

COMMUNICATION STUDIES AA

Total Credits: 60

Catalog Edition: 2025-2026

Program Description

The AA in communication studies provides students with an academic core basic to a liberal arts education and facilitates ease of transfer to communication programs at four-year institutions. The degree provides analytical and critical thinking skills that render recipients to be effective members of their communities, both professionally and personally. A strength of the communication degree is that it allows students to target their studies toward areas of interest within the field. Areas such as public relations, rhetoric, political communication, interpersonal communication, organizational communication, mass media, and others are popular at four-year colleges and universities.

Students are encouraged to seek assistance from Communication Studies faculty in making course selections to suit their academic and career goals. Completion of the curriculum requirements will lead to the award of the AA. **This program can be completed either on campus or online.**

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, a student will be able to:

- Research, analyze, organize, and deliver oral and written presentations appropriate for diverse audiences, purposes and occasions.
- Solve problems and work effectively in groups and teams.
- Demonstrate knowledge of communication theory, research and application.
- Use communication skills to be an effective group member or leader.
- Analyze cultural similarities and differences as they affect, and are in turn affected by the process of communication.
- Identify and articulate an ethical perspective within and across various contexts and cultures.

Program Advisors

Rockville

- Prof. Dean Schleicher, 240-567-2316,
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Takoma Park/Silver Spring

- Prof. Aayushi Hingle, 240-567-5446,
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For more information, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/communication-studies/communication-studies-aa-degree.html>

2025-2026

Program Advising Guide

An Academic Reference Tool for Students

COMMUNICATION STUDIES AA

Suggested Course Sequence

A suggested course sequence for full-time students follows. All students should review this advising guide and consult an advisor.

First Semester

ENGL 101 - Introduction to College Writing *3 semester hours* *

MATH 117 - Elements of Statistics *3 semester hours* (MATF)

COMM 108 - Foundations of Human Communication *3 semester hours*

OR

COMM 112 - Business and Professional Speech Communication *3 semester hours* (GEIR)

Arts Distribution *3 semester hours* (ARTD)

World Language or Humanities Distribution *3 semester hours* (HUMD) †

Third Semester

COMM 250 - Introduction to Communication Inquiry and Theory *3 semester hours*

Behavioral and Social Sciences Distribution *3 semester hours* (BSSD) **

Program Elective *3 semester hours* ‡

Program Elective *3 semester hours* ‡

World Language or Elective *3 semester hours* †

Total Credit Hours: 60

* ENGL 101/ENGL 101A, if needed for ENGL 102/ENGL 103, or elective.

** Behavioral and Social Science Distribution (BSSD) courses must come from different disciplines.

‡ Choose from the following program electives: COMM 121, COMM 204, COMM 220, COMM 225, COMM 230, COMM 251, COMM 252, LING 200.

For transfer students: UMD, UMGC, UMBC, and Towson will grant credit for only one: COMM 108, COMM 112, and COMM 121. Consult with an advisor regarding requirements at other institutions.

† Some transfer schools, including UMD, have a Global Engagement/World Language requirement that may be fulfilled in ways other than taking language courses at MC. Discuss with a UMD advisor and review the policy by searching 'Global Engagement' on UMD's website.

AA and AS programs require one global and cultural perspectives (GCP) General Education course.

This program can be completed either on campus or online.

Second Semester

[English Foundation](#) 3 semester hours (ENGF)

[Behavioral and Social Sciences Distribution](#) 3 semester hours (BSSD) **

[Natural Sciences Distribution with Lab](#) 4 semester hours (NSLD)

Program Elective 3 semester hours ‡

World Language or [General Education Institutional Requirement](#) (ARTD, HUMD, or HLTH) 3 semester hours (GEIR) †

Fourth Semester

[Natural Sciences Distribution](#) 3 semester hours (NSND)

World Language or Elective 3 semester hours †

Elective 5 semester hours

Program Elective 3 semester hours ‡

Transfer Opportunities

Montgomery College has partnerships with multiple four-year institutions and the tools to help you transfer. To learn more, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/transfer> or <http://artsys.usmd.edu>.

Get Involved at MC!

Employers and Transfer Institutions are looking for experience outside the classroom.

MC Student Clubs and Organizations: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/student-life/>

Related Careers

According to the Learn How To Become website, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that lifetime earnings for individuals holding a bachelor's degree totaled \$2.33 million, while those with a professional degree are expected to earn close to \$3.5 million. The majority of entry-level jobs in communication can be attained with a bachelor's degree, while those looking to hold executive positions may be expected to complete a master's degree. Individuals aspiring to research or teaching jobs should consider a Ph.D. Because the field is so vast, individuals with varied interests, working styles, and professional goals can find a position suited to their needs.

There are several career pathways one may explore. The following pathways have been adapted from Great Jobs for Communications Majors, Second Edition, by Blythe Camenson.

Path 1: Corporate Communication

Possible Job Titles: Community relations specialist, Event coordinator, Patient advocate, Press secretary, Public information officer, Public relations manager, Spokesperson.

Path 2: Consumer Communication

Possible Job Titles: Account specialist, Advertising director, Art director, Broadcast production manager, Creative director, Media director, Producer, Publicist.

Path 3: Media

Possible Job Titles: Art director, Editor, Bureau chief, Bureau reporter, Publisher, Writer, Announcer, Associate news director, Correspondent, Director, Disc jockey, Filmmaker, Music director, News announcer, Production manager, Social media director.

Path 4: Communication Disorders

Possible Job Titles: Speech-language Pathologist, Hearing therapist.

Career Services

Montgomery College offers a range of services to students and alumni to support the career planning process. To learn more, please visit <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/career>

Career Coach

A valuable online search tool that will give you the opportunity to explore hundreds of potential careers or job possibilities in Maryland and the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Get started today on your road to a new future and give it a try. For more information, please visit <https://montgomerycollege.emsicc.com>

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