

# Science Communication (Minor)

The minor in Science Communication offered by the Department of Communication is available to undergraduate students interested in developing their understanding of and abilities in communication science to public audiences. It is open to students in all undergraduate majors on campus who want to deepen and broaden their knowledge of how citizens make sense of science and technology in their everyday lives. Required coursework includes 15 credit hours, including (1) an overview course that introduces major issues in contemporary debates about science communication and public engagement, (2) electives that allow students to develop further understanding of communication processes and practices, and (3) a capstone course that engages students on more advanced topics such as climate change, risk communication, environmental communication, and others.

## Admissions

Students interested in the Science Communication minor must contact the minor advisor before their junior year and/or before the completion of 90 credits toward undergraduate degree. To be admitted to the program, a student must have a GPA of at least 2.0. Application for admission to any University minor program is now available via MyPack Portal. Admission will be based upon the student's academic record, and in most cases no longer requires departmental review. Go to Add a Minor (<https://studentservices.ncsu.edu/your-degree/coda-home/add-a-minor/>) to apply.

## Certification

A University Minor Declaration Form ([https://studentservices.ncsu.edu/forms/registrar/declare\\_minor.pdf](https://studentservices.ncsu.edu/forms/registrar/declare_minor.pdf)) should be submitted to Registration and Records for inclusion of the minor on the student's official record no later than during the registration period for the student's final semester at NC State. The minor must be completed no later than the semester in which the student expects to graduate from his or her degree program. Students will receive official recognition on their transcripts for the completed minor.

## Contact Person

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**SIS Code: 16SCM**

## Plan Requirements

- Completion of 15 credit hours.
- At least nine (9) credits must be completed at 300-400 level: three (3) credits for the 400-level capstone course and six (6) credits of 300-400 level elective courses.
- A maximum of TWO (2) courses may be used (double-counted) towards departmental major requirements and/or requirements for additional minor(s).
- No more than six (6) transfer credits may be counted towards the minor.

- A grade of 'C' (2.0) or better will be required for all courses taken to fulfill minor requirements.
- No coursework may be taken for S/U credit.

## Required Courses (6 credit hours)

Code	Title	Hours	Counts towards
COM 289	Science Communication and Public Engagement	3	
Capstone Course: Advised 400-level COM elective <sup>1</sup>		3	

## Elective Courses (9 credit hours) <sup>2</sup>

Code	Title	Hours	Counts towards
<b>Group I - Foundational Communication Skills</b>			
COM 110	Public Speaking		
COM 211	Argumentation and Advocacy		
COM 301	Presentational Speaking		
ENG 316	Introduction to News and Article Writing		
ENG 323	Writing in Rhetorical Traditions		
ENG 333	Communication for Science and Research		
ENG 426	Analyzing Style		
<b>Group II – Understanding Public Communication Processes and Practices</b>			
COM 200	Communication Media in a Changing World		
COM 201	Introduction to Persuasion Theory		
COM 226	Introduction to Public Relations		
COM 292	Language, Communication, and Culture		
COM 321	Survey of Rhetorical Theory		
COM 327	Critical Analysis of Communication Media		
COM 362	Communication and Gender		
COM 392	International and Crosscultural Communication		

COM 395	Studies in Rhetoric and Digital Media
COM 402	Advanced Group Communication
COM 411	Rhetorical Criticism
COM 417	Communication & Race
COM 421	Communication Law
COM 436	Environmental Communication
COM 441	Ethical Issues in Communication
COM 442	Communication and Conflict Management
COM 447	Communication and Globalization
COM 451	Visual Rhetoric
COM 456	Organizational Communication
COM 466	Nonprofit Leadership & Development
COM 467	Advanced Topics in Gender and Communication
COM 479	Climate Change Communication
COM 487	Internet and Society
COM 493	Advanced Topics in Public Relations
ENG 341	Literature and Science
ENG 425	Analysis of Scientific and Technical Writing
ET 455	Adaptive Management and Governance
MEA 488	Meteorology for Media
NR 484	Environmental Impact Assessment
STS 214	Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society
STS 302	Contemporary Science, Technology and Human Values

### Verify Requirement

At least six (6) hours of electives must be 300- or 400-levels. (p. 2)

- <sup>1</sup> Capstone course is recommended to be taken after at least 9 credits in the minor.  
(For this elective, COM 436, 479, future risk communication or advanced science communication course can be taken by permission)
- <sup>2</sup> Choose 1 course from EACH Group (2 courses total) AND choose 1 additional course from either of the 2 Groups. *At least 6 credits must be completed at 300-400 level.*  
*Note: Students who have officially declared the minor and who wish to take a course on the elective list for which they do not currently meet the prerequisites should express their interest in the course to the minor adviser to discuss the possibility of applying for a waiver of the course prerequisite(s).*

### Verify Requirement

Code	Title	Hours	Counts towards
This is a verify requirement and may not require additional hours. Students can fulfill this requirement through other academic requirements.			
COM 301	Presentational Speaking	3	
COM 321	Survey of Rhetorical Theory	3	
COM 327	Critical Analysis of Communication Media	3	
COM 362	Communication and Gender	3	
COM 392	International and Crosscultural Communication	3	
COM 395	Studies in Rhetoric and Digital Media	3	
COM 402	Advanced Group Communication	3	
COM 411	Rhetorical Criticism	3	
COM 417	Communication & Race	3	
COM 421	Communication Law	3	
COM 436	Environmental Communication	3	
COM 441	Ethical Issues in Communication	3	
COM 442	Communication and Conflict Management	3	
COM 447	Communication and Globalization	3	

COM 479	Climate Change Communication	3
COM 487	Internet and Society	3
COM 493	Advanced Topics in Public Relations	3
ENG 316	Introduction to News and Article Writing	3
ENG 323	Writing in Rhetorical Traditions	3
ENG 333	Communication for Science and Research	3
ENG 341	Literature and Science	3
ENG 425	Analysis of Scientific and Technical Writing	3
ENG 426	Analyzing Style	3
ET 455	Adaptive Management and Governance	3
MEA 488	Meteorology for Media	3
NR 484	Environmental Impact Assessment	4
STS 302	Contemporary Science, Technology and Human Values	3