

E.P.08.28
(Rev. 3/11/08)

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

Title of the proposed minor: An Undergraduate Minor in Communication, in the Department of Speech Communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Sponsoring unit: Department of Speech Communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Date: October 9, 2007

Brief description of the program of study: Many students from other disciplines take courses in Speech Communication as electives and have asked about having a minor to formalize their studies in that unit. In the most recent DMI data, 76% of undergraduate IUs in Speech Communication are from students majoring in other units/departments. Because the study of communication intersects many other social scientific and humanistic disciplines, the addition of a minor would be a significant benefit to those students. The minor is designed to provide an overview of the field of Speech Communication and to complement coursework in a variety of disciplines (e.g., Journalism, Advertising, Business, Community Health, Computer Science, Media Studies, Psychology, Sociology, and Political Science). We have proposed six areas of concentration within the undergraduate curriculum: To ensure a comprehensive course of study, students will be required to take 2 general courses and to take additional courses from at least two of the six areas of specialization (i.e., Communication and Culture, Communication and Health, Communication and Organizations, Interpersonal Communication, Mediated Communication and Technology, and Rhetoric and Public Communication).

Budgetary and Staff Implications: Many students outside the major take our classes – creation of the minor will formalize that, but we expect no need for additional resources. We will not offer additional classes or need additional staff.

a. Additional staff and dollars needed
none

b. Internal reallocations (e.g. change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)
none

c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments
none

d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.
none

Requirements: This proposal is to develop a new minor in Communication. This minor assumes the approval of the proposed revision for the major in Speech Communication (and the pending name change of the department to the Department of Communication).

The minor will consist of a minimum of 19 hours, including:

1. 3 hours from either (a) SPCM 101: Intro to Public Speaking or (b) SPCM 111/112: Oral and Written Communication.
2. 4 hours from SPCM 102: Introduction to Communication Theory and Research
3. From the remaining coursework, all hours must be numbered at the 200-level or above, and at least six hours must be at the 300-level or 400-level. To ensure breadth, the coursework must represent at least two areas of specialization within the Department of Speech Communication. Independent studies (SPCM 199, SPCM 390, SPCM 491, and SPCM 493) may not count toward the minor. A list of courses for these areas of specialization is provided in the Appendix.

Prerequisites for the minor: None

Expected enrollment in the minor: 50 students

Admission to the minor: The Speech Communication undergraduate academic advisors will monitor the admission process for the minor. A form will be available from the LAS Student Affairs Office and will be reviewed for admission by the undergraduate advisors.

Minor advisor: The Speech Communication undergraduate academic advisor will be the advisors for the minor.

Certification of successful completion: The Speech Communication undergraduate academic advisors will certify completion for the minor by verifying appropriate courses taken and reporting completions to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences each semester.

Statement for the catalog:

Minor in Speech Communication

E-mail: spcomm@uiuc.edu

Web address for department: <http://www.spcomm.uiuc.edu/>

The undergraduate minor in Speech Communication is designed for students who wish to obtain a deeper understanding of communication processes and how they influence social, cultural, and political processes. It is appropriate for students majoring in a variety of disciplines in the social sciences or humanities and for students in professionally-oriented programs.

Hours	Requirements
3	SPCM 101 or SPCM 111/112
4	SPCM 102
6	At least one course from each of two areas of specialization within the Department of Speech Communication (Communication and Culture, Communication and Health, Communication and Organizations, Interpersonal Communication, Mediated Communication and Technology, and Rhetoric and Public Communication). These courses must be numbered at the 200-level or above. A list of courses is available from the Speech Communication undergraduate advisor.
6	Additional hours in Speech Communication chosen in consultation with, and with the approval of, a departmental adviser. These courses must be numbered at the 200-level or above.
19	Total

At least 6 hours must be at the 300-level or 400-level.

CLEARANCES:

Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit:

Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit:

Council of Teacher Education:
(for minors that affect teacher certification)

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee: