

COMMUNICATION ARTS, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	• Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
	• Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

L&S Breadth	• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
	• 12 credits of Social Science; and
	• 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	• 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	• 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Communication Arts offers two options within the major:

- Communication Science and Rhetorical Studies
- Radio–Television–Film

Students declare one of the two options and complete a minimum of 10 courses and at least 30 credits in the major. Please note that COM ARTS courses numbered below 200 as well as COM ARTS 605, COM ARTS 614, and COM ARTS 615 do not count in the major.

STUDENTS MUST SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

View as listView as grid

- **COMMUNICATION ARTS: COMMUNICATION SCIENCE AND RHETORICAL STUDIES** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/COMMUNICATION-ARTS/COMMUNICATION-ARTS-BA/COMMUNICATION-ARTS-COMMUNICATION-SCIENCE-RHETORICAL-STUDIES-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/communication-arts/communication-arts-ba/communication-arts-communication-science-rhetorical-studies-ba/))
- **COMMUNICATION ARTS: RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM** ([HTTPS://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/COMMUNICATION-ARTS/COMMUNICATION-ARTS-BA/COMMUNICATION-ARTS-RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM-BA/](https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/communication-arts/communication-arts-ba/communication-arts-radio-television-film-ba/))

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- Minimum 2.000 GPA in all COM ARTS and major courses
- Minimum 2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the COM ARTS major, in residence. (Upper-level in the COM ARTS major includes courses at the Intermediate or Advanced level).
- 15 credits of COM ARTS major courses (200-699) taken on the UW-Madison campus.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION ARTS

Students may apply to pursue Honors in the Communication Arts major in consultation with a Communication Arts undergraduate advisor. To be accepted students must have:

- Completed the fundamentals course and the two core courses for their declared option and
- Earned a minimum 3.500 GPA in all COM ARTS courses

HONORS IN THE COMMUNICATION ARTS MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Communication Arts, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum 3.500 GPA for all COM ARTS major courses
- Complete the requirements for the declared major option, to include:
 - All theory, history, criticism courses taken to meet the regular major requirements within the declared option must be numbered 400 or higher.
 - One additional theory, history, criticism course numbered 400 or higher.
 - Three theory, history and criticism courses must be completed on campus.
 - A two-semester senior honors thesis in COM ARTS 681 and COM ARTS 682, for a total of 6 credits.¹

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Submission and approval of a Senior Honors Thesis Proposal is required prior to the term in which students enroll for COM ARTS 681 Senior Honors Thesis. See the Communication Arts undergraduate advisor for current process. Approval of the completed thesis by the thesis advisor and a second Communication Arts faculty member is required.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.