Communication is concerned with the most distinct human characteristics: the use of spoken language and the use of media to communicate information, maintain social contact, and influence others. The Department of Communication at Texas A&M University offers five undergraduate degrees, two minors, six certificates, a dedicated first semester experience for freshmen and for transfer students, an internship program, and optional study abroad trips and field trips that when combined to meet a student's interests provide unique approaches to acquiring the knowledge and the marketable skills needed to describe, interpret, evaluate and transform the world around us through the use of communication and media. Join as we consider the art, the science and the practice of communication.

We offer students the following:

**Majors**
- Communication BA — requires a minor
- Communication BS — requires a certificate
- Telecommunication Media Studies BA— requires a minor
- Telecommunication Media Studies BS — requires a minor
- University Studies · Journalism Studies BA — requires two minors
- Communication — 5-Year Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in Communication
- Communication — 5-Year Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Communication
- Telecommunication Media Studies — 5-Year Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Communication
- Telecommunication Media Studies — 5-Year Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in Communication
- University Studies, Journalism Studies Concentration — 5-Year Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Communication

**Minors**
- Communication
- Journalism

**Certificates**
- Communication, Diversity and Social Justice
- Communication and Global Media
- Communication Leadership and Conflict Management
- Health Communication
- Social Media (majors only)
- Strategic Communication (majors only)

Many students select a major and a minor (two minors for Journalism Studies students) in order to customize their choices of classes. Other students choose a major, a minor and then pattern their courses to pursue a certificate. Honors students may participate in the the well-established and well-respected COMM-Honors program. 

**Career options abound.** While some students choose advanced degrees in communication, law, business, or religion, many go straight into the work world to pursue careers in a vast array of areas. Typical choices include positions in strategic communication, public relations, marketing, advertising, promotions and sales, training and human resources, social media, journalism, digital communication, leadership and management, health fields related to communication, organizations and public policy, communication media, sports communication, entertainment and related areas of business, industry, government, and non-profit organizations.

**Degree requirements** depending on the path chosen may include the study of rhetorical and communication theories, media theories, media history, media industries, media writing, the study of communication research methods, and the use of those theories, research methods and skills in a variety of communication and media contexts. Such contexts include health communication, intercultural communication, interpersonal communication, mass media and new communication technologies, journalism, organizational communication, political rhetoric, religious communication, sports communication and others. Students use their communication and media skills to become leaders in all areas of business, social and political life.

**Honors Programs**
The Department of Communication has a well-established Honors (https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/communication/academics/honors/) plan and strong linkages to the University honors program. Honors courses are available in all areas of Communication. In addition, students may graduate with honors in Communication noted on the transcript. Honor students may also choose individualized instruction through COMM 497, and through honors contracting. Students interested in the Department's Honors Program should contact the Communication Undergraduate Studies Office.

**Undergraduate Courses**
The Department of Communication offers courses in many areas of the discipline: Health Communication, Media Studies, Organizational Communication, Rhetoric and Public Affairs, Journalism, Leadership and Civic Dialogue, Communication and Diversity, Social Media, Strategic Communication, Data Applications, Digital Communication, Media Literacy with significant focus in Intercultural and International communication across each area.

**Certificates**
The Department of Communication offers six certificates (https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/communication/certificates/). While these certificates are optional, they permit a student to focus studies in one of six areas. The certificate is also noted on the student's transcript. The certificates in Communication and Global Media, in Communication Leadership and Conflict Management, in Health Communication and in Communication, Diversity and Social Justice are open to students in the Department of Communication and in any major across the University. The certificates in Strategic Communication and in Social Media are offered to students majoring in Communication, Telecommunication Media Studies or University Studies-Journalism Studies only.

**Education Abroad**
While study abroad is not required, it is certainly encouraged by the Department of Communication. Some students participate in our signature programs to Italy, Ireland, Costa Rica and Spain. Other students choose programs and locations around the world. Some programs are
as brief as one week, others cover a five week summer session and yet others are for an entire semester. Advisors in the Department of Communication and in the Education Abroad (https://abroad.tamu.edu/) office are ready to lend a hand in finding programs, selecting courses, discussing all of the arrangements and advising regarding finances. There is even a passport office here on campus.

**Accelerated Bachelor-Master Programs**

The Accelerated Bachelor-Master (ABM) is a 5-year Bachelor-Master degree that provides a direct pathway for the five BA/BS programs [BA COMM, BS COMM, BA TCMS, BS TCMS, and BA USLA Journalism Studies] majors to transition seamlessly into the MA COMM program thereby earning both degrees in five or fewer years.

The ABM cohort begins each fall semester. Interested students will apply for the ABM program in the spring of the junior year and must have two full undergraduate terms remaining at the time of application. Accepted students will take one graduate course in each of the senior semesters while they complete the undergraduate coursework and will even be permitted to apply six hours of advanced undergraduate credit toward the master’s program. These students will then complete the MA in two 12-hour semesters. Academic advisors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels will guide students through the process every step of the way. Please reference the pages in this section of the course catalog.

**Faculty**

Aschenbeck, Stacy H, Instructional Assistant Professor
Communication
MA, Texas State University, 1999

Barge, James K, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Kansas, 1985

Blanton, Hart C, Professor
Communication
PHD, Princeton University, 1994

Braman, Sandra, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Minnesota at Twin Cities, 1988

Burkart, Patrick C, Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2000

Burton, Thomas, Lecturer
Communication
BS, University of Florida, 1982

Campbell, Heidi A, Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Edinburgh, 2002

Conrad, Charles R, Professor
Communication
PHD, Kansas University, 1972

Coombs, William T, Professor
Communication
PHD, Purdue University, 1990

Crick, Nathan A, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Pittsburgh, 2005

Donaldson, David, Lecturer
Communication
JD, The University of Texas, 1976

Dorsey, Leroy G, Professor
Communication
PHD, Indiana University, 1993

Dubriwny, Tasha N, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Georgia, 2005

Dunaway, Johanna L, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, Rice University, 2006

Gammon, Angelique, Instructional Assistant Professor
Communication
BA, Texas A&M University, 1982

Goidel, Robert K, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Kentucky, 1993

Guajardo, Jonathan, Lecturer
Communication
MA, University of the Incarnate Word, 2014

Havens, Jessica M, Lecturer
Communication
MA, Colgate University, 2012

Henson, Bryce, Assistant Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Illinois, 2016

Holladay, Sherry J, Professor
Communication
PHD, Purdue University, 1992

Ito, Miwa, Lecturer
Communication
MS, North Dakota State University, 2014

La Pastina, Antonio C, Associate Professor
Communication
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1999

Lopez, Joseph, Associate Professor of the Practice
Communication
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2010

Lueck, Jennifer A, Assistant Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Minnesota, 2016

Mercieca, Jennifer R, Professor
Communication
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2003
Majors

- Bachelor of Arts in Communication ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/ba/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/ba/))
- Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Master of Arts in Communication, 5-Year Degree Program ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/ba-ma/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/ba-ma/))
- Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunication Media Studies ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-ba/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-ba/))
- Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunication Media Studies and Master of Arts in Communication, 5-Year Degree Program ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-ba-communication-ma/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-ba-communication-ma/))
- Bachelor of Arts in University Studies, Journalism Studies Concentration ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/university-studies-journalism-ba-communication-ma/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/university-studies-journalism-ba-communication-ma/))
- Bachelor of Arts in University Studies, Journalism Studies Concentration and Master of Arts in Communication, 5-Year Degree Program ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/university-studies-journalism-ba-communication-ma/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/university-studies-journalism-ba-communication-ma/))
- Bachelor of Science in Communication ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/bs/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/bs/))
- Bachelor of Science in Communication and Master of Arts in Communication, 5-Year Degree Program ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/bs-ma/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/bs-ma/))
- Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication Media Studies ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-bs/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-bs/))
- Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication Media Studies and Master of Arts in Communication, 5-Year Degree Program ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-bs-communication-ma/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/telecommunication-media-studies-bs-communication-ma/))

Minors

- Communication Minor ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/minor/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/minor/))
- Journalism Minor ([http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/journalism-minor/](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/journalism-minor/))
Certificates

- Communication, Diversity and Social Justice Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/communication-diversity-social-justice-certificate/)
- Communication and Global Media Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/communication-global-media-certificate/)
- Communication Leadership and Conflict Management Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/communication-leadership-conflict-management-certificate/)
- Health Communication Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/health-communication-certificate-health-campaign-policy-track/)
- Social Media Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/social-media-certificate/)
- Strategic Communication Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/communication/strategic-communication-certificate/)