

Communication studies

**COMMUNICATION STUDIES – COMM**

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 Business and Foreign Language, Room 204

**Program-level student learning outcomes**  
 Program learning outcomes are subject to change. The most current list of program learning outcomes for each program is published on the DVC website at [www.dvc.edu/slo](http://www.dvc.edu/slo).

**Associate in arts in communication studies for transfer**

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. recognize the cultural, ethical, political, psychological and practical aspects of communication systems and models.
- B. develop and present effective public presentations.
- C. demonstrate an understanding of the role critical thinking plays in the effective analysis and development of messages.
- D. demonstrate an understanding of interpersonal communication theory and practice the skills necessary for effective interpersonal interactions.
- E. improve delivery skills when making public presentations.

The communication studies area views communicative behavior as central to human activity: to individual development, to interpersonal relationships, and to the functioning of political, economic, cultural, and social institutions. In addition, as effective verbal and nonverbal communication is a requirement for most jobs, the program prepares students for a wide variety of professions. Further, the program prepares students for careers in the fields of public relations, communication education, the performing arts, marketing, public relations, sales training and management. Additional careers in fields related to communication studies include salesperson, broadcaster, lawyer, tour guide, political campaign worker, teacher, customer service worker, public and international relations specialist, and negotiator/arbitrator.

The associate in arts in communication studies for transfer is intended for students who plan to complete a bachelor's degree in a similar major at a CSU campus. Students completing this degree are guaranteed admission to the CSU system, but not to a particular campus or major.

- In order to earn the degree, students must:
- Complete 60 CSU-transferable units.
  - Complete the California State University-General Education pattern (CSU GE); or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) pattern, including the Area 1C requirement for Oral Communication.
  - Complete a minimum of 18 units in the major.
  - Attain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
  - Earn a grade of "C" or higher in all courses required for the major.

Students transferring to a CSU campus that accepts the degree will be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor's degree. This degree may not be the best option for students intending to transfer to a particular CSU campus or to a university or college that is not part of the CSU system, or those students who do not intend to transfer.

Some courses in the major satisfy both major and CSUGE/IGETC general education requirements; however, the units are only counted once toward the 60 unit requirement for an associate degree. Some variations in requirements may exist at certain four-year institutions; therefore, students who intend to transfer are advised to refer to the catalog of the prospective transfer institution and consult a counselor.

<i>major requirements:</i>		<i>units</i>
COMM-120	Public Speaking .....	3

<i>plus at least 6 units from:</i>		
COMM-123	Argumentation and Debate .....	3
COMM-128	Interpersonal Communication .....	3
COMM-130	Small Group Communication .....	3

<i>plus at least 6 units from:</i>		
<i>any course not used above or:</i>		
COMM-121	Persuasion and Critical Thinking .....	3
COMM-125	Intercultural Communication .....	3
COMM-148	Performance of Literature .....	3
COMM-163	Forensics - Speech and Debate .....	1.5-4
COMM-180	Introduction to Communication Theory .....	3
JRNAL-110	Mass Media of Communication .....	3

<i>plus at least 3 units from:</i>		
<i>any course not used above, or:</i>		
COMM-124	Voice and Diction .....	3
JRNAL-120	Introduction to Newswriting and Reporting .....	3

**total minimum required units 18**

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**Certificate of achievement  
Communication studies**

Students completing the program will be able to...

- A. create and present a well-structured persuasive presentation.
- B. create and present a well-structured informative presentation.
- C. be aware of and able to apply interpersonal conflict resolution methods.

To earn a certificate of achievement in communication studies, students must complete three core courses supplemented by seven restricted electives from which students select a minimum of three units to meet their individual educational and career goals. The certificate program courses also meet some of the requirements of the major for the associate in arts degree in communication studies for transfer at Diablo Valley College.

required courses:	units
COMM-120 Public Speaking .....	3
COMM-121 Persuasion and Critical Thinking.....	3
COMM-128 Interpersonal Communication .....	3

plus at least 3 units from:	
COMM-123 Argumentation and Debate.....	3
COMM-124 Voice and Diction .....	3
COMM-125 Intercultural Communication .....	3
COMM-130 Small Group Communication .....	3
COMM-148 Performance of Literature.....	3
COMM-155 Topics in Communication Studies.....	0.3-4
COMM-163 Forensics - Speech and Debate.....	1.5-4
COMM-180 Introduction to Communication Theory .....	3
COMM-298 Independent Study.....	0.5-3

**total minimum required units 12**

**COMM-120 Public Speaking**

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

In this course, students will prepare and present public speeches using the principles of effective communication. Emphasis is placed on speaking to inform, persuade, and special occasion speeches. Key principles covered include audience analysis, determining speech goals, organization, clarity, language, evidence, visual aids, and delivery. C-ID COMM 110, CSU, UC

**COMM-121 Persuasion and Critical Thinking**

3 units LR

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Prerequisite: ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course presents an introduction to the principles of reasoning and their application to the analysis and evaluation of political and marketplace communication. The integration of critical thinking principles with techniques of effective written and spoken argument will be emphasized. Topics will include the structure of argument, underlying assumptions, the quality of evidence used to support claims, the use of language, the discovery of formal and informational fallacies, and the effect of print and electronic media on argumentation. C-ID COMM 190, CSU, UC (credit limits may apply to UC - see counselor)

**COMM-123 Argumentation and Debate**

3 units LR

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course presents the application of the principles of argumentation theory, including the analysis of propositions, issues, evidence, and reasoning, and applying them through critical thinking skills in debate. Students will participate in graded debates in class. C-ID COMM 120, CSU, UC (credit limits may apply to UC - see counselor)

**COMM-124 Voice and Diction**

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommendation: Eligibility for ENGL-122

This course focuses on the improvement of the vocal instrument for the speaker. Drills and exercises will address vocal strength, resonance, inflection, articulation, and quality. This course is intended for the general student, as well as communication, speech and drama majors. CSU, UC

**COMM-125 Intercultural Communication**

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommendation: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or Equivalent

This course is an introduction to intercultural communication in domestic and/or global contexts. The course studies the influence of cultures, languages, and social patterns on how members of groups relate among themselves and with members of different ethnic and cultural groups. It teaches theory and knowledge of effective communication within and between cultures. Appreciation and comparison of communication of diverse groups is an important part of the course. C-ID COMM 150, CSU, UC

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**COMM-128 Interpersonal Communication**

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course provides an introduction to the theory, basic principles, and methods of oral communication, with emphasis on improving speaking and listening skills within the context of interpersonal communication. Psychological, social, cultural, and linguistic factors which affect human interaction are emphasized. Attention will also be given to perception, listening, conflict resolution, relationship development and stages, and verbal and nonverbal communication. C-ID COMM 130, CSU, UC

**COMM-130 Small Group Communication**

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course is a study of communication theory and research applied to working in small groups. Emphasis will be on individual communication behaviors and group practices that create successful group work. Skill development includes leadership, oral communication and team work. C-ID COMM 140, CSU, UC

**COMM-148 Performance of Literature**

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

Introduction to performance studies; analysis, appreciation, and application of theories of interpretive performance of various forms of literature including poetry, prose, and drama (plays, scripts and screenplays). C-ID COMM 170, CSU, UC

**COMM-155 Topics in Communication Studies**

.3-4 units SC

- Variable hours
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

In this class, students will learn current concepts and problems related to the area of communication studies being focused on. Specific topics will be announced in the schedule of classes. CSU

**COMM-163 Forensics ñ Speech and Debate**

1.5-4 units SC

- May be repeated three times
- Variable hours
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or equivalent

This course prepares students to participate in intercollegiate speech and debate tournaments and/or community events. Students will research, write, and practice speeches. Students will perform speeches at competitive/community events. C-ID COMM 160B, CSU, UC

**COMM-180 Introduction to Communication Theory**

3 units SC

- 54 hours lecture per term
- Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL-122 or Equivalent

This course is a survey of the discipline of communication studies with emphasis on multiple epistemological, theoretical, and methodological issues relevant to the systematic inquiry and pursuit of knowledge about human communication. Students will explore the basic history, assumptions, principles, processes, variables, methods, and specializations of human communication as an academic field of study. C-ID COMM 180, CSU, UC

**COMM-298 Independent Study**

.5-3 units SC

- Variable hours
- Note: Submission of acceptable educational contract to department and Instruction Office is required.

Students will conduct additional research, a special project, or learning activities in a specific discipline/subject area. The student and instructor develop a written contract that includes objectives to be achieved, activities and procedures to accomplish the study project, and the means by which the supervising instructor may assess accomplishment. (This course is not intended to replace an existing course.) CSU

**COMM-299 Student Instructional Assistant**

.5-3 units SC

- Variable hours
- Note: Applications must be approved through the Instruction Office. Students must be supervised by a DVC instructor.

Students work as instructional assistants, lab assistants and research assistants in this department. The instructional assistants function as group discussion leaders, meet and assist students with problems and projects, or help instructors by setting up laboratory or demonstration apparatus. Students may not assist in course sections in which they are currently enrolled. CSU