

Global Communication Mission Statement

Excellent communication skills are highly valued by employers. In this age of multinational corporations, businesses are looking for sales managers, executives, marketing specialists, personnel managers, accountants, finance specialists, and more who speak a second language. In addition, positions with non-profit organizations and various government agencies all encourage strong communication skills, second language abilities and a broad understanding of the global village in which we now live. The global communication major prepares students for a wide variety of positions and careers.

As technological advances bring the world's peoples closer together, the ability to communicate effectively across cultures and languages is becoming increasingly valuable. The Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies prepares students for this future by offering a major program in Global Communication. Students in this program acquire knowledge in language, face-to-face communication, culture, ethics, and world affairs.

In language courses, second language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing are developed through contextualized and theme-based units addressing current issues. Language skills in applied areas, such as business, translation, and healthcare and contemporary life are emphasized. In communication courses students focus on the understanding and skills necessary to accomplish relational and organizational goals, manage conflict, build interpersonal relationships, influence others, and interact effectively in diverse social environments. In culture courses, students learn about both general and specific cross-cultural differences as well as how to appropriately and effectively work with others who are culturally diverse. In ethics courses students study judgments of what constitutes ethical conduct in intercultural contexts and the reasoning behind these assessments. In world affairs courses students gain a broad perspective on large scale issues that influence a variety of international relations and specific regions of the world.

The major also involves an individual study practicum that requires the student to engage with a community cultural distinct from his or her own cultural community. Recent students have done their practicum in places such as, China, Germany, Peru, Jordan, France, Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, and Spain.

By participating in a carefully selected program of language, communication, philosophy and other interdisciplinary courses, students come to understand linguistic and social influences on culture, develop and learn about a variety of intercultural communication competencies, study the nature and importance of business ethics, and learn principles of communication skills appropriate for organizational and interpersonal settings. In addition, students focus on a particular culture of interest by developing a specific foreign language competency.

Enrollment in the major is limited and requires an application. If this program interests you, visit the Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies Department in Old Main 204 for more information.