

FOURTH YEAR

13XX-X3XX Minor or Approved Elective
 13XX-X3XX Minor or Approved Adv. Elective
 33XX-43XX COMM Advanced Elective
 13XX-X3XX Free Elective
 13XX-X3XX Free Elective
 13XX-X3XX Free Elective
 33XX-43XX Free Advanced Elective

THIRD YEAR

COMM 3331 Interviewing: Theory & Practice
 COMM 3333 Theories of Communication
 33XX-43XX COMM Advanced Elective
 33XX-43XX COMM Advanced Elective
 13XX-X3XX Minor or Approved Elective
 33XX-43XX COMM Advanced Elective
 33XX-43XX COMM Advanced Elective
 13XX-X3XX Minor or Approved Elective
 33XX-43XX COMM Advanced Elective
 33XX-43XX COMM Advanced Elective
 13XX-X3XX Minor or Approved Elective
 33XX-43XX Free Advanced Elective
 33XX-43XX Free Advanced Elective

SECOND YEAR

Choose 1 Government/Political Science
 Choose 1 Life and Physical Sciences
 Choose 1 Integrative/Experiential Learning
 COMM 1315 Public Speaking
 COMM 1318 Interpersonal Communication
 Choose 1 Government/Political Science
 Choose 1 Life and Physical Sciences
 Choose 1 Small Group Communication
 COMM 2333 Small Group Communication
 COMM 3316 Intercultural Communication
 13XX-X3XX Free Elective

FIRST YEAR

Choose 1 Communication
 Choose 1 American History
 Choose 1 Creative Arts
 Rec- THTF 1310 or THTF 2366
 Choose 1 Mathematics
 UNIV 1301 Learning Framework
 Choose 1 Communication
 Choose 1 American History
 Choose 1 American History
 Choose 1 Social & Behavioral Sciences
 COMM 1311 Intro to Communication
 Choose 1 Lang., Philosophy & Culture

2018-2019 ACADEMIC PLAN

“Choose 1” Indicates course options. If options are not listed, please review the 2018-19 General Education Core or the degree plan for this major: www.utrgv.edu/degreeplans. Courses in red are part of the General Education Core Curriculum (GEC).

Additional Info

- Please note, all courses in the major and minor/approved electives must be passed with a “C” or better.
- Students are advised to take Contemporary Math or Statistics/Math to fulfill their Math Core requirement. Other General Education Math courses are also accepted.
- Students are not required to take a minor. In special circumstances, you may major in Communication Studies and select Mass Communication as their approved electives area.
- Due to the workload, please do not take COMM 3350 Communication Research and COMM 3333 Communication Theory during the same semester.
- Mass Communication courses and Communication courses may not be substituted for courses in the Communication Studies Core or Communication Studies Electives area.
- Internship courses 4337 and/or 4624 are not counted in the Communication Studies electives section or in the Minor/Approved Electives section. Internship courses count only toward Recommended Electives. You are allowed one 6-hour internship credit or TWO 4337 internships with dept. approval.

Contact Info

Interim Department Chair
Dr. Jennifer Lemanski
jennifer.lemanski@utrgv.edu

Brownsville Office Location
Office Manager: Anavelia Wilson
 956-882-8297
anavelia.wilson@utrgv.edu

Edinburg Office Location
Office Manager: Melissa Guajardo
 956-665-3583
melissa.guajardo@utrgv.edu

UTRio Grande Valley

BLUE
 PRINT

COMMUNICATION STUDIES (BA)
Catalog: 2018-19
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Degree Info

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.

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

MILESTONES

- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 3.0.
- Take MATH 1332 or 1342 in your first year.

ADVICE & SUPPORT

- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Choose a major with confidence- Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out MyMajors!
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about class.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
- Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

- Look for a service-learning course! For guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g. MLK Day of Service).
- Attend a departmental program such as Speech Contest.
- Join a student organization! Consider looking into a department sponsored Communication Studies student club or visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger- locate and attend one student workshop.

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.2.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as COMM 1311, COMM 1315, COMM 1318, and COMM 2333.
- Complete 30 credit hours.

- Want to explore different careers? Check out MyMajors on my.utrgv.edu.
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available

- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium.

- Look at study abroad opportunities! Consider going to China, Spain, Mexico or England.
- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
- Join another student organization. Perhaps you can get elected to the Student Government Association or visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch-bring a friend!

- Update your resume in Handshake and have it reviewed.
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
- Will a minor expand your career options? We recommend business management, psychology, etc.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.25.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.

- Seek out research opportunities within your major and join a professional organization such as National Communication Association.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
- Apply for internship and/or job shadowing opportunities. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.

- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Visit the Writing Center or become the secretary for your organization.

- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit VLink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!
- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.

- Check out the Communication department website for postings on career/graduate school.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks' advance notice!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!

- Shoot for a GPA of 3.3.
- "I have a plan for after graduation." If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center!
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.

- Engage in an independent study project or an academic internship to complement your major, such as COMM 4337 or COMM 4624.
- Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor that includes employment, finances, and other life goals.
- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center to ensure you are on track.

- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at a regional or national conference.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, etc. The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.

- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
- Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

CAREERS

- Sales
- Customer service
- Management
- Insurance:
 - Underwriting
 - Claims management
 - Sales
- Real estate:
 - Property management
 - Sales
- Human resources
- Training & development
- Labor relations
- Writing/Editing
- Corporate communication
- Office management
- Administration
- Management
- Grant writing
- Writing/Editing
- Fundraising/Development
- Public relations
- Volunteer coordination
- Program coordination
- Research
- Religious Work

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out "What Can I Do With This Major?" www.utrgv.edu/careercenter