

LIFE SCIENCES COMMUNICATION, DOCTORAL MINOR

The Life Sciences Communication Doctoral Minor is being renamed Science Communication Doctoral Minor. Students will be able to earn a Life Sciences Communication Doctoral Minor through the end of Summer 2027. Beginning in Fall 2027, the program awarded will be the Doctoral Minor in Science Communication.

The Department of Life Sciences Communication is a world leader in science communication research, education, and practice. The doctoral minor in Life Sciences Communication allows students enrolled in doctoral programs from the biological and physical sciences, as well as interested students from other social science and humanities departments, to supplement their existing doctoral coursework with a transcriptable minor in Life Sciences Communication.

A doctoral minor in Life Sciences Communication is particularly valuable for graduate students in the natural and physical sciences who are interested in the ethical, legal, and social implications of emerging technologies, or who want to build an intellectual foundation for a future career in policy or various mission agencies (e.g., AAAS policy fellowships) dealing with public understanding and communication of science. Many students from these fields routinely take classes in our department, and a doctoral minor allows them to get formal recognition for their doctoral-level work in this area.

More information may be found on the department website (<https://lsc.wisc.edu/>).

ADMISSIONS

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The doctoral minor in Life Sciences Communication is a course-based minor for students enrolled in other PhD programs who would like to supplement their existing PhD coursework with a minor in science communication.

Students are strongly encouraged to contact the academic advising manager or Director of Graduate Studies (see Contact Information box on this page for emails) to discuss course planning.

Students are not allowed to earn both the doctoral minor in life sciences communication and science communication graduate/professional certificate.

All Graduate School students must utilize the Graduate Student Portal in MyUW to add, change, or discontinue any doctoral minor. To apply to this minor, log in to MyUW, click on Graduate Student Portal, and then click on Add/Change Programs (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/change-program/>). Select the information for the doctoral minor for which you are applying.

REQUIREMENTS

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A minimum cumulative GPA of a 3.5 in doctoral minor coursework is required.

REQUIRED COURSES

Courses must be numbered 300 or above with the "Grad 50%" attribute. Contact the academic advising manager to discuss course selection for the minor.

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
Students must complete the following courses.		
LSC 700	Colloquium in Life Sciences Communication	1
LSC 720	Introduction to Communication Theory and Research	3
or LSC 625	Risk Communication	
or LSC/ENVIR ST/ JOURN 823	Science and Environment Communication	
or LSC 902	Public Opinion of Life Science Issues	
Approved Electives		
Students must choose from the following courses.		
LSC 340	Misinformation, Fake News, and Correcting False Beliefs about Science	6
LSC 350	Visualizing Science and Technology	
LSC 430	Communicating Science with Narrative	
LSC 432	Social Media for the Sciences	
LSC 435	Brand Strategy for the Sciences	
LSC 440	Digital Media and Science Communication	
LSC 450	Documentary Photography for the Sciences	
LSC 460	Social Media Analytics	
LSC 480	Culturally Responsive Science Communication	
LSC 532	Web Design for the Sciences	
LSC 560	Scientific Writing	
LSC 561	Writing Science for the Public	
LSC/COM ARTS/ JOURN 617	Health Communication in the Information Age	
LSC 625	Risk Communication	
LSC 660	Data Analysis in Communications Research	
LSC/JOURN 811	Conceptualization and Design of Mass Communication Research	
LSC/ENVIR ST/ JOURN 823	Science and Environment Communication	
LSC 835	Strategic Science Communication	
LSC 850	Visual Science Communication	

LSC 875	Special Topics
LSC 902	Public Opinion of Life Science Issues
LSC 912	Public Understanding of Politicized Science
Total Credits	10