Communication Studies majors study human communication using humanistic and social scientific methods, while having the opportunity to specialize in rhetorical studies, critical media studies, interpersonal communication or combine coursework from each area. Specific fields of study include speech writing, rhetorical criticism, ethics, interpersonal, small group, organizational, intercultural, and electronic (broadcasting, cable, satellite, internet) forms of communication.

With a communication studies degree, many students go on to careers that span media, marketing, public relations, and more. Communication studies also prepares you well for graduate school in a variety of fields.

The College of Liberal Arts Advantage: More Than a Major

When you study Communications Studies at the University of Minnesota, you gain the added advantage of a College of Liberal Arts education. At CLA, the liberal arts mean you get more than just a degree in one major or another; it means you will be exposed to different areas of study, to different ways of thinking and learning. In fact, the liberal arts teach you how to learn—how to ask the right questions, how to problem solve, and how to innovate. The liberal arts highlight the complexities of our world, because here at CLA you will study not just, say, politics or art but also where politics and art intersect, where science and ethics intersect, where economics and the environment intersect.
Meet Our Students

A liberal arts perspective on business: senior Jorge Espinoza gained critical thinking skills through his communication courses in CLA and took advantage of the guided internship course ID 3201 to put his critical career search strategies into practice.

Read more about Jorge's story, and learn more about our undergraduate program.

Transfer student and senior Christian Trunley combined his love of food and people in a hands-on internship with Open Arms of Minnesota, helping prepare nutritious meals for people with life-threatening illnesses in the Twin Cities.

Read more about Christian's story.

Student Experiences

Internships in Communication Studies: Gain Valuable Experience in the
Twin Cities and Beyond

Did you know? Our department has its very own internship reflection course! Students taking an internship can use this course to reflect on ways that their work experience is preparing them for successful careers - and receive credit for the work.

Senior Tigana Văn Lê, is shattering expectations in his campus and real-life experiences. Through a 10-week internship in Washington DC, Lê worked on education policy and discovered the importance of using policy to help demographic specific communities. Through his involvement in the Asian Pacific American Resource Center (APARC), he has found his passion and how he wants to inspire others.

Read more about Tigana's story, and learn more about study abroad for Communication Studies majors.

Student Organizations: Find Friends and Grow as a Leader

- Communication Studies Association
- Lamda Pi Eta
- Minnesota Debate Team
- University Forensic Speaking

Undergraduate Research: Turn Curiosity into New Knowledge

The Department of Communication Studies makes a strong commitment to undergraduate research. Courses like COMM 3990 Research Practicum or COMM 3970 Directed Study are avenues for course-credit research.
Learning Abroad: Prepare to Lead in a Global Economy

Learn more about study abroad options for CLA majors.

Meet Our Faculty

Assistant Professor Michael Lechuga’s research focuses on the role that technology plays in border security mechanisms and the ways migrants are depicted as “alien” in popular culture. He just recently joined the department.

Read more about Michael's story.

Meet Our Alumni
Recent graduate Gemma Kumaraea (BA ‘17) appreciates the versatility of her degree. From her coursework and internships, she built a path to her current position in fundraising and membership for a Twin Cities nonprofit.

Read more about Gemma's story.

CLA Graduates: Successful Careers and Purposeful Lives

CLA graduates succeed in many different careers — law, health care, medicine, business, government, teaching, advertising, arts and entertainment, international relations, and more — precisely because they understand how to navigate a complex and interconnected world. As our alumni explain below, “Being a good employee means being curious, and continuing to evolve, and learn, and educate yourself, and I can think of no stronger foundation for doing that than a liberal arts education.

“An education in the liberal arts is a springboard to lifelong career success”
-- Dean John Coleman

You might also explore
Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature
English
Journalism and Mass Communication
Marketing

Associated Careers

Telecommunications Managers, Communications Specialists, Public Affairs Specialists, Technical Writers and Editors, Writers and Editors

Admission Information

FRESHMAN: Admission information

TRANSFER STUDENTS: Requirements for the College of Liberal Arts

Beyond admission, if you have questions about transferring, the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has transfer advisors to help. Please feel free to contact them about any of the topics below!

- Course plans before transferring
- Estimated time to graduation
- Career preparation in CLA
- Getting ready for orientation, if admitted
- Connecting with major/minor departments