

School of Communication Studies

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Mission Statement

The School of Communication Studies provides students with opportunities to study message analysis and intervention resulting from human interactive processes involving content and relationship dimensions of sources, receivers, channels and contexts. Practical application of communication skill competencies across modern concentrations prepare students for global citizenship, the workplace of the 21st century, and personal growth and development. Examination of research traditions in social science, historical/critical methods and art as well as ethics and professional standards complement student preparation for graduate and professional schools and careers.

Goals

As the school offers courses and programs in communication studies, the school seeks to fulfill the following goals:

- To prepare all JMU students who take a communication studies course to use oral communication skills effectively
- To prepare students with a major or minor in communication studies for graduate and professional study as well as for careers in communication and communication-related professions
- To provide co-curricular opportunities which enhance and reinforce communication competencies for all JMU students

Career Opportunities and Marketable Skills

Students of communication studies develop skill competencies required for effective interaction and leadership in communities, workplaces, and groups. Some of these skills include:

- Speaking
- Interacting in small groups
- Using nonverbal communication skills such as use of space, voice, gaze and facial expressions
- Constructing persuasive messages and campaigns
- Using computers for word processing, statistical analysis, desktop publishing, graphic design, web page construction and browsing the Internet

- Analyzing communication at all levels including interpersonal, small group and organizational
- Persuading successfully
- Using language effectively
- Writing effectively
- Mediating and resolving conflicts
- Listening and problem solving

Such careers are part of the following fields:

- Consulting
- Entertainment
- Hospitality Industry
- Management
- Personnel
- Politics
- Sales
- Teaching

Study in communication studies also serves as valuable pre-professional preparation for graduate and professional studies in the following fields:

- Communication
- Counseling
- Law
- Management
- Ministry

Students who study communication studies acquire skills that enable them to interact with others effectively. These skills include:

- Speaking in front of groups
- Interacting effectively in small groups
- Using nonverbal communication skills such as use of space, voice, eyes and facial expressions
- Constructing persuasive messages and campaigns
- Using computers for word processing, statistical analysis, desktop publishing, graphic design, web page construction and browsing the Internet
- Analyzing communication problems at the organizational level

- Persuading successfully
- Using language effectively
- Writing effectively
- Mediating and resolving conflicts

Co-curricular Activities and Organizations

To enhance courses and programs in communication studies, the school offers a variety of co-curricular activities and organizations open to all JMU students. Co-curricular activities involve practical communication experiences for which credit is available, either through the various practicums or one of the school's applied courses. Co-curricular organizations are student clubs and honorary societies associated with the school's individual programs of study.

Below is a complete list of the school's activities and organizations.

Activities

- Institute for Conflict Analysis and Interventions: Activities concern the use of methods of alternative dispute resolution for resolving conflicts.
- Communication Evaluation Conference: An annual, student-organized program in which student research papers on communication topics are presented.
- Debate Team: Affords students interested in debating intercollegiate tournament competition and local audience experiences.
- Individual Events Team: Intercollegiate tournament competition and local audience experiences for students interested in public speaking and the oral interpretation of literature can be acquired through individual events team participation.
- Health Communication Institute: Students interested in effective communication with health communication professionals can work with the institute in a practicum or directed project.

Organizations

- Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha: A chapter of a national honorary organization for students competing in intercollegiate debate and individual events.
- International Association of Business Communicators: A chapter of a national organization for students and professionals interested in business communication and public relations.
- Lambda Pi Eta: A chapter of a national honorary organization for students interested in communication.
- Destination Imagination: Students interested in effective conflict resolution and mediation skills can participate in the activities.
- Public Relations Student Society Association: An award-winning student organization for students pursuing careers in public relations.

Admission to the Major

Admission to JMU does not guarantee admission to the School of Communication Studies. Students must submit an application for admission to the major during the semester in which they complete the SCOM course requirements. The School of Communication Studies reviews applications for admission to the major each semester. All students interested in majoring in the program must apply for a limited number of spaces. Admission to the major or minor is based on availability to the most qualified students. Applicants with an average of 2.7 in SCOM 240 and SCOM 245 and a cumulative 2.7 GPA at JMU will be automatically admitted. Other applicants will be admitted based on qualifications and availability of spaces.

Once admitted to the School of Communication Studies, a student cannot retroactively apply more than nine hours of SCOM courses, including SCOM 240 and SCOM 245, to her/his major.

Policy for Students Transferring from Another Institution

Admission to JMU does not guarantee admission to the School of Communication Studies. The School of Communication Studies reviews applications for admission to the major and minor each semester. All transfer students interested in majoring or minoring in the program must apply for a limited number of spaces. Admission to the major or minor is based on availability to the most qualified students. Applicants with an average of 2.7 in SCOM 240 and SCOM 245 and a cumulative 2.7 GPA at JMU will be automatically admitted. Other applicants will be admitted based on qualifications and availability of spaces. Once admitted to the School of Communication Studies, a transfer student may petition for SCOM credit for courses taken at previous institutions.

Minimum Grades

Any course taken to fulfill a degree requirement in communication studies must be completed with a minimum grade of "C" (2.0). A communication studies course completed with a grade of "C-" or "D," including courses to fulfill JMU's baccalaureate degree requirements, may be credited toward graduation but may not be included as course work toward a communication studies major or minor.

Limitations in Applied Courses

No more than six hours combined credit in SCOM 318, Practicum in Communication Studies; SCOM 390, Directed Projects and SCOM 495, Internship in Communication Studies may be counted toward a major in communication studies.

Degree and Major Requirements

The School of Communication Studies offers the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees with a major in communication studies. Students must take at least 39 hours of work in communication studies beyond the General Education requirement. All programs must include at least five elements:

- Fifteen hours of required courses
- Successful completion of SCOM 394, Core Assessment in Communication Studies upon completion of the core requirements.

- Fifteen hours of courses within distribution areas to meet the school depth requirement.
- Nine hours of free elective courses in communication studies at the 300 or 400 level.
- Twelve hours of course work at the 300 level or above outside of the major program of study, or a second major or minor.

Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

Degree Requirements

Required Courses	Credit Hours
General Education ¹	41
Foreign language classes (intermediate level required) ²	0-14
Philosophy course (in addition to General Education courses)	3
University electives ³	11-49
Major requirements (listed below)	<u>39</u>
	120

¹ The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

² The foreign language requirement may be satisfied by successful completion of the second semester of the intermediate level of the student's chosen language (typically 232) or by placing out of that language through the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures' placement test.

³ A minimum of 12 credit hours of university electives must be at the 300 level or above, or students must earn a second major or minor.

Major Requirements

Core Requirements	Credit Hours
SCOM 240. The Process of Human Communication	3
SCOM 242. Presentational Speaking	3
SCOM 245. Signs, Symbols and Social Interaction	3
SCOM 280. Introduction to Communication Research ¹	3
SCOM 341. Persuasion	3
SCOM 394. Core Assessment in Communication Studies	0
Depth Requirement: (15 hours required from the depth areas below)	
Communication Skills (choose one of the following)	3
SCOM 243. Oral Interpretation	
SCOM 247. Small Group Communication	
SCOM 261. Public Relations Techniques I: Written	
SCOM 332. Mediation	
SCOM/JUST 333. Negotiation	
SCOM 340. Principles and Processes of Interviewing	
SCOM 342. Argument and Advocacy	
SCOM 358. Business and Professional Communication Studies	
SCOM 361. Public Relations Techniques II: Visual	
SCOM 367. Advanced Public Relations Writing	
SCOM 449. Communication Training	
Communication Research (choose one of the following)	3
SCOM 381. Communication Criticism	
SCOM 383. Communication Research Methodologies	
SCOM 385. Qualitative Communication Research Method	
SCOM 386. Communication Survey Research	
Communication Theory and Context (choose three of the following) ²	9
SCOM 231. Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution	
SCOM 248. Intercultural Communication	
SCOM 260. Introduction to Public Relations	
SCOM 270. Introduction to Health Communication	
SCOM/ANTH 305. Language and Culture	
SCOM 313. Topics in Communication Studies (1-3 credits)	
SCOM 320. Introduction to Interpersonal Communication	
SCOM 330. Special Topics in Interpersonal Communication	
SCOM 331. Communication and Conflict	

- SCOM 345. Nonverbal Communication
- SCOM 346. Free Speech in America
- SCOM 347. Communication, Diversity and Popular Culture
- SCOM/WMST 348. Communication and Gender
- SCOM 349. Ethnographic Approaches to Communication Studies
- SCOM 350. Organizational Communication
- SCOM/WRIT 351. Visual Rhetoric
- SCOM 352. Communication and Social Movements
- SCOM 353. American Political Culture and Communication
- SCOM 354. Communication, Environment and Environmentalism
- SCOM 371. Talking through Tough Cases: Ethical Principles and Practices in Communication Studies
- SCOM 395. Study Abroad Seminar
- SCOM/WMST/WRITC 420. Feminist Rhetorics
- SCOM 425. Leadership Communication
- SCOM 431. Legal Communication
- SCOM 432. Senior Seminar in Conflict and Mediation Studies
- SCOM 440. Family Communication
- SCOM/ANTH/HIST 441. Oral History and Social Justice
- SCOM 448. Seminar in Cultural Communication
- SCOM 450. Advanced Studies in Organizational Communication
- SCOM 460. Public Relations Management
- SCOM 461. Public Relations Campaigns
- SCOM 463. International Public Relations
- SCOM 467. Global Public Relations Seminar
- SCOM 470. Health Communication Campaigns
- SCOM/SMAD/POSC 472. Media and Politics

Additional communication studies electives	<u>9</u>
	39

¹ This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

² At least one theory and context course requirement must be at the 400-level.

Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies

Degree Requirements

Required Courses	Credit Hours
General Education ¹	41
Quantitative requirement ²	3
Scientific Literacy requirement ²	3-4
University electives ³	21-46
Major requirements (listed below)	<u>39</u>
	120

¹ The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

² In addition to course work taken to fulfill General Education requirement. ³ A minimum of 12 credit hours of university electives must be at the 300 level or above, or students must earn a second major or minor.

In addition, students pursuing a B.S. in communication studies must complete MATH 220, Elementary Statistics, or a school-approved statistics course with a grade of "C" (2.0) or better. MATH 220 can count as either a General Education or a B.S. quantitative requirement, but not both.

Major Requirements

Courses	Credit Hours
Core Requirements	
SCOM 240. The Process of Human Communication	3
SCOM 242. Presentational Speaking	3
SCOM 245. Signs, Symbols and Social Interaction	3
SCOM 280. Introduction to Communication Research ¹	3
SCOM 341. Persuasion	3
SCOM 394. Core Assessment in Communication Studies	0

Depth Requirement: (15 hours required from the depth areas below)	
Communication Skills (choose one of the following)	3
SCOM 243. Oral Interpretation	
SCOM 247. Small Group Communication	
SCOM 261. Public Relations Techniques I: Written	
SCOM 332. Mediation	
SCOM/JUST 333. Negotiation	
SCOM 340. Principles and Processes of Interviewing	
SCOM 342. Argument and Advocacy	
SCOM 358. Business and Professional Communication Studies	
SCOM 361. Public Relations Techniques II: Visual	
SCOM 367. Advanced Public Relations Writing	
SCOM 449. Communication Training	
Communication Research (choose one of the following)	3
SCOM 381. Communication Criticism	
SCOM 383. Communication Research Methodologies	
SCOM 385. Qualitative Communication Research Method	
SCOM 386. Communication Survey Research	
Communication Theory and Context (choose three of the following) ²	9
SCOM 231. Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution	
SCOM 248. Intercultural Communication	
SCOM 260. Introduction to Public Relations	
SCOM 270. Introduction to Health Communication	
SCOM/ANTH 305. Language and Culture	
SCOM 313. Topics in Communication Studies (1-3 credits)	
SCOM 320. Introduction to Interpersonal Communication	
SCOM 330. Special Topics in Interpersonal Communication	
SCOM 331. Communication and Conflict	
SCOM 345. Nonverbal Communication	
SCOM 346. Free Speech in America	
SCOM 347. Communication, Diversity and Popular Culture	
SCOM/WMST 348. Communication and Gender	
SCOM 349. Ethnographic Approaches to Communication Studies	
SCOM 350. Organizational Communication	
SCOM/WRIT 351. Visual Rhetoric	
SCOM 352. Communication and Social Movements	
SCOM 353. American Political Culture and Communication	
SCOM 354. Communication, Environment and Environmentalism	
SCOM 371. Talking through Tough Cases: Ethical Principles and Practices in Communication Studies	
SCOM 395. Study Abroad Seminar	
SCOM/WMST/WRTC 420. Feminist Rhetorics	
SCOM 425. Leadership Communication	
SCOM 431. Legal Communication	
SCOM 432. Senior Seminar in Conflict and Mediation Studies	
SCOM 440. Family Communication	
SCOM/ANTH/HIST 441. Oral History and Social Justice	
SCOM 448. Seminar in Cultural Communication	
SCOM 450. Advanced Studies in Organizational Communication	
SCOM 460. Public Relations Management	
SCOM 461. Public Relations Campaigns	
SCOM 463. International Public Relations	
SCOM 467. Global Public Relations Seminar	
SCOM 470. Health Communication Campaigns	
SCOM/SMAD/POSC 472. Media and Politics	
Additional communication studies electives at the 300-400 levels	9
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¹ This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

² At least one theory and context course requirement must be at the 400-level.

Concentrations

Conflict Analysis and Intervention

This concentration prepares students to analyze conflict interaction and explore various methods of formal and informal conflict intervention in interpersonal, workplace and legal contexts. Included among the conflict intervention processes studied are negotiation and mediation. A concentration in conflict analysis and intervention can prepare students for careers in human services, human resources, government, and dispute resolution, and is also useful for students who wish to pursue the study of law or careers in management and international relations.

In addition to the 15 hours of required communication studies courses, students studying conflict analysis and intervention must complete the following 18 hours from among the depth requirements. Additionally, students are encouraged to enroll in an internship during their junior or senior year.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 231. Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution	3
SCOM 331. Communication and Conflict	3
SCOM 332. Mediation	3
SCOM 385. Qualitative Communication Research Methodologies	3
SCOM 431. Legal Communication	3
SCOM 432. Senior Seminar in Conflict and Mediation	3
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Cultural Communication

This concentration prepares students to analyze, engage and manage communication situations where cultural identity becomes relevant to the persons involved in the interaction. Students analyze communication processes and theories that help explain dynamics of intercultural interactions in personal and professional contexts. The concentration affords students cultural competencies necessary for personal growth and professional success in increasingly diverse work and social settings. Communication skills learned here prepare students for careers in education, management and training, international relations, and law.

In addition to the 15 hours of required communication studies courses, students studying communication and culture must complete the following hours from among the depth requirements. Additionally, students are encouraged to enroll in an internship during their junior or senior year.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 248. Intercultural Communication	3
SCOM 347. Communication, Diversity and Popular Culture	3
SCOM 349. Ethnographic Approaches to Communication Studies	3
SCOM 381. Communication Criticism	3
SCOM 448. Seminar in Cultural Communication	3
Choose one of the following:	3
SCOM/WMST 348. Communication and Gender	
SCOM 352. Communication and Social Movements	
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Health Communication Studies

This concentration prepares students to study communication in a variety of contexts within the health care environment. Students analyze communication interaction between health professionals and patients/clients and health promotion communication strategies.

This concentration prepares students for a variety of careers including public relations director in a health care context, hospice manager, health director for corporations and many others.

In addition to the 15 hours of required communication studies courses, students studying health communication must complete the following hours from among the depth requirements. Students are encouraged to enroll in an internship during their junior or senior years.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 260. Introduction to Public Relations	3
SCOM 261. Public Relations Techniques I Written	3
SCOM 270. Introduction to Health Communication	3
SCOM 350. Organizational Communication	3
SCOM 470. Health Communication Campaigns	3
Choose one of the following:	3
SCOM 381. Communication Criticism	
SCOM 385. Qualitative Communication Research Methods	
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Interpersonal Communication Studies

Students analyze how messages are used to manage personal relationships in social and professional contexts. By examining research, theory and processes of interpersonal communication, students learn important principles for managing impressions and building rapport, identifying needs and pursuing influence goals, reducing relational uncertainty and adapting to change. Students completing the concentration learn to communicate the value of healthy relationships, are well prepare for graduate school, and develop relational skills for excelling in careers such as peer counseling, education, family and human services, sales and management, aging services, ministry and community leadership. In addition to the 15 hours of required communication studies courses, students must complete the following 18 hours from among the depth requirements. Students are encouraged to enroll in an internship as well as become involved in a research or community service project during their junior or senior years.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 320. Interpersonal Communication	3
SCOM 340. Principles and Processes of Interviewing	3
SCOM 345. Nonverbal Communication	3
SCOM 440. Family Communication	3
Choose one of the following:	3
SCOM 231. Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution	
SCOM 247. Small Group Communication	
SCOM 248. Intercultural Communication	
SCOM 270. Health Communication	
Choose one of the following research requirements:	3
SCOM 381. Communication Criticism	
SCOM 383. Communication Research Methodologies	
SCOM 385. Qualitative Communication Research	
SCOM 386. Communication Survey Research	
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Students are encouraged to enroll in SCOM 330, Special Topics in Interpersonal Communication, in partial fulfillment of their SCOM elective requirement.

Organizational Communication Studies

Organizational communication involves the study of the ways people interact within organizations, such as business, government, education and nonprofit groups. The specific focus of this concentration is internal and external communication of organizations.

This concentration prepares students for careers in business, consulting, training and event planning and for the study of law.

In addition to the 15 hours of required communication studies courses, students studying organizational communication must complete the following 18 hours from among the depth requirements.

Additionally, students are encouraged to enroll in an internship during their junior or senior year.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 350. Organizational Communication	3
SCOM 358. Business and Professional Communication Studies	3
SCOM 425. Leadership Communication	3
SCOM 449. Communication Training	3
SCOM 450. Advanced Organizational Communication	3
Communication research course (depth requirement)	3
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Public Relations Studies

This concentration focuses on the management of communication between organizations and their internal and external publics with the goal of mutual understanding and influence. Public relations practitioners work with specific audiences relative to focused goals. Preparation for a career in public relations should include a broad educational base and a variety of communication skills.

In addition to the 15 hours of required communication studies courses, students studying public relations must complete the following 18 hours from among the depth requirements in order to receive a letter upon graduation that verifies that they have completed a program of public relations studies. The school also recommends that students enroll in an internship during their junior or senior year.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 260. Introduction to Public Relations	3
SCOM 261. Public Relations Techniques I: Written	3
SCOM 361. Public Relations Techniques II: Visual	3
SCOM 386. Communication Survey Research	3
SCOM 460. Public Relations Management	3
SCOM 461. Public Relations Campaigns	3
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Public Communication Studies

This concentration is concerned with the presentation and management of messages in public contexts. Analysis, preparation and criticism of public messages prepare students for participation in public life. Professional preparation should include a broad educational base and a variety of communication skills.

In addition to the 15 hours of required communication studies courses, students studying public communications must complete the following 15 hours from among the depth requirements. The school also recommends that students enroll in an internship during their junior or senior year.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 342. Argument and Advocacy	3
SCOM 352. Communication and Social Movements	3
SCOM 353. American Political Culture and Communication	3
SCOM 381. Communication Criticism	3
SCOM 431. Legal Communication	3
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Minor Requirements

Admission to the Minor

Admission to JMU does not guarantee admission to the School of Communication Studies. Students must submit an application for admission to the minor during the semester in which they complete the SCOM course requirements. The School of Communication Studies reviews applications for admission to the minor each semester. All students interested in minoring in communications studies, conflict analysis and intervention, or health communication must apply for a limited number of spaces. Admission to the minor is based on availability to the most qualified students. Applicants with an average of 2.7 in SCOM 240 and SCOM 245 and a cumulative 2.7 GPA at JMU will be automatically admitted. Other applicants will be admitted based on qualifications and availability of spaces.

Once admitted to the School of Communication Studies, a student cannot retroactively apply more than nine hours of SCOM courses, including SCOM 240 and SCOM 245, to her/his minor.

Communication Studies Minor

A minor in communication studies requires 18 hours of course work in communication studies beyond the General Education requirement, including SCOM 240 and SCOM 245, and a minimum of nine hours at the 300 level or above. Before a student begins a minor in communication studies, the school director and the student's adviser must approve his or her planned program of study.

Conflict Analysis and Intervention

The minor in conflict analysis and intervention prepares students to analyze conflict interaction and explore various methods of formal and informal conflict intervention in interpersonal, workplace, and legal contexts. The program is intended for students not majoring in communication studies who wish to supplement and augment their major area of study. The requirements for a conflict analysis and intervention studies minor are 18 credit hours.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 231. Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution	3
SCOM 240. Process of Human Communication	3
SCOM 245. Signs, Symbols and Social Interaction	3
SCOM 331. Communication and Conflict	3
SCOM 332. Mediation	3
Choose one from the following:	3
SCOM 247. Small Group Communication	
SCOM 248. Intercultural Communication	
SCOM 270. Introduction to Health Communication	
SCOM 345. Nonverbal Communication	
SCOM/WMST 348. Communication and Gender	
SCOM 350. Organizational Communication	
SCOM 352. Communications Social Movements	
SCOM 353. American Political Culture and Communication	
SCOM 431. Legal Communication	
	18

Cultural Communication Minor

The minor in cultural communication is designed to provide students with principles and theories of communication processes that help explain dynamics of intercultural interactions in personal and professional contexts. The program is intended for students not majoring in communication studies who wish to augment their major area of study, develop skills of cultural competence and increase their awareness of diversity.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 240. Processes of Human Communication	3
SCOM 245. Signs, Symbols, and Social Interaction	3
SCOM 248. Intercultural Communication	3
SCOM 349. Ethnographic Approaches to Communication Studies	3
SCOM 448. Seminar in Cultural Communication	3
Choose one from the following:	3
SCOM 347. Communication, Diversity and Popular Culture	
SCOM/WMST 348. Communication and Gender	
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Health Communication Minor

The minor in health communication is designed to provide students not majoring in communication studies with conceptual and applied knowledge about communication interaction and its effects on health care, health care practitioners and patients/clients. In addition, the minor should provide students with knowledge of the functions of communication within health care organizations. It is designed for students pursuing careers in health communication or other health care fields.

Courses	Credit Hours
SCOM 240. Process of Human Communication	3
SCOM 245. Signs, Symbols and Social Interaction	3
SCOM 270. Introduction to Health Communication	3
SCOM 350. Organizational Communication	3
SCOM 450. Advanced Organizational Communication	3
SCOM 470. Health Communication Campaigns	3
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Political Communication Minor

The School of Communication Studies and the Department of Political Science offer a joint minor in political communication with emphases on political campaigning and interest groups. The purpose of this minor is to provide students with conceptual, practical and applied knowledge in the fields of public and private interest groups and political campaigns. For a full description of this minor, refer to "Interdisciplinary Programs" on Page 112. This minor is exempt from the School of Communication Studies minor admissions policy.