



# Communication Studies

*The mission of the Communication Studies Department at Gonzaga University is to cultivate a sophisticated understanding of the process of communication as symbolic action by providing a theoretically grounded and experiential education. Students in the Communication Studies program are prepared to analyze and critique human communication in its many forms, and to create and deliver content across multiple modalities.*

## THE PROGRAM

We are committed to nurturing a diverse, inclusive community of scholars who think critically and engage responsibly with the problems and issues of our communities through exemplary, ethical communication via multiple modes of address.

Blending contemporary rhetorical education with interdisciplinary, liberal arts education, the department prepares students with rhetorical skills (*eloquentia perfecta* in the Jesuit rhetorical tradition) and a refined sense of judgment and discernment to work toward justice and the common good.

Every discipline, field, and industry needs people who can think deeply and critically about the power and consequences of communication. Communication Studies complements a variety of fields within the humanities through our engagement with questions of meaning and interpretation. Our entire curriculum helps students consider the ways empathy and co-created understandings improve the human condition. Our focus on meaning-making, symbolic action, and persuasion offers a distinctive worldview that enriches and contributes to conversations in every disciplinary field including the sciences and social sciences.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS

Throughout all of our courses, the Communication Studies faculty foster students' critical awareness of, appreciation for, and engagement with multiple and diverse perspectives. We build on an ethos of social justice to prepare graduates to address contemporary issues and challenges.

Majors and minors gain experience analyzing and proposing solutions to complex problems confronting the human condition.

Some Communication Studies courses include:

- Understanding Meaning-Making
- Understanding Power in Culture
- Understanding Identity
- Analyzing Public Texts
- Politics of Popular Culture
- Digital Culture/Networked Self
- Communication and Leadership
- Intersectional Communication

## DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Our Lambda Pi Eta Honors Society (for juniors and seniors) regularly engages in service opportunities around our community. Communication Studies faculty are committed to helping students connect their academic experiences with their co-curricular lives. Our curriculum is flexible enough to allow for various study abroad options; many of our students have enjoyed studying in **Florence, Madrid, New Zealand, Chile, Denmark, and Zambia.**

The Communication Studies Department also offers a unique course specifically designed for our majors that helps juniors and seniors connect their Communication Studies knowledge and skills with civic and professional goals during and after college. The course helps our students explore and explain how the major and its careful alignment with Gonzaga's Catholic, Jesuit, humanistic educational experience will benefit them across multiple professional contexts and pathways.

## CAREER OUTCOMES

Majors and minors gain experience analyzing and proposing solutions to complex problems confronting the human condition. Students will be immersed in problem-oriented learning environments that extend beyond the classroom and into their roles as leaders in the community, the public arena, and the world.

Communication Studies is the major of the future: it bridges multiple fields while preparing students for many different career paths, such as law, business, teaching, government, public service, and non-profit administration. In recent years, students have used the conceptual and practical skills from their Communication Studies degree to secure internships and jobs with a variety of companies and organizations across the country.

Recent examples include:

- The Boeing Company
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Nike
- Nordstrom
- Special Olympics
- Target
- Teach For America
- United Way
- The Walt Disney Company



## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Communication Studies courses prime students for a range of graduate studies in communication areas that span media research, critical and cultural studies, journalism, filmmaking, and other creative arts. Recent graduates have also been accepted for graduate study in other disciplines, including law, business, education, medicine, and other humanities, and social sciences.

Recent graduates have been accepted to a number of graduate programs, including:

- Boston University
- Gonzaga University
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of Michigan
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin
- Washington State University

*For students interested in continuing their study of communication, Gonzaga offers an online Master of Arts in Communication and Leadership. This degree includes optional concentrations in Digital Media Strategies and Strategic Communication.*

*Communications studies majors may also qualify for Gonzaga's 4+1 program, which allows students to take graduate credits their senior year.*

**Contact:** [gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu)

## FACULTY CONTACT

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
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