

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION (B.A.)

The Public Relations and Strategic Communication program equips students to be ethical, data-driven professionals who design effective messages, engage diverse stakeholders, and manage effective campaigns serving their organization's strategic goals. Through historical insight in professional best practices, grounding in evidence-based research, and mastery of diverse media platforms and methods, students learn to engage audiences across cultural and organizational contexts in a rapidly evolving communication landscape.

In addition to the course work below, students must complete all of the department's general degree requirements (<https://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/college-fine-performing-communication-arts/communication/ba-requirements/>).

All Public Relations and Strategic Communication majors must complete the following:

Code	Title	Credits
Department Core (9cr)		
COM 1700	Media Literacy	3
COM 2000	Introduction to Communication Practices and Professions	3
COM 2280	Visual Communication & Content Creation	3
Major Requirements (27cr)		
COM 2030	Media Writing Toolkit	3
COM 2100	News Reporting	3
COM 3170	Fundamentals of Public Relations	3
COM 3250	Organizational Communication	3
COM 4130	Communication Ethics	3
or COM 5710	Media Law and Ethics	
COM 4170	Public Relations Writing	3
COM 4210	Data Analysis and Research	3
COM 5140	Social Media for Strategic Communication	3
COM 5900	Senior Project	3
Major Electives (6cr)		
Select at least six credits from the following:		6
COM 2010	Introduction to Film	
COM 2110	Argumentation and Debate	
COM 2160	Campaigns and Social Movements	
COM 3300	Business and Professional Presentations	
COM 4110	Studies of Legal Argument	
COM 4150	Communication and Conflict	
COM 4270	Group Communication	
COM 4500	Leadership Communication	
COM 4680	WAYN Radio and Podcasting	
COM 5190	Special Topics	
Total Credits		42

Departmental Honors Program

The Communication Department Honors program offers capable students the opportunity to pursue independent study and to work

closely with department faculty members. Completion of the honors major results in an honors degree designation on the diploma.

In order to enter the departmental honors program students must have achieved academic excellence in previous work, such as a high school g.p.a. of 3.5 or a college or university g.p.a. of 3.3. Students must meet all regular major requirements including the following: three honors-option courses within their major at the 2000 level or above, taught by full-time faculty members (internships cannot satisfy this requirement), at least one HON 42xx-level seminar offered through the Honors College, a senior honors thesis under the direction of a faculty advisor in their major area (COM 4996) and maintain a minimum g.p.a. of 3.3 cumulative and in the major.

Departmental AGRADE Program

The AGRADE program enables highly qualified seniors majoring in Communication Studies or Public Relations to enroll simultaneously in undergraduate and graduate programs and to apply a maximum of 15 credits toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. The program encourages such students to continue to graduate school at Wayne State by reducing the time to the master's degree. Only AGRADE-approved courses in which the student has earned a B or higher will transfer to the graduate transcript. Once in the master's program, students may be required to repeat an AGRADE course in which they earn less than a B grade.

Eligibility: AGRADE applicants must have an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.5. Applicants are also expected to have performed at a superior level in their major, as determined by the major department and reflected in a GPA in the major of at least 3.6 at the time of application.

Application: A student seeking AGRADE status should present to the Department of Communication Graduate Committee all of the materials which that department requires for normal admission to the M.A. program with a concentration in Communication Studies. Specific departmental admission requirements can be found in this bulletin or obtained from the Graduate Advisor in the Department of Communication (313-577-2959).

The earliest date by which a student may apply for the AGRADE program is during the semester in which he/she completes 90 credits toward the undergraduate degree.

AGRADE Credits: Students may elect a minimum of three and a maximum of 15 AGRADE credits. These credits will be used to complete the baccalaureate degree as well as to serve as the beginning of graduate study. Upon formal admission to a master's program, AGRADE credits are transferred as if they were graduate credits transferred from a graduate program at another university. The remaining graduate credits required for the master's degree will be earned in the conventional manner following formal admission to the graduate program. Formal admission to the graduate program occurs as AGRADE students complete their baccalaureate degree.

Students admitted into an AGRADE program will develop a Plan of Work for the master's program, specifying the courses that will be taken in the AGRADE status as well as the courses required for the balance of the undergraduate degree. **Note that COM 7000 must be taken in the first semester of AGRADE coursework.** The remaining AGRADE courses must be approved by both the student's undergraduate program advisor and the graduate director of the master's program. In courses permitting both undergraduate and graduate students to enroll, AGRADE students will be held to the graduate standard.

For more details about the AGRADE program, contact the Graduate Advisor in the Department of Communication (313-577-2959)