# COMMUNICATION

**(COMBA – B.A., 120 credits)**

The B.A. major in Communication offers a broad-based study of all forms of communication within a liberal arts context. It is designed to prepare students for careers in corporate communication, law, print and broadcast journalism, advertising, public relations, education, and media production by providing an interdisciplinary study of spoken, written, visual, and technically mediated messages.

In addition to diverse coursework, the major offers communication students valuable hands-on experience through the weekly newspaper, *The Behrend Beacon*, state-of-the-art digital video production studios, BVZ our Internet radio station, and internships with local corporations, media outlets, advertising agencies, and non-profit organizations. Recent interns have complemented their undergraduate work at sites such as the following:

* Bensur Advertising
* Marvel Comics
* Community Blood Bank
* *Erie Times-News*
* Pittsburgh Post Gazette
* March of Dimes
* Behrend Sports Information
* GE Transportation Systems
* WSEE-TV
* American Heart

Association

* Erie Otters
* LEAF (Lake Erie Arboretum Foundation)
* Peek’n Peak Resort
* WJET/Fox 66
* Cumulus Media

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates have become advertising account executives, videographers, public relations specialists, social media managers, human resource managers, teachers, broadcasters, writers, marketers, journalists, managers, pastors, coaches, and sports information directors. Some have also successfully pursued graduate studies at the masters and doctoral levels at leading universities. The following list represents just a sample of alumni placements:

* PA Dept. of Labor
* Northwestern University
* Erie Insurance
* University of Michigan
* PA State Police
* Scott Enterprises
* Purdue University
* WJET/Fox66
* Duke University
* Erie Seawolves
* UPMC-Hamot
* Welch Foods
* PNC Bank
* Exxon/Mobil
* WICU-TV
* Channellock
* *Erie Times-News*
* US Air Force
* North Allegheny Schools
* GE Transporation
* Proctor and Gamble
* Cisco Systems
* Erie Children’s Museum
* Home Depot
* Corry Publishing
* Carnegie Mellon
* Ford Motors
* Smuckers Foods
* Bensur Advertising
* Erie Zoo
* WSEE-TV
* Zurn Industries
* Mercy Center for Women
* Erie Community Foundation

**Program Chair: Dr. Rod Troester, 814-898-6442, rlt5@psu.edu**

behrend.psu.edu/communication

## GENERAL EDUCATION (45 credits)

Key to Symbols

\* Students may complete any 9 credits of GN sciences.

\*\* Students may complete any 3 credits of GHA as long as the total equals 3 or more credits.

\*\*\* A student may request an exception in order to establish a focus in one area. For example, a student may opt to take one course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, two in the Arts, and three in the Humanities—referred to as the 3-6-9 sequence.

| **Writing/Speaking Courses (9 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ENGL 015 or 030H (GWS) |  | 3 |
| ENGL 202A, B, C or D (GWS) [202D Recommended] |  | 3 |
| CAS 100A, B, C, or H (GWS) |  | 3 |

| **Natural Science Courses (GN)\* (9 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Quantification Courses (GQ) (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MATH 021 or STAT 200 [Recommended] |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Health and Physical Activity (GHA)\*\* (3 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 1.5 |
|  |  | 1.5 |

| **Arts Courses (GA)\*\*\* (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GD 100 [Recommended] |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Humanities Courses (GH)\*\*\* (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Social/Behavioral Courses (GS)\*\*\* (6 credits)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

### Additional Graduation Requirements

Key to Symbols

\*\* Can also be counted toward General Education or major requirements.

+ Effective for students enrolling in or after summer session 2005.

| **Course Type: Additional Requirements**  | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| First-Year Seminar (Included in electives or general education) |  | 1 |
| Writing Across the Curriculum in the major (W)\*\* |  | 3 |
| International Cultures (IL)\*\*+ |  | 3 |
| United States Cultures (US)\*\*+ |  | 3 |

## Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements (12–24 credits)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE (0–12 credits):** students must attain 12th credit level proficiency.

This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.

| **Courses: Foreign Language** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 4 |
|  | 4 |
|  | 4 |

## B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS (9 credits)

Formerly, students were required to complete 3 credits in each of three domains (Arts, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences). Effective Summer 2005, students are permitted to complete all 9 credits in any one of six domains or a combination thereof, but *courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major*. The six domains are Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS), Natural Sciences (GN), Quantification (GQ), and Foreign Language *if* the coursework is in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit proficiency of the first foreign language.

See complete list of courses at: <http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/barequirements/>

| **Courses: Knowledge Domains** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |

## OTHER CULTURES (3 cr)†

Key to Symbol

**†** Cannot be used to satisfy the U.S. & International Cultures requirement.

See: http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/barequirements/otherCultures

| **Course: Other Cultures** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (45 credits)

### PRESCRIBED COURSES: (13 credits)

CAS 202, COMM 160, COMM 251, CAS 204, COMM 315

### ADDITIONAL COURSES (17 credits)

CAS 101, CAS 175, COMM 100, COMM 110, COMM 118, COMM 150, COMM 168, or COMM 180
COMM 242 or COMM 270
CAS 212 or CAS 252
CAS 271 or COMM 410
COMM 494 or COMM 495
COMM 001 or COMM 002 **and** COMM 003 or COMM 004

## SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (15 credits)

COMBA students are required to complete **15 credits of supporting coursework**. Nine of these credits must be at the 400 level. In consultation with an academic advisor, students will select 6-9 credits from 2 of 3 Concentrations: 1. Communication Studies, 2. Strategic Communication, and 3. Journalism/Media Production.

| **200-300 Level Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |

| **400-Level Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |

| **Electives (6-18 Credits)** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |
|  | 3 |

## SCHEDULING PATTERNS FOR COURSES NOT TAUGHT EACH SEMESTER:

All courses in the prescribed and “additional” categories are offered each year, some spring and some fall. Supporting courses are offered in a 2 year sequence such that during a student’s junior and senior year he/she has the opportunity to take most all of the coursework offered by the communication program.

## SUPPORTING COURSE CONCENTRATIONS

| **Communication Studies (Select 2-3 Courses)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Corporate Communication Area:** CAS 250, CAS 252, CAS 271, CAS 340, CAS 352, CAS 360, CAS 426W, CAS 450W |  | 3 |
| **Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Area:** CAS 203, CAS 250, CAS 271, CAS 360, CAS 450W |  | 3 |
| **Rhetoric and Public Address Area:** CAS 201, CAS 212, CAS 272, CAS 302, CAS 375, CAS 404, CAS 415, CAS 478 |  | 3 |

| **Strategic Communication (Select 2-3 Courses)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Advertising Area:** COMM 320, COMM 372, COMM 421W, COMM 422, COMM 424 |  | 3 |
| **Public Relations Area:** COMM 370, COMM 372, COMM 471, COMM 472, COMM 473 |  | 3 |
|  |  | 3 |

| **Journalism and Media Production (Select 2-3 Courses)** | **Your Courses** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Filmmaking Area:** COMM 242, COMM 436, COMM 337W, COMM 338, CAS 415 |  | 3 |
| **Broadcast Journalism Area:** COMM 260W, COMM 282, COMM 360, COMM 406, COMM 470A-B-C |  | 3 |
| **Multimedia Area:** GD 100, COMM 270, COMM 470A-B-C, COMM 481  |  | 3 |

**For a full list of Faculty in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, visit**[**http://psbehrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/faculty-staff-directory**](http://psbehrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/faculty-staff-directory)

**This publication is available in alternative media upon request.** Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.