

# COMMUNICATION STUDIES (AA)

**Award:** Associate of Arts Degree

**No. of credits required:** 60

**For more information:** Contact Dean Kim Davis at, 443-412-2291, kidavis@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) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science</a> )		3
Mathematics Elective (GM) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#mathematics">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#mathematics</a> )		3
General Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
Second Semester		
CMST 105	Interpersonal Communication (GI)	3
ENG 216	Business Communications	3
PSY 101	General Psychology (GB)	3
Biological/Physical Science Elective (GS) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#science">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#science</a> )		3
General Elective		3
Physical Education Elective		1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
Third Semester		
CMST 200	Communication Theory	3
PHIL 205	Ethics (GAH)	3
Arts/Humanities Elective (GAH) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#arts-humanities">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#arts-humanities</a> )		3
Behavioral/Social Science Elective (GB) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science</a> )		3
General Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
Fourth Semester		
CMST 230	Nonverbal Communication	3
CMST 210	Group Communication and Leadership (GAH)	3
Biological/Physical Lab Science Elective (GL) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#biological-physical-laboratory-science">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#biological-physical-laboratory-science</a> )		4
General Elective		3
Physical Education Elective		1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

## 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 (GAH)  
 Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues (GI)  
 Biological/Physical Laboratory Science (GL)  
 Mathematics (GM)  
 Biological/Physical Science (GS)

## Part-Time Progression Plan

The part-time progression plan for programs of study has been developed as a helpful example for students to guide their academic journey. This plan outlines a likely sequence of courses and milestones over three years to help students visualize their academic path. It is important to note that this progression plan is based solely on the core requirements outlined in the approved program of study and does not include any additional requirements. Each student's experience may vary based on their specific interests, course availability, and academic history. Therefore, students are encouraged to work closely with their academic advisor.

## Part-Time General Education Electives

To earn an Associate degree, students must complete at least 60 college-level credits, including a required number of General Education (Gen Ed) credits:

- AA, AS, and AAT degrees require 28–36 General Education credits as part of the 60 total. This includes a minimum of:
  - 6 credits of Arts/Humanities (GAH)
  - 6 credits of Behavioral/Social Sciences (GB)
  - 3 credits of English Composition (GE) - satisfied by ENG 101 English Composition (GE)
  - 4 credits of Biological/Physical Laboratory Science (GL)
  - 3 credits of Mathematics (GM)
  - 3 credits of Biological/Physical Science (GS)
- AAS degrees require at least 18 General Education credits, including one course from each of the following categories: GAH, GB, GE, GL, and GM.

General Education courses must be selected from the college's approved list and may be further specified by individual degree programs. Unless a General Education course is specifically required by a program, the elective General Education courses listed in the recommended sequence are intended as suggestions, not mandatory selections.

## 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 (GAH)  
 Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues (GI)  
 Biological/Physical Laboratory Science (GL)  
 Mathematics (GM)  
 Biological/Physical Science (GS)

## Recommended Part-Time Sequence

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
CMST 101	Speech Fundamentals (GI)	3
ENG 101	English Composition (GE)	3
General Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Winter</b>		
Behavioral/Social Science Elective (GB):		3

HIST 103	History of the United States I (GB) (GAH)	
HIST 104	History of the United States II (GB) (GAH)	
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (GB)	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>

### Spring

CMST 105	Interpersonal Communication (GI)	3
Select a Mathematics Elective (GM):		3-4
MATH 102	Contemporary Mathematics (GM)	
MATH 111	Introduction to Finite Mathematics (GM)	
MATH 216	Introduction to Statistics (GM)	
Mathematics Elective (GM) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#mathematics">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#mathematics</a> )		
ENG 216	Business Communications	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9-10</b>

### Summer

Arts/Humanities Elective (GAH):		3
PHIL 101	Introduction to Philosophy (GAH)	
VPA 201	Visual and Performing Arts Survey (GAH)	
SPAN 101	Elementary Spanish I (GAH) <sup>1</sup>	
or FR 101	or Elementary French I (GAH)	
Physical Education Elective		1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>4</b>

### Second Year

#### Fall

CMST 200	Communication Theory	3
PSY 101	General Psychology (GB)	3
Biological/Physical Science Elective (GS):		3
ASTR 151	Introduction to Astronomy (GS)	
BIO 210	Nutrition (GS)	
ES 105	Earth Science (GS)	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>

#### Winter

PHIL 205	Ethics (GAH)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>

#### Spring

CMST 210	Group Communication and Leadership (GAH)	3
General Elective		3
Biological/Physical Laboratory Science Elective (GL):		4
BIO 100	Fundamentals of Biology (GL)	
BIO 120	General Biology I (GL)	
ENV 111 & ENV 112	Introduction to Environmental Science (GS) and Environmental Science Laboratory (GL)	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>10</b>

### Summer

General Elective		3
Physical Education Elective		1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>4</b>

### Third Year

#### Fall

CMST 230	Nonverbal Communication	3
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Behavioral/Social Science Elective (GB) ( <a href="https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science">https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#behavioral-social-science</a> )		3
GEOG 101	Physical Geography (GB)	
GEOG 102	Human Geography (GB)	
SOC 212	Race, Class & Gender in the United States (GB)	
General Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60-61</b>

<sup>1</sup> Select appropriate language.