

## COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to take Rhetorical Tradition & Survey of Mass Communication before I take more advanced classes?

Yes. Communication majors are reminded that CO010-Rhetorical Traditional and CO020-Survey of Mass Communication are prerequisites for all other communication classes. Majors should NOT register for theory courses, writing-intensive seminars, or electives until they have completed both Tradition and Survey.

The faculty have long assumed that majors know they need to begin the major by completing the introductory sequence. Unfortunately, the department has discovered that an alarming number of majors now register for advanced courses before completing the introductory sequence. The result is a growing number of juniors and seniors in both Tradition and Survey.

In an effort to properly sequence courses, the Communication faculty has decided to begin enforcing the prerequisites. Majors who have not completed Tradition and Survey will be dropped from cluster courses, theory courses, writing-intensive seminars, and communication electives over the summer.

Which classes count as writing-intensive seminars?

All communication majors are required to take two writing-intensive seminars. When scheduling courses, majors should remember the following:

- To count as a writing-intensive seminar a course must be numbered between CO425-CO475. The fact that a course has writing in the title does not mean that it counts as a writing-intensive seminar. So, for example, CO227-Broadcast Writing, CO230-News Writing, and CO2331-Feature Writing do NOT satisfy the writing-intensive seminar requirement.
- Students should not schedule writing-intensive seminars until they have completed CO010 Rhetorical Tradition, CO020-Survey of Mass Communication, CO350-Research Methods, and a theory course. By design, writing-intensive seminars are intended for junior and senior majors.

How do I withdraw from a course?

Students who withdraw from a course after the first five class days of the semester but before the last three weeks of class will have a "W" recorded in the grade column of their permanent record. To withdraw from a course after the registration period, students should go to the Forms page of the Student Services web site <<http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/forms/>>, print the withdrawal form, and then go to the Associate Dean for their school. Students will not be permitted to drop courses during the last three weeks of classes or during the exam period. Students who are still registered at this point will receive a final grade for the semester.

What are the rules for taking a course pass/fail?

The Communication Department policy on pass/fail courses is as follows:

- Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may enroll in a non-major or non-core course on a pass/fail basis anytime during the registration period. **IMPORTANT:** Pass/fail cannot be declared after the drop/add period.
- No more than one pass/fail course may be taken in any semester. No student may take more than six pass/fail courses for credit toward a degree.

- Language courses taken before the language proficiency requirement is fulfilled may not be taken on a pass/fail basis.
- No major may take Carroll School of Management (CSOM) or Woods College of Advancing Studies (WCAS) courses on a pass/fail basis. No CSOM student may take an A&S requirement (including core or CSOM curriculum requirements) pass/fail.

### Can I take six classes in one semester?

The Communication Department discourages students from taking six classes in a semester. In special circumstances, however, this may be an appropriate option for some students. The following rules govern six classes:

- Students with a 3.0 grade point average can register for a sixth class after the start of classes. Students lacking a 3.0 average need to receive permission from the Associate Dean of their school to add a 6th class.
- The College of Arts and Sciences does not allow the department to "hold" seats for students wanting to take a 6th class. The reason for this rule is simple. The College wants all students to have five classes before some students are allowed to register for a sixth class.
- To enforce the College's policy, the Communication Department will not sign override forms for students already registered for five classes.

### Can I minor in communication? Which departments offer minors?

No. There is no minor in communication in the College of Arts and Sciences. While some departments have created minors, the Communication Department has decided not to offer this option. Our reason is simple: The department has more than 1000 majors. Adding a minor would only increase interest in communication and make it harder for majors to obtain necessary courses.

Information about interdisciplinary majors is available at:

<<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/academics/curriculum/minors/interdismajors.html>>

Information about departmental minors is available at:

<<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/academics/curriculum/minors/deptminors.html>>

Information about interdisciplinary minors is available at:

<<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/academics/curriculum/minors/interdiscminors.html>>

Information about minors in the School of Education is available at:

<<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/academics/curriculum/minors/lsoeminors.html>>

A brief description of the film studies minor that includes the requirements is available at the following URL:

<[http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/cas/fnart/film/Pages/minor.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/film/Pages/minor.html)>

### Can I audit a course?

Undergraduate students may not audit a course with the exception of undergraduates in the Woods College of Advancing Studies.