## University Core and Graduation Requirements

### University Core Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>#Classes</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Classes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religion Cornerstones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachings and Doctrine of The Book of Mormon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>REL A 275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
<td>REL A 250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations of the Restoration</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
<td>REL C 225</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Eternal Family</td>
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<td>REL C 200</td>
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<td>The Individual and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Heritage</td>
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<td>from approved list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global and Cultural Awareness</td>
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<td>Skills</td>
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<td>First Year Writing</td>
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<td>WRTG 150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Written and Oral Communications</td>
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<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
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<td>Languages of Learning (Math or Language)</td>
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<td>Arts, Letters, and Sciences</td>
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<td>Civilization 1</td>
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<td>Core Enrichment: Electives</td>
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<td>Religion Electives</td>
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<td>Open Electives</td>
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### Graduation Requirements:

- Minimum residence hours required: 30.0
- Minimum hours needed to graduate: 120.0

### Suggested Sequence of Courses

#### FRESHMAN YEAR

1st Semester
- WRTG 150: 3.0
- COMMS 101: 3.0
- Religion Cornerstone course: 2.0
- General Education courses and/or general electives: 7.0
- **Total Hours**: 15.0

2nd Semester
- American Heritage: 3.0
- COMMS 238: 3.0
- Religion Cornerstone course: 2.0
- General Education courses and/or general electives: 7.0
- **Total Hours**: 15.0

#### SOPHOMORE YEAR

3rd Semester
- COMMS 300: 3.0
- COMMS 304: 3.0
- Religion Cornerstone course: 2.0
- General Education courses and/or general electives: 7.0
- **Total Hours**: 15.0

**Apply to the major in September or January, after you have completed the prerequisites with a "B" or better.**

4th Semester
- COMMS 301: 3.0
- COMMS 302: 3.0
- Religion Cornerstone course: 2.0
- General Education courses and/or general electives: 7.0
- **Total Hours**: 15.0

#### JUNIOR YEAR

5th Semester
- COMMS 330: 3.0
- COMMS 341: 3.0
- Religion Elective: 2.0
- General Education courses and/or general electives: 7.0
- **Total Hours**: 15.0

6th Semester
- COMMS 391R or COMMS 497R: 3.0
- COMMS elective: 3.0
- COMMS elective: 3.0
- General Education courses and/or general electives: 6.0
- Religion elective: 2.0
- **Total Hours**: 15.0

#### SENIOR YEAR

7th Semester
- COMMS 483 (Take Sem7 or Sem8): 3.0
- Religion elective: 2.0
- General education courses and/or general electives: 6.0
- COMMS elective: 3.0
- **Total Hours**: 14.0

8th Semester
- COMMS 483: 3.0
- General education courses and/or general electives: 12.0
- **Total Hours**: 15.0

**Note:** Students are encouraged to complete an average of 15 credit hours each semester or 30 credit hours each year, which could include spring and/or summer terms. Taking fewer credits substantially increases the cost and the number of semesters to graduate.
REQUIREMENT 1
Complete 1 option

CORE COURSES:

OPTION 1.1 Complete 3 courses

COMMS 101 - Mass Communication and Society
COMMS 238 - Introduction to Communications Studies
*WRTG 150 - Writing and Rhetoric

Note: Students must receive a B grade or better in each course to be eligible to apply for admission. AP credit does not fulfill this requirement.

Apply to the major.

REQUIREMENT 2
Complete 2 courses

THESE COURSES MAY BE TAKEN DURING THE SEMESTER IN WHICH STUDENTS APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR.

COMMS 300 - Media Law and Responsibility
COMMS 304 - Media Ethics: Ethical Decision Making in a Diverse Society

REQUIREMENT 3
Complete 1 course

COMMS 307 - Fundamentals of Communications Action

REQUIREMENT 4
Complete 3 courses

COMMS 419 - Research in Communication
COMMS 411 - Media Effects
COMMS 483 - Advanced Communications Studies

REQUIREMENT 5

OPTION 5.1 Complete 1 hour from the following course(s)

INTERNSHIP: AFTER CONSULTING WITH AN ADVISOR, COMPLETE AN INTERNSHIP IN CONJUNCTION WITH 1 HOUR OF THE FOLLOWING:

COMMS 496R - Academic Internship

You may take up to 1 credit hour.

OPTION 5.2 Complete 1 hour from the following course(s)

FACULTY MENTORED RESEARCH PRACTICUM: CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN A MENTORED ENVIRONMENT WITH A FACULTY-SUPPORTED RESEARCH PROJECT: AFTER CONSULTING WITH A FACULTY ADVISOR, COMPLETE A MENTORED RESEARCH PRACTICUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH 1 HOUR OF THE FOLLOWING:

COMMS 491R - Mentored Research Practicum

You may take up to 1 credit hour.

Note: Students must receive a B grade or better in each course to be eligible to apply for admission. AP credit does not fulfill this requirement.

Apply to the major.

REQUIREMENT 6
Complete 15.0 hours from the following course(s)

COMPLETE 15 HOURS (FIVE COURSES) FROM THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIVES:

COMMS 301 - Mass Media History and Philosophy
COMMS 302 - Popular Culture and Media
COMMS 351 - Media and Their Audiences
COMMS 360 - Communication Management Principles and Theory
COMMS 381 - International Media Systems
COMMS 382 - Issues in Global Communication

Note: Students must receive a B grade or better in each course to be eligible to apply for admission. AP credit does not fulfill this requirement.

Apply to the major.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Communications Studies sequence exists as a counterpoint to the other sequences within the School of Communications. Whereas each of the other sequences excels in providing specialized instruction in a particular discipline of communications (e.g., Public Relations, Advertising, or News Media), the Communications Studies sequence takes a more generalized approach. The sequence coursework equips students with a solid foundation in the areas of critical thinking, research, writing, presentation, and communications theory, but then grants students the freedom to select their supplementary coursework from the School’s catalog of elective offerings. These courses span a variety of interests, including digital media, popular culture, advocacy, international issues, and many others. The combination of required and strategically-selected supplementary coursework begets a degree program that is highly customizable. With this freedom, however, comes the charge for students to work closely with their faculty advisor to make their professional goals known, and to work together in the creation of a viable learning plan. The Communications Studies sequence acknowledges that the lines between communication disciplines (in many cases) are blurring, and it seeks to equip students with the skills they feel are necessary to succeed in their personalized path—whether this path is professional or academic in nature, and whether it leads them deeper into the communications industry, or on to other disciplines.

SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each student must be Pre-Comms in order to apply to the major. Contact the college advisement center for admission requirements, or comms.byu.edu.
2. All students must take a campus writing course before applying for admission to the major. WRTG 150 or any Advanced Writing
Course fulfills this requirement. AP credit does not.

3. Complete a minimum of 72 hours in courses outside of the department, while meeting BYU’s University Core requirements.

4. Every student is required to complete an internship or equivalent approved mentored experience. Although the school operates an internship office (280 Brimhall Building) that serves as a clearinghouse for internship information, the responsibility for securing an internship rests with the student. However, students may not embark on any internship without prior approval from a faculty advisor, before processing appropriate documents with the Internship Office (280 BRMB), and without being enrolled in Comms 496R.

5. In certain courses, students will be required to demonstrate proficiency in InDesign, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator by portfolio review. See the School of Communications in 360 BRMB.

6. For program objectives, please see: learningoutcomes.byu.edu.

THE DISCIPLINE:

Communication is a central part of the human experience and, as such, the study of communications works its way into a diverse set of professional and academic disciplines. The Communications Studies sequence is designed to prepare students to pursue their professional goals, by focusing on the development of key skills in critical thinking, research, writing, presentation, and communications theory. Students are urged to use the large selection of elective credits in the sequence to tailor their education to their future endeavors, whether they fall into the traditional communications roles of marketing, public relations, advertising, and broadcast media, or other endeavors such as academia, law, entrepreneurship, etc. To develop a wide understanding of the world and the processes that make society work, students are encouraged to supplement their Communications coursework with relevant electives from other Departments.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

The Communications Studies sequence is designed to provide students with a general set of skills in critical thinking, research, writing, presentation, and communications theory. These skills form the foundation for success in a variety of professional and academic fields and, through strategic scheduling and selection of supplementary coursework, students will find themselves prepared to perform in variety of environments, both within and outside of the traditional communications trajectory.

OFF-CAMPUS PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS:

As part of the Communications Studies sequence, and after the necessary prerequisites have been completed, students will have the opportunity to choose between a mentored research practicum or an off-campus professional internship. For mentored research practicums, a faculty advisor must be selected to approve and supervise the project. For off-campus internships, a fulltime practitioner may serve as supervisor, after gaining approval from the faculty advisor. Approval for either of these options must come in advance of their initiation.

FACULTY ADVISOR:

Check with the School of Communications, in 360 BRMB, to be assigned a faculty advisor.

MAP DISCLAIMER

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, there are some student populations that could have exceptions to listed requirements. Please refer to the university catalog and your college advisement center/department for complete guidelines.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

School of Communications
360 Brimhall Building
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602
Telephone: 801-422-2077

ADVISEMENT CENTER INFORMATION

College of Fine Arts & Communications Advisement Center

D-444 Harris Fine Arts Center
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602
Telephone: 801-422-3777
Email: cfacadvise@byu.edu
Website: cfacadvise.byu.edu