



The University of Texas at Austin

Communication Studies

Moody College of Communication

The Department of Communication Studies (CMS) has been an organized unit since Edwin Shurter was appointed an associate professor of oratory at UT Austin in 1899. Today, CMS students come from across the nation and the world. Upon leaving campus, graduates enter the teaching, corporate and public service ranks. The department is housed within the Moody College of Communication, one of the largest and most comprehensive communication colleges in the country.

Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies Program (BSCommStds)

Undergraduate work in communication studies is organized around three tracks: Corporate Communication, Human Relations, and Political Communication. The curriculum is divided into three areas: Rhetoric and Language; Interpersonal Communication; and Organizational Communication and Technology.

Corporate Communication is a specialization in Organizational Communication and Technology that focuses on communication between and among individuals and groups in organizations including corporate, nonprofit and government organizations. Organizational Communication and Technology is the study of human interaction within complex organizations including leadership and organizational behavior.

Research projects among the faculty have focused on the process of understanding the effect of power, time and sequence on messages and how the understanding of others and communication with them occur over information and communication technologies.



Human Relations is a specialization in Interpersonal Communication and focuses on interaction in a variety of human relationships and cultures. This includes both verbal and non-verbal communication, face-to-face communication and intercultural communication.

Political Communication is a specialization in Rhetoric and Language and focuses on communication in public settings including political communication, persuasion, and argumentation theory.

Each track provides students with a coherent grouping of courses, supported by a variety of courses he or she selects to complete degree requirements. Any track prepares a student for careers in corporate work, law, politics, teaching, counseling or any position involving interaction with people.

Graduate Degree Programs

Graduate work in Communication Studies at The University of Texas at Austin may lead to the Master of Arts (M.A.) or the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.).

The Debate Program at The University of Texas at Austin attracts highly motivated students from a variety of disciplines. The University of Texas Debate Team is a nationally ranked, intensely competitive program that offers students the opportunity to compete in intercollegiate CEDA and NDT debate at national and regional levels. The debate program also co-hosts The University of Texas National Institute in Forensics for high school competitors each summer.

Individual Events Program

Students compete in events ranging from interpretation of dramatic and literary texts and memorized speeches to limited preparation speeches dealing with philosophy and current events in order to persuade, inform and analyze messages. The nationally ranked Individual Events Team also co-hosts The University of Texas National Institute in Forensics for high school competitors each summer.

Center for Health Communication

The Center for Health Communication launched in fall 2014 to improve health care, public health and public safety through

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Richard Cherwitz
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Shiv Ganesh
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Joshua Gunn
Associate Professor

Roderick P. Hart
Professor, Allan Shivers
Centennial Chair

Johanna Hartelius
Associate Professor

Sharon Jarvis
Associate Professor

Mark Knapp
Professor Emeritus

Madeline Maxwell
Professor

Matthew McGlone
Professor

communication research and outreach. It provides resources to train undergraduates and give undergraduate, graduate and faculty researchers more opportunities for collaboration with the Dell Medical School and The University of Texas School of Public Health.

The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life

The institute was established at The University of Texas at Austin in 2000 in response to growing political cynicism and disaffection in the United States. The goals of the institute are to conduct cutting-edge research on the ways in which civic participation and community understanding are undermined or sustained and to develop new programs for increasing democratic understanding among citizens.

Study Abroad

The student advising office and the study abroad office develop programs specific to each major in Moody College. Special study abroad programs tailored to students in communication studies allow students the opportunity to study at prestigious universities across the globe in China, Spain, Singapore and Germany while earning credit towards a degree in communication studies.

Resources

New building renovations completed in 2015 greatly expanded the resources available to CMS students including facilities for the Debate and Individual Events programs, smart rooms, computer labs, several study areas, a pedestrian bridge, writing lab and state-of-the-art research facilities.

Texas Business Foundations Program

The Texas Business Foundations Program (Texas BFP) is a minor offered to non-business majors that can be used to complement a degree from the Department of Communication Studies. Students pursuing the BFP minor will take six specific courses from different departments within the McCombs School of Business.



Honors Program

The Moody College's four-year honors program is a broad, interdisciplinary supplement to the various departmental majors. A competitive group of scholars will be selected each year. Graduates of the program are among some of the top students in their chosen fields.

Student Involvement

There are nearly 900 registered student organizations on campus including leadership, service, social and professional organizations.

Internships

Department of Communication Studies students are highly encouraged to complete one or more internships in their field of interest and are offered coursework in preparation for that experience. The department encourages students to select carefully from a wide

range of options that are made available through the Communication Career Services office and the Vick Center for Strategic Advising and Career Counseling.

Career Possibilities

Corporate communications director, corporate trainer, career services associate, broadcaster, community affairs coordinator, copy editor, event coordinator, hospitality representative, press secretary, lobbyist researcher, legislative aide, lobbyist, nonprofit administrator, public information officer, copy writer, social media editor, publicist, sales representative, staff writer, interpreter, fundraiser, account planner, event planner, preschool/elementary school teacher, mediator, consumer affairs specialist, research assistant, etc.



The CMS Community (Spring 2019)

Number of Undergraduate Students: 758
Number of M.A. Students: 10
Number of Ph.D. Students: 63

CMS Rankings from the Communication Institute for Online Scholarship (ComVista directory of top programs - Spring 2011)

- #1 Rhetoric
- #1 Cultural Studies
- #2 Public Speaking Research
- #5 Deception & Critical Theory
- #6 Politics & Government
- #6 Research & Democracy
- #8 Political Elections

Susan Nold
Senior Lecturer

Dina Inman Ramgolam
Lecturer

Madeleine Redlick
Lecturer

Joel Rollins
Senior Lecturer, Forensics Assistant

Keri Stephens
Associate Professor

Jürgen Streeck
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Scott Stroud
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Natalie Jomini Stroud
Associate Professor

Jeffrey Treem
Assistant Professor

Anita Vangelisti
Associate Dean, Jesse H. Jones Centennial Professor

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Wendy Boggs
Roxy New
Jennifer Porras

GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Aida González

OF SPECIAL NOTE

According to an article published in the 2007 issue of Communication Reports, the department was ranked second in the nation of communication programs that offer doctoral degrees.

In the 2007 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, the department ranked third in faculty scholarly productivity.

In 2011, Scientometrics ranked the department in the top 10 in the country for faculty publication rates.

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