The Communication Studies Department wishes to revise its undergraduate major and minor. The major and minor have not been substantially revised since CMST ceased being a contract major in 2000, and the department’s full time tenured and tenure-stream faculty have changed by 100 percent since that time. We seek this revision to better reflect the composition and interests of the faculty, their pedagogical practices, and changes in the field of Communication Studies. Key to this revision is having students complete the CMST major entirely within the CMST department. Currently, students can take up to 12 credit hours of electives outside the department for credit toward the major, which is a holdover from the original contract major. But by reducing the number of hours required for the major from 36 to 30, students will be able to complete the major within the department.

**Revised CMST Major**

**Part I: Add a new course required of all majors: CMST 102 (1002): Introduction to Communication Studies**

Rationale: Currently, the only course required of all CMST majors is CMST 100 (1500): Fundamentals of Public Speaking. This course will still be required of all majors, as the teaching of public speaking is central to the mission of CMST. However, CMST 100 (1500) does not function as an introduction to the breadth of the field of Communication Studies and the specific emphases of CMST at Vanderbilt. Under this revision, CMST 102 (1002) will do that task and will introduce students to the three broad emphases of the CMST major: argumentation and oral advocacy, rhetorical and cultural criticism and theory, and the historical and critical study of public discourse and deliberation. CMST 102 (1002) is to be taken as soon as possible when students are contemplating the major (ideally second semester freshman year or first semester sophomore year), or as soon as possible after they declare the major.

New Course Description:

CMST 102 (1002): Introduction to Communication Studies  
Overview of the study and practice of human communication: theoretical foundations; argument and advocacy; public address; critical study of media and culture.  
[3] (HCA)

**Part II: Reduce the current five (5) categories of courses that constitute the CMST major into four (4) categories and re-name those categories.**
Rationale: This step in the revision eliminates the electives category. It also names and expands the first category (courses required of all majors). Thus, Category 1 will be called “Foundations” and will include CMST 100 (1500) (which it currently includes) and also CMST 102 (1002), the new introductory course. The remaining three categories are substantially the same as the ones that currently exist under the labels of Performance, Criticism and Theory, and Applications and Analysis. They will be re-labeled as Category 2—Argumentation and Advocacy (3 hours minimum), Category 3—Culture, Theory, and Critique (9 hours minimum), and Category 4—Public Discourse and Deliberation (9 hours minimum) to better reflect the emphases of the courses within them. Some current courses in the original three categories will be re-sorted to place them in a re-labeled category that better reflects their pedagogical emphasis (in total, 4 courses will change categories). With the exception of Category 1, the number of hours required in each category remains the same as under the current major.

Part III: The number of hours required for the major will reduce from thirty-six (36) to thirty (30).

Rationale: Under the current system, for a thirty-six (36) hour major, students may take up to twelve (12) hours outside of the department from the list of electives. Under the revision, the major will require that all thirty (30) hours be taken within the department. Twenty-seven (27) of those hours are designated within Categories 1–4 (the same as the current system), and the final three (3) hours may be chosen from courses in any of the categories. Also, CMST 115W (1111W), 289 (3850), 290 (3840), 294 (3890), 295 (4960), and 296 (4961) (independent and directed studies and special topics courses) may be counted toward the major in the category corresponding to the topic of the course.

Part IV: Among the nine (9) minimum hours required in Category 4, students will be required to take one of the following courses: CMST 220 (3000): Rhetoric of the American Experience, 1640–1865; CMST 221 (3001): Rhetoric of the American Experience, 1865–1945; CMST 225 (3002): Rhetoric of the American Experience, 1945–Present.

Rationale: This new requirement will ensure that every major takes one (1) of the courses in the history of public discourse that CMST offers. These are our survey courses that cover the colonial period to the present, similar to literature survey courses one would find in an English curriculum. Under the current system, a student could complete the major without taking one of these courses, but they are central to the emphasis and identity of the department and to the field of rhetorical studies. We believe that a CMST major is incomplete without exposure to the study of influential rhetorical artifacts in American history.
Revised CMST Minor

Minor will continue to require eighteen (18) hours.

Part I: The minor will require CMST 102 (1002).

Rationale: Like majors, minors should have a broad introduction to the breadth of the field of Communication Studies and the emphases of CMST at Vanderbilt. The minor will have a Category 1 that is identical to that of the major: Foundations.

Part II: Minors will no longer be required to take either CMST 210 (2800) or CMST 222 (3600).

Rationale: Either CMST 210 (2800) or CMST 222 (3600) has been required for minors to ensure they were exposed to theoretical foundations in CMST. CMST 102 (1002) will now cover that ground sufficiently for a minor, functionally replacing this requirement.

Part III. The minor will have a Category 2 that is identical to that of the major: Argumentation and Advocacy, in which they are required to take three (3) hours.

Rationale: This is a change in labeling only. Current minor requires three (3) hours from the current Performance category, so the requirement stays functionally the same.


Rationale: This revision makes the major and minor coherent by requiring that minors complete a course in the study of influential rhetorical artifacts in American history.

Part V: The remaining six (6) hours for a minor can be chosen from among any of the courses in Category 3: Culture, Theory, and Critique; or Category 4: Public Discourse and Deliberation.

Rationale: The current minor requirement has a list of specific courses that can be used for the final nine (9) hours in the minor; that list includes every course in the current categories 3 and 4 with the exception of CMST 115W (1111W), CMST 289 (3850) (Independent Study), CMST 290 (3840) (Directed Readings), and CMST 295–296 (4960–4961) (Seminars in Selected Topics), which are available only for major credit. We make this change to simplify the minor and to make the major and minor more coherent through use of the same categories. Ultimately, this requirement is functionally the same as the current one except that it is six (6) rather than nine (9) hours, because we will now require
that three (3) of the remaining nine (9) hours must be taken from among CMST 220 (3000), CMST 221 (3001), or CMST 225 (3002), as per requirement IV above.
Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies offers a major in communication studies. The major includes courses in such areas as rhetorical criticism, argumentation and debate, analysis of film and mass media, and the history and criticism of public address.

The Department of Communication Studies offers a major and a minor that include courses in the following areas: historical and theoretical foundations of communication study, argumentation and oral advocacy, the historical and critical study of public discourse and deliberation, and the analysis of mass media and culture.

The Vanderbilt University Varsity Debate Team competes at national and regional levels. A full program of intercollegiate debate is available for students who choose to participate in forensics.

Program of Concentration in Communication Studies

Communication studies explores purposive human communication. The Department of Communication Studies is particularly devoted to an understanding of public discourse in the broadest sense, with an emphasis on the role of persuasion in civil society. To that end, the subjects of study range from political discourse to commercial advertisement, from the history of rhetoric to the impact of mass media, from criticism of American public oratory to issues of freedom of speech. The department offers courses involving practice, criticism, and theoretical analysis. Education in these areas has traditionally produced citizen advocates who enter public life in business, law, journalism, and communication.

A major in communication studies requires 36 credit hours of course work. No more than 9 hours of 100-level courses may count toward the major. While students are permitted to use communication-related courses in other departments as part of the major, at least 24 of the 36 hours must be in communication studies.

The requirements and options for the major are as follows:

1. Communication Studies 100 (required)
2. At least one of the following courses in performance: 200, 201, 204.
3. At least three of the following courses in criticism and theory: 210, 220, 221, 222, 225, 241.
4. At least three of the following courses in applications and analysis: 115F, 224, 226, 229, 235, 243, 244, 254, 254W, 289, 290, 294, 295, 296.

1. Two courses (6 credit hours) in Foundations: 100 (1500) and 102 (1002).
2. One course (3 credit hours) in Argumentation and Advocacy: 200 (2100), 201 (2110), 204 (2120).
3. Three courses (9 credit hours) in Public Discourse and Deliberation: 220 (3000), 221 (3001), 222 (3600), 225 (3002), 226 (3110), 229 (3120), 244 (3700); one of which must be 220 (3000), 221 (3001), or 225 (3002).

4. Three courses (9 credit hours) in Culture, Theory, and Critique: 210 (2800), 224 (3100), 235 (3720), 241 (2950), 243 (3710), 254 (3620), 254W (3620W).

5. One elective course (3 credit hours), selected from the courses listed in requirements 2 through 4, which has not been counted toward those requirements.

or from the following:
- Cinema and Media Arts: 201, Film and Media Theory; 211, History of World Cinema.
- Communication of Science and Technology: 201, Science Communication Tools and Techniques.
- English: 120W, Intermediate Composition; 200, Intermediate Nonfiction Writing; 201, Advanced Nonfiction Writing.
- Managerial Studies: 190, Principles of Marketing; 191, Advanced Marketing.
- Philosophy: 102, General Logic; 202, Formal Logic and Its Applications; 222, American Philosophy; 246, Philosophy of Language.
- Political Science: 245, The American Presidency.
- Sociology: 248, Popular Culture Dynamics; 249, American Social Movements.
- Women’s and Gender Studies: 249, Women and Humor in the Age of Television; 250, Contemporary Women’s Movements; 250W, Contemporary Women’s Movements.

115F (1111), 289 (3850), 290 (3840), 294 (3890), 295 (4960), and 296 (4961) may be counted toward the major in the category corresponding to the topic of the course, with the permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

Minor in Communication Studies: A minor in communication studies requires completion of 18 credit hours from the following requirements and options:

1. Two courses (6 credit hours) in Foundations: 100 (1500) and 102 (1002) either 210 or 222.
2. One course (3 credit hours) in Argumentation and Advocacy: 200, 201, 204. 200 (2100), 201 (2110), 204 (2120).
3. Three courses (9 credit hours) from requirements 3 and 4 in the major; one of which must be 220 (3000), 221 (3001), or 225 (3002).

115F (1111), 289 (3850), 290 (3840), 295 (4960), and 296 (4961) may not be counted toward the minor.
Part III: New Catalogue Copy

Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies offers a major and a minor that include courses in the following areas: historical and theoretical foundations of communication study, argumentation and oral advocacy, the historical and critical study of public discourse and deliberation, and the analysis of mass media and culture.

The Vanderbilt University Varsity Debate Team competes at national and regional levels. A full program of intercollegiate varsity debate is available for students who choose to participate in forensics.

Program of Concentration in Communication Studies

Communication studies explores purposive human communication. The Department of Communication Studies is particularly devoted to an understanding of public discourse in the broadest sense, with an emphasis on the role of persuasion in civil society. To that end, the subjects of study range from political discourse to commercial advertisement, from the history of rhetoric to the impact of mass media, from criticism of American public oratory to issues of freedom of speech. The department offers courses involving practice, criticism, and theoretical analysis. Education in these areas has traditionally produced citizen advocates who enter public life in business, law, journalism, and communication.

A major in communication studies requires 30 credit hours of course work.

The requirements and options for the major are as follows:
1. Two courses (6 credit hours) in Foundations: 100 (1500) and 102 (1002).
2. One course (3 credit hours) in Argumentation and Advocacy: 200 (2100), 201 (2110), 204 (2120).
3. Three courses (9 credit hours) in Public Discourse and Deliberation: 220 (3000), 221 (3001), 222 (3600), 225 (3002), 226 (3110), 229 (3120), 244 (3700); one of which must be 220 (3000), 221 (3001), or 225 (3002).
4. Three courses (9 credit hours) in Culture, Theory, and Critique: 210 (2800), 224 (3100), 235 (3720), 241 (2950), 243 (3710), 254 (3620), 254W (3620W).
5. One elective course (3 credit hours), selected from the courses listed in requirements 2 through 4, which has not been counted toward those requirements.

115F (1111), 289 (3850), 290 (3840), 294 (3890), 295 (4960), and 296 (4961) may be counted toward the major in the category corresponding to the topic of the course, with the permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

Minor in Communication Studies: A minor in communication studies requires completion of 18 credit hours from the following requirements and options:

1. Two courses (6 credit hours) in Foundations: 100 (1500) and 102 (1002).
2. One course (3 credit hours) in Argumentation and Advocacy: 200 (2100), 201 (2110), 204 (2120).

3. Three courses (9 credit hours) from requirements 3 and 4 in the major; one of which must be 220 (3000), 221 (3001), or 225 (3002).

115F (1111), 289 (3850), 290 (3840), 294 (3890), 295 (4960), and 296 (4961) may not be counted toward the minor.
Dear Jonathan,

Attached you will find applications for programmatic changes approved by the Committee for Education Programs, on September 22, 2014, for the following Programs:

1) Changes to the CMST Major and Minor
2) Changes to Classical Languages Major
3) Changes to Classics Honors Program and changes to Classical Languages Honors Program

Best Regards,

Brian Bachmann

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