level, as there is greater rigor in the content of upper division courses.
- L. Increase maximum hours allowed in CMS coursework from 36 to 48. This will allow CMS majors an opportunity to fully explore a wide range of CMS coursework, should they wish to. It also brings CMS more in line with other Moody College majors.
- M. Adjusting hour requirements within Corporate Communication and Interpersonal Communication tracks. This will bring consistency among all tracks within the Department of Communication Studies.
- N. Update course options within the various tracks to keep up with the current CMS course inventory.
- O. Changing track name from Human Relations to “Interpersonal Communication” to better meet the varied interest and course curriculum represented in this track. The Interpersonal faculty in the Department of Communication Studies agree that the track is best represented by “Interpersonal Communication.”
- P. Removing restriction under Special Requirements of the Major on the hours that a non-CMS major may take. This is no longer necessary for the Communication Studies department due to the Communication Studies Minor.
- Q. The paragraph under Special Requirements of the Major referring to a 2.25/2.0 GPA is no longer a policy in the Moody College and has been struck.
- R. Including new language restricting Communication Studies majors from declaring a second major in Communication and Leadership, since the degrees have significant overlap in coursework, though with different focuses.

Text edits (Appears in the standard way: old policies/text are struck through; new policies/text are underlined)

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- S. Made text edits in introductory paragraph to provide more clarity.
- T. Made text edits in Core Curriculum paragraph for clarity.
- U. Updated the paragraph regarding the Communication and Culture requirement for clarity and to more accurately reflect our current practices.
- V. Order and Choice of Work has been updated for accuracy.
- W. In Order and Choice of Work, we have removed the rules stating that first-year students may not take two beginning foreign language courses in the same semester and they may not take more than eight semester hours in one department. These policies are obsolete.
- X. The text has been edited for typos, unclear wording, and inaccuracies.

### 3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges  | <input type="checkbox"/> Flags   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) |  |

### 4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes  No   
If yes, then how would you do so?
- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes  No   
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes  No   
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes  No   
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

**If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:**

**If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.**

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

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- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain:

**If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:**

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion?

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc>

If yes, explain:

### 5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: April 1, 2017

Approved by whom: Communication Studies Faculty

College approval date: September 5, 2017

Approved by whom: Moody College Administrative Cmtee

Dean approval date: September 11, 2017

Approved by whom: Jay Bernhardt, Dean

### PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:<sup>4</sup>

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

To be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies, the candidate must complete 120 semester hours of coursework and must fulfill the University's General Requirements for graduation, ~~and the Core Curriculum requirements, the college graduation requirements given in Special Requirements of the College, and the requirements and policies listed given in Academic Policies and Procedures, and the requirements given in Special Requirements of the Major, Prescribed Work, and Major Requirements below, and Special Requirements of the Major, below.~~

#### Core Curriculum

All students must complete the University's Core Curriculum, ~~as well as the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies listed below under Prescribed Work.~~ In some cases, a course required for the ~~BSCommStds~~ Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies may also be counted toward the core curriculum; ~~these courses are identified below.~~

#### Prescribed Work

1. Three semester hours in English or creative writing or rhetoric and writing in addition to the courses required by the core curriculum.
2. Three courses with a writing flag; one course with a quantitative reasoning flag; one course with a global cultures flag; one course with a cultural diversity in the United States flag; one course with an ethics and leadership flag; and one course with an independent inquiry flag. The same course cannot be used to satisfy the global cultures and cultural diversity flags even if the course carries both flags. Courses that fulfill flag requirements are identified in the Course Schedule. They may also be used to fulfill other degree requirements.
3. Three semester hours of coursework in the Moody College of Communication dealing with the study of communication issues concerning at least one minority or ~~non-dominant~~ non-dominant group within the United States. Courses that fulfill this requirement may also be used to fulfill other degree requirements. ~~A partial list of these communication and culture courses is given in the Communication and Culture Requirement section under the Moody College of Communication's Degrees and Programs section; a complete list is available in on the college's Student Advising Office website before registration for each semester and summer session. The courses are also identified in the Course Schedule.~~
4. Students must demonstrate intermediate proficiency in a single foreign language. Students must satisfy a foreign language and culture requirement in one of the following ways: (a) Demonstrating intermediate proficiency in a single foreign language; (b) Taking two consecutive courses in one language and one approved culture course in a culture that is relevant to the language. A list of approved culture and language courses and combinations will be posted on the Student Advising website before registration for each semester and summer session. Courses taken to

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meet this requirement may not be taken on a pass/fail basis. ~~Credit may be earned by examination for any part of the foreign language requirement.~~ An extensive foreign language testing program is available at the University. Students with knowledge of a language are encouraged to take appropriate tests both to earn as much credit as possible and to be placed at the proper level for further study. Students should consult with an academic adviser for information on testing.

~~5. At least six semester hours of coursework must be taken in the Moody College of Communication but outside the Department of Communication Studies.~~

~~5. At least 36 semester hours of upper-division coursework.~~

~~6. At least 30 36 but no more than 36 48 semester hours of communication studies as described in Major Requirements, below.~~

~~6. No more than 12 semester hours of transfer credit in communication sciences and disorders may be counted toward the degree.~~

~~7. Enough additional coursework to make a total of 120 semester hours. No more than 36 semester hours in one field of study may be counted toward the degree.~~

### ~~Special Requirements of the Major~~

~~Students may take no more than nine hours of communication studies coursework, including transfer work, before they have declared a major in communication studies. Exceptions may be made for students who have officially declared a communication studies minor with their colleges, and for communication studies courses taken during a summer session. Students minoring in communication studies may take only the number of hours required for the minor.~~

~~To enroll in upper-division communication studies courses, a student must have a University grade point average of at least 2.25 and a grade point average in courses in the Moody College of Communication of at least 2.00. Students who do not fulfill this requirement will be dropped from upper-division communication studies courses, normally before the twelfth class day. This requirement is waived for the transfer student during the first semester of coursework, while he or she is establishing a University grade point average.~~

~~In addition, a student with a major in communication studies must have a grade of at least C in each course taken in the Moody College of Communication that is counted toward the degree; if the course is offered on the pass/fail basis only, the student must have the symbol CR.~~

~~A student majoring in communication studies may not register for more than nine semester hours of communication studies in one semester or summer session.~~

### Major Requirements

~~4. At least 30 36 but no more than 36 48 semester hours of communication studies. At least 15 of which at least 18 hours must be in upper-division coursework. Each student must complete one of the following tracks:~~

#### ~~a. Corporate Communications~~

~~i. Communication Studies 306M, 313M, and 332K.~~

~~ii. Three semester hours chosen from the following Methods courses: Communication Studies 314L, 348, 348K, 349M, 350C, 350M, 357, 358, 359C, 377K, or 378K. The course selected may not be counted toward any additional communication studies major requirement.~~

~~iii. Three semester hours chosen from the following Career Preparation courses: Communication Studies 307K, 322E, 342K, 345G, 364M, 370K. The course selected may not be counted toward any additional communication studies major requirement.~~

~~ii. iv. Six Nine semester hours chosen from the following courses: Communication Studies 310K, 316L, 320, 335, 336D, 337, 338, 339L, 341, 346, 350C, 350M, 353C, 353S, 370K, 372K, and 372T.~~

~~iii. v. Fifteen Twelve additional semester hours of communication studies.~~

#### ~~b. Human Relations Interpersonal Communication~~

~~i. Communication Studies 306M, 315M, and 332K.~~

~~ii. Three semester hours chosen from the following Methods courses: Communication Studies 314L, 348, 348K, 349M, 350C, 350M, 357, 358, 359C, 377K, or 378K. The course selected may not be counted toward any additional communication studies major requirement.~~

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~~iii. Three semester hours chosen from the following Career Preparation courses: Communication Studies 307K, 322E, 342K, 345G, 364M, 370K. The course selected may not be counted toward any additional communication studies major requirement.~~

~~ii-iv. Nine semester hours chosen from the following courses: Communication Studies 314L, 315M, 330, 334K, 344K, 354, 355K, 355T, 357, 358, 370K, 371D, and 371K.~~

~~iii-v. Fifteen Twelve additional semester hours of communication studies.~~

### c. Political Communication

~~i. Communication Studies 306M, 317C, and 332K.~~

~~ii. Three semester hours chosen from the following Methods courses: Communication Studies 314L, 348, 348K, 349M, 350C, 350M, 357, 358, 359C, 377K, or 378K. The course selected may not be counted toward any additional communication studies major requirement.~~

~~iii. Three semester hours chosen from the following Career Preparation courses: Communication Studies 307K, 322E, 342K, 345G, 364M, 370K. The course selected may not be counted toward any additional communication studies major requirement.~~

~~ii-iv. Nine semester hours chosen from the following courses: Communication Studies 320, 322E, 331K, 332, 333, 338L, 340K, 342C, 342K, 345, 345G, 345P, 345V, 364K, and 370K, 372D, 373D, and 374D.~~

~~iii-v. Twelve additional semester hours of communication studies.~~

~~2. At least six semester hours of coursework must be taken in the College of Communication but outside communication studies.~~

~~3. No Moody College of Communication course to be counted toward the degree may be taken on the pass/fail basis, unless the course is offered only on that basis.~~

### Special Requirements of the Major

~~Students may take no more than nine hours of communication studies coursework, including transfer work, before they have declared a major in communication studies. Exceptions may be made for students who have officially declared a communication studies minor with their colleges, and for communication studies courses taken during a summer session. Students minoring in communication studies may take only the number of hours required for the minor.~~

~~To enroll in upper division communication studies courses, a student must have a University grade point average of at least 2.25 and a grade point average in courses in the Moody College of Communication of at least 2.00. Students who do not fulfill this requirement will be dropped from upper division communication studies courses, normally before the twelfth class day. This requirement is waived for the transfer student during the first semester of coursework, while he or she is establishing a University grade point average.~~

~~In addition, a student with a major in communication studies must have a grade of at least C in each course taken in the Moody College of Communication that is counted toward the degree; if the course is offered on the pass/fail basis only, the student must have the symbol CR.~~

~~A student majoring in communication studies may not register for more than nine semester hours of communication studies in one semester or summer session.~~

~~A student may not earn both the Bachelor of Science in Communication and Leadership and a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies.~~

### Order and Choice of Work

#### First Year

1. The student must take three courses from the following group each semester:
  - a. Rhetoric and Writing 306.
  - b. Courses to be counted toward the American history, American and Texas government, social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, visual and performing arts, and science and technology requirements of the core curriculum.
  - c. Courses in a foreign language.

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- d. Courses that meet flag requirements.
- e. UGS302/303 (First Year Signature Course)
2. Enough additional coursework to raise the student's course load to 15 or 16 hours each semester. Courses should be chosen with the guidance of a college adviser.

~~First year students may not take two beginning foreign language courses in the same semester. First year students may not take more than eight semester hours in one department.~~

### Second Year

1. The student must take three courses from the following group each semester; four are recommended:
  - a. English 316L, 316M, 316N, or 316P, and any three-semester-hour course in English or creative writing or rhetoric and writing.
  - b. Courses to be counted toward the American history, American and Texas government, social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, visual and performing arts, and science and technology requirements of the core curriculum.
  - c. Courses in the foreign language, unless the language requirement has been fulfilled.
  - d. Courses that meet flag requirements.
2. Lower-division communication studies courses recommended by the student's adviser.
3. Enough additional coursework, if needed, to raise the student's course load to 15 or 16 hours each semester.

### Third and Fourth Years

1. Any remaining courses in the core curriculum and the prescribed work.
2. The remaining courses listed as major requirements. Students should note that some upper-division courses have a series of prerequisite courses that takes up to three semesters to complete.
3. Enough additional coursework to raise the student's course load to 15 or 16 hours each semester.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/degree-program-changes> for detailed explanations.

<sup>2</sup> Submit required Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board forms to the provost's office ([lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu)); downloadable from URL <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/theeb-forms>

<sup>3</sup> **EXCLUSIVE:** of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is *seven calendar days*); **GENERAL:** of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*); *major* legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*).

<sup>4</sup> The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/undergraduate/>

**Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use track changes, and do not include hyperlinks in the catalog copy.** Submit form electronically to the Office of the General Faculty and Faculty Council at [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu). For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu), 471-5934 or Brenda Schumann, [brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu), 475-7654.