This program leads to a profession which requires an occupational license as defined under Texas Occupations Code 58.001. This requires that all applicants seeking to become licensed must undergo a criminal background check prior to licensure. Students in this program should check with the College of Education and P-16 Integration on the requirements for a criminal background check prior to student teaching.

The Bachelor of Arts in Communication – Communication Studies prepares a student to work in fields as varied as sales, education, training and development, management, law enforcement, and in administrative roles in information and service industries such as health care organizations. Our graduates also work in public relations, events planning, advertising, and with public and private agencies and organizations as Press Secretaries and Information Officers. The Bachelor of Arts in Communication also prepares the students to pursue graduate programs in Communication, Media Management, Law, Social Work, Education, Health Management, Rehabilitation Counseling, and Public Administration.

A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS
Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and General Education core requirements.

Required

090 - Integrative and Experiential Learning – 3 hours
COMM 1311 Introduction to Communication

Recommended

050 - Creative Arts – 3 hours
Choose one:
THTF 1310 Theatre Appreciation
THTF 2366 Cinema Appreciation

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 24 HOURS (15 advanced)
COMM 1315 Public Speaking
COMM 1318 Interpersonal Communication
COMM 2333 Small Group Communication
COMM 3316 Intercultural Communication
COMM 3331 Interviewing: Theory and Practice
COMM 3333 Theories of Communication
COMM 3350 Research in Communication
COMM 4315 Persuasive Communication

C – EDUCATION COMPONENT – 46 HOURS (34 advanced)

1 – Communication Component – 19 hours (10 advanced)
COMM 1307 Introduction to Mass Communication
COMM 2335 Argumentation and Debate
COMM 3317 Communication for Classroom Teacher
COMM 3335 Advanced Public Speaking
COMM 4103 Practicum: Communication
THTF 3321 Creative Drama
THTF/ENGL 2313 Readings in Dramatic Literature

2 – Teacher Certification – 27 hours (24 advanced)
Area of Certification: Speech (7-12)
EDFR 2301 Intercultural Context of Schooling
EDUC 3301 The Teaching Profession and Student Learning in Contemporary Schools
EDUC 3302 Knowledge of Student Development and Learning
EDUC 3303 Evidence-Based Teaching in Positive Learning Environments
EDUC 3304 Instructional Planning and Assessment in Culturally Sustaining Classrooms
EDUC 4306 Implementing and Assessing Effective Secondary Content Pedagogy
READ 4305 Disciplinary Literacy in Content Area Classrooms
EDUC 4611 Student Teaching Secondary or All-Level
COMMUNICATION STUDIES
BACHELOR OF ARTS
(Focus: 8th – 12th Grade Teacher Certification)

C – ELECTIVES – 8 HOURS

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 120 HOURS
TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 49 HOURS

ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Admission requirements
COMM 1311 in the core within their first year.

Progression requirements
All courses in the major require grade of ‘C’ or better. Students unable to be admitted to EDUC 4611 will be required to substitute 6 advanced hours, as recommended by advisor. For teacher certification, students must apply for admission and be accepted to the College of Education and P-16 Integration prior to enrolling in teacher certification courses, except for EDFR 2301 which is open to all students.

Graduation requirements
In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2018-2019 Undergraduate Catalog, demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English is required at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. Proficiency can be demonstrated by a college credit exam, a placement test approved through the UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies, and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.