

COMMUNICATION STUDIES (AA)

Award: Associate of Arts Degree

No. of credits required: 60

For more information: Contact Assistant Professor Ben Byrne, 443-412-2453, bebyrne@harford.edu; or Admissions, 443-412-2109.

Program Description

Students of this program will develop an understanding of core communication concepts and apply them in a wide variety of many different careers, relationships, and settings. Because skilled communicators are highly desired by business and industry, students may go on to hold a variety of positions in a wide range of fields and/or to a four year Communication Studies Degree Program.

Students will have knowledge of foundational theories of communication; prevailing communication research paradigms; roles and functions of communication in interpersonal, group, and public contexts; and the impact and ethics of communication in a diverse and global society. Students will also have the ability to think critically; conduct and evaluate communication research; communicate effectively in interpersonal, group, and public contexts; and create and deliver effective and ethical messages via oral, print, and electronic modes.

Program Goals

Upon completion of the Communication Studies AA Degree Program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to communicate ethically and effectively with others in a variety of oral and written contexts and situations.
2. Demonstrate the application of communication theories in various life situations.
3. Monitor, analyze, and adjust personal communication behavior.
4. Demonstrate intercultural sensitivity.

Transfer Information

Students should be aware that each transfer institution has unique curricular requirements. Certain transfer institutions, for example, may require foreign languages. To facilitate transfer, students should consult with an academic advisor early in their studies at HCC and before selecting elective courses. ##Students earning this degree are able to transfer all credits to Towson University and earn their B.A. of communication at Towson University Northeast.

Employment Information

The ability to communicate is one of the most highly sought skills by employers. The 2022 National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) survey of 151 top employers found that the knowledge and skills taught in Communication courses, including the ability to verbally communicate with others, the ability to create and/or edit written documents, and the ability to work as a team, are essential to being hired regardless of one's major. See also the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report for the field of Communication (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/field-of-degree/communications/communications-field-of-degree.htm>)s.

Degree Requirements

Recommended Course Sequence

First Semester		Credits
CMST 101	Speech Fundamentals (GI)	3
ENG 101	English Composition (GE)	3
Behavioral/Social Science Elective (GB) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science)		3
Mathematics Elective (GM) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#mathematics)		3
General Elective		3
Credits		15
Second Semester		
CMST 105	Interpersonal Communication (GI) (D)	3
ENG 216	Business Communications	3
PSY 101	General Psychology (GB)	3
Biological/Physical Science Elective (GS) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#science)		3
General Elective		3
Physical Education Elective		1
Credits		16
Third Semester		
CMST 200	Communication Theory	3
PHIL 205	Ethics (GH)	3
Arts/Humanities Elective (GH) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#arts-humanities)		3
Behavioral/Social Science Elective (GB) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science)		3
General Elective		3
Credits		15
Fourth Semester		
CMST 230	Nonverbal Communication	3
CMST 210	Group Communication and Leadership (GH)	3
Biological/Physical Lab Science Elective (GL) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#biological-physical-laboratory-science)		4
General Elective		3
Physical Education Elective		1
Credits		14
Total Credits		60

General Education Degree Requirements

Note: The following codes identify courses which satisfy the General Education Degree Requirements:

Behavioral/Social Science (GB)
 English Composition (GE)
 Arts/Humanities (GH)
 Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues (GI)
 Biological/Physical Laboratory Science (GL)
 Mathematics (GM)
 Biological/Physical Science (GS)