

Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the [NIU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Information is valid through **August 2016**.

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:

Complete courses to make progress toward a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science sequence.

How to Choose Between a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Choose a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) if: you want to gain greater cultural fluency by learning a new language. A B.A. requires completion of a 2-4 semester sequence of a foreign language.

Choose a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) if: you have an interest working in technology-oriented industries or if your work has a strong online component. A B.S. at NIU requires you to take a combination of lab science courses or computer science, math and computational skills courses. Transfer students pursuing a B.S. should try to complete at least a MATH 110 equivalent with a grade of 'C' or better.

About the Department

The Department of Communication at NIU offers one of the largest and most diverse programs of its kind in Illinois. Our students have excellent high school and community college backgrounds, and our faculty is internationally renowned for research and professional accomplishments. The department prides itself on being user-friendly. Our student/faculty ratio is low; and most courses are taught by professors, not teaching assistants. The department is diverse in terms of both faculty and students. More than half of our students are female, and minority students earn degrees in our department at a much higher percentage than in most NIU programs.

Our degree program for communication studies majors offers three separate emphases:

- **Rhetoric and Public Communication** includes courses in theory, practice, and criticism appropriate for study in the general field of human communication. Students in this emphasis have a broad communications background appropriate for a variety of careers in organizational/corporate, educational, advocacy, or governmental settings. This emphasis is strong preparation for pupils planning to pursue graduate and/or law school.
- **Media Studies** combines classes in general communication with courses in mass communication theory, history, criticism, and production. Graduates of this emphasis have found jobs in the film and television industries, and increasingly in corporate media production and new technologies such as interactive multimedia and web design.
- **Organizational/Corporate Communication** combines a common core of courses in communication with classes that examine communication systems, training, and consulting, as well as advertising and corporate advocacy in business, community, and governmental settings. Students in this field have been employed in public relations, advertising, marketing, promotions/events planning, human resources, management, training, and consulting.

Faculty:

Several of our faculty members have won competitive and prestigious awards in teaching and research from NIU. Many others have won teaching awards and fellowships granted by state, national, and international associations and institutes. A number of faculty members have also appeared on or been interviewed by outlets such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post*, *Men's Health*, *Huffington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, C-SPAN, and Fox Business.

Engaged Learning Opportunities:

- Many opportunities for internships
- Communication Skills Research Lab
- Volunteer work in the DeKalb community through classes
- Research projects with faculty
- Production facilities for audio, studio, and video production

Student Organizations:

- Communication Student Advisory Council (COMM-SAC)
- Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)
- Lambda Pi Eta (LPE) – Communication National Honor Society

Career Information:

<http://www.niu.edu/CareerServices/weblinks/majors/communications.shtml>

Employers agree – strong communication skills are critical in the contemporary workplace.

When responding to the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) Job Outlook 2015 survey, employers identified the ability to verbally communicate with others inside and outside the organization and the ability to create and/or edit written reports as among the top ten skills they seek when hiring new college graduates.

But employers also report that it is hard to find graduates with these skills. Only 28% of employers believe college graduates are adequately prepared in oral communication skills, and just 27% believe graduates possess the written communication skills needed for success.

Each year, however, graduates from NIU Communication bring these critical skills to the workplace. Communication graduates demonstrate strong verbal, nonverbal, and written communication skills and have considerable expertise in speaking well in front of small and large audiences.

For More Information

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