

ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: World Campus

End Campus: World Campus

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational and Professional Communication, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	12
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	48

9 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 3 credits of GH; and 6 credits of GS courses.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 204	Communication Research Methods	3
CAS 301	Rhetorical Theory	3
CAS 303	Communication Theory	3
CAS 390	Qualitative Research Methods	3
CAS 426W	Communication Ethics	3
CAS 452	Organizational Communication Theory and Research	3
CAS 496	Independent Studies ¹	3
LA 201W	Experiential Learning Portfolio	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits in speaking and argumentation from:		3
CAS 212	Professional Public Speaking	
CAS 215	Argumentation	
CAS 252	Business and Professional Communication	
CAS 340	Communication and Civility	
Select 3 credits in interpersonal communication or conflict management from:		3

CAS 203	Interpersonal Communication
CAS 271N	Intercultural Communication
CAS 302	Social Influence
CAS 352	Organizational Communication
Select 3 credits in written communication from:	
ENGL 418	Advanced Technical Writing and Editing
ENGL 419	Advanced Business Writing
ENGL 420	Writing for the Web
ENGL 480	Communication Design for Writers
Supporting Courses and Related Areas	
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>	
Select 15 credits from the following courses; at least 9 credits must be at the 400-level. ²	
CAS 203	Interpersonal Communication
CAS 212	Professional Public Speaking
CAS 215	Argumentation
CAS 252	Business and Professional Communication
CAS 271N	Intercultural Communication
CAS 283	Communication and Information Technology I
CAS 302	Social Influence
CAS 340	Communication and Civility
CAS 352	Organizational Communication
CAS 404	Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
CAS 455	Topics in Gender and Communication
CAS 475	Studies in Public Address
COMM 428A	Principles of Strategic Communications
ENGL 418	Advanced Technical Writing and Editing
ENGL 419	Advanced Business Writing
ENGL 420	Writing for the Web
ENGL 480	Communication Design for Writers
LHR/OLEAD 464	Communication Skills for Leaders in Groups and Organizations
LHR/OLEAD 465	Collective Decision Making
OLEAD 410	Leadership in a Global Context

¹ A student may only apply up to 6 credits of CAS 496 in Requirements for the Major.

² A student may not use a course as both an Additional course and as a Supporting course.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.