

memo

To: CASAC
From: Lynette Sharp Peña
Date: 11/30/18 (revised 3/29/19)
Re: Department of Communication and Sociology, Communication Division Curriculum Proposals

Comments: The Communication Division of the Department of Communication and Sociology has reviewed its curriculum and proposes the following changes: a revision to the COMS major for both the B.A. and B.S. degrees (changes to major core and three new required concentrations), changes to the terms in which several courses are offered, changes in course numbering beyond the hundred, changes to prerequisites for several courses, change to a course title, five new undergraduate courses and two new graduate courses, and the deletion of one course.

The approval charts and concentration justification document contain further details regarding requested changes. Additionally, revised degree plans (B.A. and B.S.), a course rotation schedule, faculty load spreadsheet, new course applications, syllabi, Adams Center letters, and library letters accompany this memo.

Department of Communication & Sociology, Communication Division Curriculum Changes, Fall 2018

Course	Reason for Requested Change
Course Term Change	
101 (Introduction to Communication)	This course passed UUAC Fall 2017 as a Spring only course but we would like to offer it both Fall and Spring because this is now in the social science menu. Adding this course to the Fall would also enable Freshmen communication majors to take a communication course during their first semester.
231 (Small Group Communication)	This course is currently taught in Spring and Summer. We would like to offer it Fall, Spring, and Summer because this course is now in the social science menu.
241 (Interpersonal Communication)	This course is currently taught in Spring and Summer. We would like to offer it Fall and Spring because this course has been added to the social science menu. We also request this course not be offered in Summer.
343 (Business & Professional Communication)	Currently in catalog as a Fall, Spring course. Should be Spring only.
415/515 (Political Communication)	Change from Fall (even years) to Fall (every year).
485/585 (Organizational Communication)	Currently in catalog as a Fall, Spring course. Should be Fall only.
Course Numbering Change beyond the Hundred	
222 (Discussion, Dissent, & Debate)	Due to the advanced level of reasoning required for success in this course and the large number of presentations, this course number should be increased from 222 to 322.
375 (Persuasion)	Due to the nature of this course being both research and theory heavy, this course number should be increased from 375 to 475.
384 (Interview Communication)	This is currently an upper division course (384). However, this course should be a lower-division course due to its skills-based content. It should also be lower division because it is useful for exploring what to do with a communication degree and preparing for early internships. We would also like to change the number to COMM 230 to indicate that it should be taken early in the sophomore year.

New Courses

291 (Survey Methods and Research)	New course justification: Communication inquiry, the ability to create knowledge through scholarship, is one of our departmental learning goals. While the B.S. in Communication contains a required research tool, the available courses are outside of our discipline and are more broadly conceived research methods or statistics courses. Understanding survey methods is important for conducting research and understanding quantitative literature in our field. This course provides students with necessary skills for conducting informed research in upper-level Communication courses and for comprehending research articles covered in other courses. This course also provides an alternative to SOCI 415 and 416, courses that has been overloaded, for majors that require that course.
310 (Civil Discourse)	New course justification: In an era of incivility, it is particularly important to learn how to communicate with civility. One of our student learning outcomes for our program is that students learn how to communicate civilly with members of diverse communities. To that end, this class focuses on the need for civil conversations about difficult topics, the inner dispositions necessary for meaningful engagement, and the practical skills that make productive dialogue possible.
460/560 (Health Communication)	New course justification: Health Communication is the fastest growing sub-discipline in the larger field of Communication. From reducing medical malpractice suits to increasing overall health outcomes in a particular target population, health communication practitioners contribute to a more efficient and humane health care system. In addition, medical school admission boards are beginning to recognize the important role of communication training to prepare incoming medical students. Therefore, this course will have broad appeal not only to communication students but to any student preparing for a career in the healthcare system.

461/561 (Nonprofit Event Communication)	New course justification: Working with nonprofit organizations is a common career path for communication majors, and event planning is a growing career field our majors are interested in. This course provides real-world experience with fundraising, budgeting, negotiating, planning, and coordinating that are critical workplace skills in these career paths.
462 (Executive Coaching)	This course provides students with knowledge and skills useful for organizational life. Additionally, it provides an in-depth study of a potential communication career. Students enrolled in this course will complete lab hours in the Speaking Center.
Change to a Prerequisite	
384 (Interview Communication)	To enable students to take this lower-division course in the same semester as COMM 211, we are requesting that the pre-requisite of COMM 211 be removed from this course.
483 (Advanced Public Speaking)	Add prerequisite "COMM 211; instructor approval"
491 (Rhetorical Theory)	Add prerequisite "sophomore standing."
375 (Persuasion)	Add prerequisite "sophomore standing."
408 (Crisis Management in Organizations)	Add prerequisite "sophomore standing."
415 (Political Communication)	Change prerequisite to "sophomore standing."
421 (Leadership and Communication)	Add prerequisite "sophomore standing."
436 (Nonverbal Communication)	Add prerequisite "sophomore standing."
450 (Political Communication)	Change prerequisite to "sophomore standing."
485 (Organizational Communication)	Change prerequisite to "sophomore standing."
486 (Training and Development)	Add prerequisites "sophomore standing; COMM 211."
Change to course title	
483 (Advanced Public Speaking)	We would like to change the title of COMM 483 from Advanced Public Speaking to Professional Presentations. This new title is more descriptive and representative of the course as it will be taught in our newly proposed majors Corporate/Nonprofit Communication and Communication and Advocacy). The course description and competencies will not change.
Course to Delete	
543 (Business and Professional Communication)	We want to close this course at the graduate level, as we want to move away from paring a 300-level course with a graduate course.

Change to a Degree Plan

COMS B.S. and B.A.

We are revising the COMS major in both the B.S. and B.A. For a complete explanation of this change, please see the attached COST, COCN, & COPA Concentrations Justification.