

COMMUNICATION STUDIES, BPHIL COM

Curriculum

The bachelor's degree requirements are 42 units total, including the major requirements, writing and foundational disciplines requirements, and elective courses.

Communication Studies Major Requirements

Course	Title
Four Core Courses	
COMM_ST 102-CN	Public Speaking
COMM_ST 205-DL	Theories of Persuasion
Choice of one:	
COMM_ST 215-0	Principles of Rhetorical Criticism
COMM_ST 225-DL	Communication and Culture
COMM_ST 275-CN	Persuasive Images: The Rhetoric of Contemporary Culture
Choice of one:	
COMM_ST 227-0	Communication & Technology
COMM_ST 246-CN	Introduction to Health Communication
COMM_ST 270-CN	Theories of Mediated Communication
Two Seminars	
COMM_ST 294-DL	First-Year Seminar
COMM_ST 394-DL	Research Seminar
Six Communication Studies Courses	
One 200 or 300-level COMM_ST course	
Five 300-level COMM_ST courses	

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Philosophy in Communication

The bachelor of philosophy in communication (BPhilCom) is conferred by the School of Communication (<https://www.communication.northwestern.edu/>). To earn the BPhilCom degree, students must complete a total of 42 units*, including a writing requirement, a foundational disciplines requirement, a major, and electives. Minors are optional.

*Each course carries 1 unit of credit unless otherwise noted in academic catalog.

Courses	Units Earned
English 111 and 205	2
Humanities	4
Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning	4
Social Sciences	4
Major Requirements	12
Electives	16
Total	42

About the Writing Requirement

The writing requirement ensures that students have the skills necessary to meet the rigorous writing demands of subsequent SPS courses in all majors, degrees, and disciplines. Expository writing courses — ENGLISH 111 Writing Seminar II and ENGLISH 205 Intermediate Composition —

provide the tools to meet the demands of advanced academic writing. Completion of ENGLISH 111 Writing Seminar II and ENGLISH 205 Intermediate Composition with a grade of C or higher satisfies the writing requirement in all SPS bachelor's degree programs.

Writing requirement courses may not be audited or taken on a pass/no credit basis. Performance-Based Admission students are required to complete ENGLISH 111 and ENGLISH 205 as two of their first four courses.

Writing Requirement Appeals

Students who have been admitted into the degree program as transfer admits may appeal the writing requirement. The writing requirement appeal is reserved for students who can demonstrate the necessary skills for writing university-level research and analytical papers by submitting previous college research papers written within the last three to five years. The papers submitted for the appeal will be evaluated for standards of good expository writing, including: a fully developed thesis; sound logic and adequate evidence in support of the thesis; effective organization, coherent structure, and an overall unity; correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. A successful appeal does not result in credit for the writing requirement courses; the requirement for ENGLISH 111 and 205 is waived. Students must complete other courses in place of the writing requirement that meet the curriculum requirements of their program. Performance-Based Admission students may not appeal the writing requirement. To appeal the writing requirement, see instructions in the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate-academic-policies-procedures/>).

About the Foundational Disciplines Requirement

Students complete coursework in three foundational disciplines—humanities, scientific inquiry and quantitative reasoning, and social sciences—to obtain broad experience in the liberal arts. Included in the foundational disciplines requirement are two courses that apply perspectives on power, justice, and equity: one course focused within the United States and one course focused globally. A philosophy course on professional ethics is required for one of the four humanities courses.

Students in the BPhilCom degree select courses from the following areas that satisfy the foundational disciplines requirement, including the two U.S. and global perspectives courses and one business ethics philosophy course, PHIL 264 or PHIL 364:

Humanities

Art history, classics, comparative literary studies, English literature, languages other than English (up to two units), history, humanities (HUM), music history, philosophy, religion, and some courses in black studies, languages with literature, gender studies, performance studies, radio/television/film, and theatre.

Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning

Astronomy, biological sciences, chemistry, computer information systems, earth and planetary sciences, engineering, mathematics, physics and some courses in anthropology, communication sciences and disorders, psychology, radio/television/film, and statistics.

Social Sciences

Anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, political science, social sciences, sociology, and some courses in black studies, communication sciences and disorders, gender studies, psychology, and statistics.