COMMUNICATION STUDIES AA
Total Credits: 60
Catalog Edition: 2024-2025

Program Description
The AA in communication studies provides students with an academic core basic to a liberal arts education and facilitates ease of transfer to communication programs at four-year institutions. The degree provides analytical and critical thinking skills that render recipients to be effective members of their communities, both professionally and personally. A strength of the communication degree is that it allows students to target their studies toward areas of interest within the field. Areas such as public relations, rhetoric, political communication, interpersonal communication, organizational communication, mass media, and others are popular at four-year colleges and universities.

Students are encouraged to seek assistance from Communication Studies faculty in making course selections to suit their academic and career goals. Completion of the curriculum requirements will lead to the award of the AA. This program can be completed either on campus or online.

Program Outcomes
Upon completion of this program, a student will be able to:

• Research, analyze, organize, and deliver oral and written presentations appropriate for diverse audiences, purposes and occasions.
• Solve problems and work effectively in groups and teams.
• Demonstrate an understanding of communication theory, research and application.
• Use communication skills to be an effective group member or leader.
• Analyze cultural similarities and differences as they affect, and are in turn affected by the process of communication.
• Identify and articulate an ethical perspective within and across various contexts and cultures.

Program Advisors
Germantown
• Dr. Aaron Johnson, 240-567-7748, aaron.johnson@montgomerycollege.edu

Rockville
• Prof. Rose Piskapas, 240-567-7503, rose.piskapas@montgomerycollege.edu

Takoma Park/Silver Spring
• Dr. Alex Huebner, 240-567-5918, Alexander.Huebner@montgomerycollege.edu

For more information, please visit https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/communication-studies/communication-studies-aa-degree.html

To view the Advising Worksheet, please visit https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/_documents/counseling-and-advising/advising-worksheets/current-catalog/609.pdf

Program Advising Guide
An Academic Reference Tool for Students
2024-2025
Suggested Course Sequence
A suggested course sequence for full-time students follows. All students should review this advising guide and consult an advisor.

**First Semester**
- ENGL 101 - Introduction to College Writing 3 semester hours *
- MATH 117 - Elements of Statistics 3 semester hours (MATF)
- COMM 108 - Foundations of Human Communication 3 semester hours
  
  OR
  
  COMM 112 - Business and Professional Speech Communication 3 semester hours (GEIR)

- Arts Distribution 3 semester hours (ARTD)

- World Language Elective or Humanities Distribution 3 semester hours (HUMD) †

**Second Semester**
- English Foundation 3 semester hours (ENGF)
- Behavioral and Social Sciences Distribution 3 semester hours (BSSD) **
- Natural Sciences Distribution with Lab 4 semester hours (NSLD)
- Program Elective 3 semester hours ‡
- World Language or General Education Institutional Requirement (ARTD, HUMD, or HLTH) 3 semester hours (GEIR) †

**Third Semester**
- COMM 250 - Introduction to Communication Inquiry and Theory 3 semester hours

- Behavioral and Social Sciences Distribution 3 semester hours (BSSD) **

- Program Elective 3 semester hours ‡

- Program Elective 3 semester hours ‡

- World Language or Elective 3 semester hours †

**Fourth Semester**
- Natural Sciences Distribution 3 semester hours (NSND)
- World Language or Elective 3 semester hours †
- Elective 5 semester hours
- Program Elective 3 semester hours

**Total Credit Hours: 60**
* ENGL 101/ENGL 101A, if needed for ENGL 102/ENGL 103, or elective.

** Behavioral and Social Science Distribution (BSSD) courses must come from different disciplines.

‡ Choice of four from the following program electives: COMM 121, COMM 204, COMM 220, COMM 225, COMM 230, COMM 251, COMM 252, LING 200. Two courses must be at the 200 level.

† World Language or Elective: Some transfer schools, including UMCP, have a Global Engagement/World Language requirement that may be fulfilled in ways other than taking language courses at MC. Review the policy and discuss with UMCP Communication advisor: www.arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/globalengagement.

AA and AS programs require one global and cultural perspectives (GCP) General Education course.

This program can be completed either on campus or online.
Transfer Opportunities
Montgomery College has partnerships with multiple four-year institutions and the tools to help you transfer. To learn more, please visit [https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/transfer](https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/transfer) or [http://artsys.usmd.edu](http://artsys.usmd.edu).

Get Involved at MC!
Employers and Transfer Institutions are looking for experience outside the classroom.

MC Student Clubs and Organizations: [https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/student-life/](https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/student-life/)

Related Careers
According to the Learn How To Become website, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that lifetime earnings for individuals holding a bachelor’s degree totaled $2.33 million, while those with a professional degree are expected to earn close to $3.5 million. The majority of entry-level jobs in communication can be attained with a bachelor’s degree, while those looking to hold executive positions may be expected to complete a master’s degree. Individuals aspiring to research or teaching jobs should consider a Ph.D. Because the field is so vast, individuals with varied interests, working styles, and professional goals can find a position suited to their needs.

There are several career pathways one may explore. The following pathways have been adapted from Great Jobs for Communications Majors, Second Edition, by Blythe Camenson.

**Path 1: Corporate Communication**
Possible Job Titles: Community relations specialist, Event coordinator, Patient advocate, Press secretary, Public information officer, Public relations manager, Spokesperson.

**Path 2: Consumer Communication**
Possible Job Titles: Account specialist, Advertising director, Art director, Broadcast production manager, Creative director, Media director, Producer, Publicist.

**Path 3: Media**
Possible Job Titles: Art director, Editor, Bureau chief, Bureau reporter, Publisher, Writer, Announcer, Associate news director, Correspondent, Director, Disc jockey, Filmmaker, Music director, News announcer, Production manager, Social media director.

**Path 4: Communication Disorders**
Possible Job Titles: Speech-language Pathologist, Hearing therapist.

Career Services
Montgomery College offers a range of services to students and alumni to support the career planning process. To learn more, please visit [https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/career](https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/career).

Career Coach
A valuable online search tool that will give you the opportunity to explore hundreds of potential careers or job possibilities in Maryland and the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Get started today on your road to a new future and give it a try. For more information, please visit [https://montgomerycollege.emsicc.com](https://montgomerycollege.emsicc.com)

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