

Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies (CMS) has been an organized unit since Edwin Shurter was appointed an associate professor of oratory at the University in 1899. Today, CMS students come from across the nation and the world. Upon leaving the University, graduates enter the teaching, corporate and public service ranks. The department is housed within the Moody College of Communication, the largest and most comprehensive communication college 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, non-profit 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, to memorized speeches to persuade, inform and analyze communicative events, to limited preparation speeches dealing with philosophy and current events. The nationally ranked Individual Events Team also co-hosts The University

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Barry Brummett

Charles Sapp Centennial
Professor in Communication

FACULTY

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

René Dailey

Associate Professor

John Daly

Liddell Centennial Professor of Communication, TCB Professor of Management, and an Adjunct Professor of Pharmacy

Erin Donovan

Assistant Professor

Mark Knapp

Professor Emeritus

Madeline Maxwell

Professor

Matthew McGlone

Associate Professor

Anita Vangelisti

Jesse H. Jones Centennial
Professor of Communication

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

Dawna Ballard

Associate Professor

Brenda Berkelaar

Assistant Professor

Jay M. Bernhardt

Professor & Director, Center
for Health Communication

Larry Browning

Professor

Keri Stephens

Associate Professor

Jeff Treem

Assistant Professor

RHETORIC & LANGUAGE

Barry Brummett

Charles Sapp Centennial
Professor in Communication

Richard Cherwitz

Professor

Dana Cloud

Professor &
Graduate Advisor

Joshua Gunn

Associate Professor

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 communication research and outreach. It provides resources to train undergraduates and give undergraduate, graduate and faculty researchers more opportunities for collaboration with the new Dell Medical School as well as 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.

The Office of Survey Research

The Office of Survey Research produces expert survey and field research for academic, government, business and non-profit organizations. Operating under the Moody College of Communication, the OSR employs a staff of experienced researchers who provide research assistance to both educational

and institutional endeavors using the latest technology in computer-assisted research.

Resources

New building renovations completed in 2013 greatly expanded the resources available to CMS students including facilities for the Debate and Individual Events programs and state-of-the-art research facilities.

Texas Business Foundations Program

The Texas Business Foundations Program (Texas BFP) is a special certificate option for non-business majors that can be used to complement a Communication Studies degree. The Texas BFP offers seven business courses (two lower-division and five upper-division) for non-business majors, which may be taken in a number of combinations.



Student Involvement

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

Internships

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 Sanger Learning and Career Center.

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, non-profit 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 (Fall 2014)

Number of Undergraduate Students: 681
Number of M.A. Students: 16
Number of Ph.D. Students: 85

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

FACULTY (Continued...)

Roderick P. Hart

Dean, Allan Shivers Centennial Chair in Communication and Government, Walter Cronkite Regents Chair in Communication

Sharon Jarvis

Associate Professor

Jürgen Streeck

Professor

Talia Stroud

Associate Professor

Scott Stroud

Associate Professor

Joel Rollins

Senior Lecturer, Debate Director

M. Randy Cox

Senior Lecturer, Individual Events Director

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Wendy Boggs

Juanita Gonzalez

GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Aida González

OF SPECIAL NOTE

The department has been serving students of The University of Texas since 1899.

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. More recently in 2011, *Scientometrics* ranked the department in the top 10 in the country for faculty publication rates.

web: commstudies.utexas.edu

email: commstudies@austin.utexas.edu