

Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I= Information Item¹ R= Advise & Respond²

Course Number _____ or Degree Plan(s) MA in Communication

State the requested change and reason. A memo may be attached if more space is necessary.

Our degree plan currently requires students to complete one of three specified tracks. But because our department has started offering more special topics courses and working to tailor our offerings more specifically to the needs of our students, we are getting rid of the track model.

Instead, students will take four required courses: COMM 620 (Quantitative Methods), COMM 636 (Communication Theory), COMM 621 (Qualitative Methods), and COMM 687 (Rhetorical Criticism). These four courses offer a survey of methods and theory in the field of communication.

Then the students will work with their academic advisor and/or thesis chair to make decisions about the rest of the courses in their program from the offerings provided each semester.

Circle the number that corresponds to the requested change. Degree plan changes are on the second page.

					COUNCIL ³					
	Change to a Course	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UAC	GRAD	Provost	President
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I				I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I				I	I
3.	Content (substantive change)	A	A	A	I				A	A
4.	Number of hours (lecture, lab, contact)	A	A	A	A				A	A
5.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I				I	I
6.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A				A	A
7.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I				I	I
8.	Course fee(s)	A	--	A	--				A	I
9.	From U to G <i>or</i> G to U	A	A	A	A				A	A
10.	Cross list with another department: U or G level	A	A	A	A				A	A
11.	Department of record	A	A	A	A				A	A
12.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A				A	A
13.	New course — See website for application and process. This change includes combining or splitting a course(s).	A	A	A	A				A	A

Note: When an academic unit does not have a council, the UGEC and/or UUAC will serve as its academic council, depending on the nature of the issue.

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		COUNCIL ³										
	Change to a Degree Plan	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	TEC	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	University Requirements — Change in approved course content ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
2.	University Requirements — Add or drop a required course from the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
3.	University Requirements — Add or drop a course from a menu within the University Requirements ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
4.	University Requirements — Change hours within a menu on the University Requirements chart ⁶	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
5.	Major — Revision of major ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
6.	Major — Adopt or change admission requirements	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
7.	Major — Add ^{4,5}	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
8.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
9.	Major – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
10.	GPA — Revise major or cumulative requirement	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	--
11.	Minor — Revise course selection	A	A	A	I				I	--	I	--
12.	Minor — Add	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
13.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--
14.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
15.	Degree — Add	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
16.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the department or college)	A	A	A	A				A	A	A	I
17.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	See below.										
18.	Any change to a graduate degree program	A	A	A	A				A	--	A	--

COUNCIL ³										
	Provost-Proposed Change	Provost	Department	Dean	TEC	UUAC	Graduate	Faculty	President	Board of Trustees
1.	Major/Graduate Program – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I
2.	Minor – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I
3.	Degree – Discontinue (proposed by the Provost)	A	R	R	A			A	A	I

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COUNCIL ³										
	Change to the Catalog Information	Dept./School	College Academic	Deans	UGEC	UUAC	GRAD	Provost	Faculty	President
1.	General requirements for graduation including course requirements that are common to all majors for all degrees ⁷	--	--	--	A			A	A	A
2.	Admission requirements	--	--	--	A			A	A	A
3.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	--	--	--	A			A	A	A
4.	Requirements for graduating with honors	--	--	--	A			A	A	A
5.	Other academic policy changes	--	--	--	A			A	--	A

¹ Councils may request additional information about "Information" items. These items are approved as "Consent Agenda."

² ~~The Dean and Department should respond to the Provost's recommendation to close a program in writing. Advise & Respond (R) requires that the voting body should receive the written responses at least one week prior to the vote.~~

³ All courses that meet University Requirements for general education must go through UGEC. Courses or degrees offered only to students seeking teacher certification must go through the Teacher Education Council. All undergraduate changes must go before the UUAC. All graduate degree plan changes must go through the Graduate Council.

⁴ A minimum of 30 hours is required for a major. A maximum is specified for each degree (e.g., BA, BS). The university minimum for elective hours is 6, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible.

⁵ Program or course changes that apply to any major that includes Teacher Certification will be reviewed by the college, the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and then the UUAC.

⁶ Courses that satisfy ACU's University Requirements (General Education) will normally have lower-level numbering, be free of prerequisites and co-requisites, appeal to more than one or two majors, and "not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession" (SACS 2.7.3). Departments may request exceptions to the first three criteria.

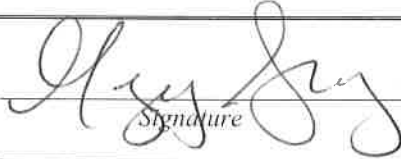
⁷ The UUAC approved the clarification that "general requirements for graduation" means the enumerated items in the "General Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees" section of the catalog.

Revised 10-16-13

Curriculum/Catalog Changes Signature Page

Department/School Chair(s)	
 Signature	1-29-2016 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

College Academic Council(s)	
 Signature	1-29-16 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Dean(s)	
 Signature	2/5/16 Approval date
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Teacher Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

General Education Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Undergraduate Academic Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Graduate Council	
_____ Chair's signature	_____ Approval date

Provost	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Faculty	
_____ Chair of faculty senate	_____ Approval date

President	
_____ Signature	_____ Approval date

Communication

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Joe Cardot, *Professor*

Kristina Davis, *Assistant Professor*

Carley Dodd, *Professor*

Paul Lakey, *Professor*

Lauren Lemley, *Assistant Professor*

Cindy Roper, *Professor*

Lynette Sharp Penya, *Professor*

J.D. Wallace, *Professor*

Introduction

The Department of Communication and Sociology at Abilene Christian University offers a Master of Arts (MA) degree in communication.

Areas of concentration are organizational communication, interpersonal/intercultural communication, persuasion and public advocacy.

Recognizing the increasingly vital role of communication in modern society, the department is committed to a diverse but integrated study of communication, preparing graduates for human interaction by improving people skills and task productivity. It also prepares students for further graduate work, personal growth, and various career opportunities. Students going from this program into doctoral work have a 95 percent acceptance rate into their first choice of Ph.D. programs. Career opportunities include leadership roles in ministry, administration, sales, corporate communication, consulting and training, intercultural relations, and human resource development.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for the MA in communication are:

1. Complete an application and application fee (see online link to admission);
2. An official transcript(s) in English (or translated to English) of all previous colleges attended. The transcript must indicate an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or equivalent;
3. A cumulative undergraduate approximate B average or above in the area of focus or related area and evidence of an overall productive GPA;
4. Two letters of recommendation;
5. A satisfactory GRE score;
6. An essay describing their purpose for pursuing a graduate degree in communication;
7. A writing sample representing high quality work (e.g. term paper).

COMMUNICATION (MA)

Major Code: COMM

The Master of Arts degree in communication requires 36 hours. The 36 hours includes two research tools courses and allows a thesis for 3 or 6 hours or a non-thesis option. An oral defense of the thesis and related course work is required with the thesis option while the non-thesis option requires an oral comprehensive examination. Students may retake the applicable exam only once more if they fail on the first attempt.

Prerequisites

The communication degree requires a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Requirements for the MA in communication are:

1. Communication core, 12 hours: COMM 620 Quantitative Methods

COMM 621 Qualitative Research Methods COMM 636 Seminar in Communication Theory COMM 687

Principles of Rhetorical Criticism

2. Selection, 24 hours:

(Students ~~may~~ will choose courses in consultation with the Director. A 6-hour Thesis option can be selected upon consultation with the Graduate faculty. ~~choose to select courses in one or two areas of concentration. 9-12 hours is required for each concentration. 6 hours of thesis may be taken as part of concentrations a-c.~~ Courses from other departments must be approved by the graduate advisor.)

~~Organizational communication emphasis:~~

COMM 508 Crisis Management in Organizations

COMM 521 Leadership and Communication

COMM 543 Business and Professional Communication

COMM 583 Communication in Multi-National Organizations

COMM 585 Organizational Communication

COMM 586 Training and Development

COMM 631 Leading Organizational Change

COMM 685 Seminar in Organizational Communication

COMM 686 Communication Consulting and Assessment

~~Interpersonal/intercultural communication emphasis:~~

COMM 536 Nonverbal Communication

~~COMM 545 Intercultural Communication~~

COMM 550 Gender Communication

~~COMM 583 Communication in Multi-National Organizations~~

COMM 641 Seminar in Interpersonal Communication

COMM 675 Seminar: Persuasion and Social Change

COMM 683 Cultural Case Studies

~~Persuasion and public advocacy emphasis:~~

~~COMM 508 Crisis Management in Organizations~~

COMM 515 Political Communication

~~COMM 521 Leadership and Communication~~

COMM 575 Persuasion

~~COMM 631 Leading Organizational Change~~

~~COMM 675 Seminar: Persuasion and Social Change~~

3. Comprehensive exam or thesis defense.