

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATIONS

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The BA in Communications program aims to equip students with an adaptable approach to the rapidly evolving nature of media-related careers. The breadth and flexibility of the major enables a strategic integration of courses in which students learn professional practices, analytical techniques and expertise on the media's wider social, cultural and economic relationships.

Communications students obtain positions in diverse professional environments, including streaming services, social media, sports media, music companies, public relations and marketing firms, advertising agencies and media research organizations. The program also prepares students to enter graduate training in business, law, journalism, public relations and education.

The BA in Communications requires a minimum of 120 credits for degree completion.

Code	Title	Credits
University Curriculum (http://catalog.qu.edu/academics/university-curriculum/)¹		46
Required School of Communications core courses²		
COM 120	Media Industries and Trends	3
COM 130	Visual Design	3
COM 140	Storytelling	3
School of Communications Requirements³		
Global Issues and Cultures: select two courses		6
Seminars for Success		
COM 101	Communications First-Year Seminar	1
COM 201	Media Career Development	1
Required Media Studies Courses		
MSS 131	Media Innovators	3
MSS 332	Media Research Methods	3
MSS 340	Communications Law and Policy	3
MSS 495	Capstone: Media Forecasting and Strategy	3
COM 490	Communications Career Internship	3
Media Studies Electives		
Select four of the following, one of which must be a 400-level MSS elective:		12
MSS 220	Media, History and Memory ⁴	
MSS 240	Is AI Taking Over? Disruption, Disinformation, and the Future Of Communication	
MSS/WGS 311	Diversity in the Media (WGS 311)	
MSS 320	Communication Technologies: Evolution and Impact	
MSS/WGS 345	Media Users and Audiences (WGS 345)	

MSS 346	Global Communication	
MSS 349	Political Communication (PO 349)	
MSS 400	Special Topics	
MSS/SPS 420	Sports, Media and Society (SPS 420)	
MSS 441	Celebrity Culture	
MSS 442	Media Critics and Influencers	
MSS 443	Crime, Media and Culture	
MSS 444	Popular Music	
MSS 445	TV and Society: From Sitcoms to Streaming	
MSS 450	Media Studies Seminar	
And/or any ADPR, FTM, GID, JRN, or SPCM courses		
Other non-School of Communications courses with chair's approval		
Free Electives		
Select four courses from across the university		12
Minor Courses		18
Total Credits		120

¹ Students majoring in Communications (Media Studies) will complete their Integrative Capstone Requirement within the major with MSS 495. In place of those credits, the student will select an additional unrestricted course in the University Curriculum.

² Core must be completed by end of sophomore year.

³ A minimum of 45 credits of a student's total number of credits (includes major, minor, UC, electives, etc.) must be taken at the 200 level or higher.

⁴ MSS 220 can also be taken as a UC Humanities under *Disciplinary Inquiry* or under Part 1 or 2 of *UC Personal Inquiry*.

Minor Requirement

All students majoring in communications are required to take a minor (typically 18 credits) that will complement their career and/or personal interests. This minor can be from any program either within or outside the School of Communications. However, a student majoring in communications/media studies may not minor in media studies.

Shown below is one of many possible paths through the curriculum. Each student's individual academic plan is crafted in consultation with their academic adviser. Course availability, potential transfer credits, student goals and course prerequisite completion may influence the course plan for each student.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall Semester		
EN 101	Introduction to Academic Reading and Writing	3
FYS 101	First-Year Seminar	3
COM 120	Media Industries and Trends	3
COM 130	Visual Design	3
University Curriculum Course		3
COM 101	Communications First-Year Seminar	1
Credits		16

Spring Semester		
EN 102	Academic Writing and Research	3
COM 140	Storytelling	3
MA 170	Probability and Data Analysis	3
Minor Course #1		3
University Curriculum Course		3
Credits		15
Second Year		
Fall Semester		
MSS 131	Media Innovators	3
COM 201	Media Career Development	1
University Curriculum Course		3
University Curriculum Course		3
MSS Elective		3
Minor Course #2		3
Credits		16
Spring Semester		
University Curriculum Course		3
University Curriculum Course		3
MSS Elective		3
Minor Course #3		3
University Curriculum Lab Science		4
Credits		16
Third Year		
Fall Semester		
MSS 332	Media Research Methods	3
Minor Course #4		3
Global Issues and Cultures Course		3
University Curriculum Course		3
University Curriculum Course		3
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
MSS 340	Communications Law and Policy	3
MSS Elective		3
Minor Course #5		3
Global Issues and Cultures Course		3
University Curriculum Course		3
Credits		15
Fourth Year		
Fall Semester		
MSS 400 Level Elective		3
COM 490	Communications Career Internship	3
Minor Course #6		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
MSS 495	Capstone: Media Forecasting and Strategy	3
University Curriculum Course		3
Free Elective		3

Free Elective	3
Credits	12
Total Credits	120

Student Learning Outcomes

The program's required courses emphasize the skills and expertise sought by both demanding employers and competitive graduate programs, fostering students' abilities to do the following:

1. **Apply** knowledge gained from their coursework and creative problem-solving skills to real-world situations facing media organizations, producers and users, showing a capacity for innovation and imaginative thinking
2. **Plan, conduct, analyze** and **report** original media research findings based on a survey, focus group, social media tracking or content analysis
3. **Interpret** secondary media research for media professionals and media consumers/users
4. **Critically analyze** current media issues, trends and events and convey in written and oral reports their observations on how media theory relates to industry practice and audience/user interpretation
5. **Demonstrate** a professional level of written and oral communication skills and the ability to effectively communicate ideas to various audiences through a variety of traditional and new media message delivery formats
6. **Articulate** the importance of media literacy and how understanding the media's influence benefits media consumers and professionals in a democracy like the U.S. and in an information-based global economy
7. **Recognize** the diversity of groups and perspectives in a global society in relation to the media's influence on the construction of culture and identity

Admission Requirements: School of Communications

The requirements for admission into the undergraduate School of Communications programs are the same as those for admission to Quinnipiac University.

Admission to the university is competitive, and applicants are expected to present a strong college prep program in high school. Prospective first-year students are strongly encouraged to file an application as early in the senior year as possible, and arrange to have first quarter grades sent from their high school counselor as soon as they are available.

For detailed admission requirements, including required documents, please visit the Admissions (<http://catalog.qu.edu/general-information/admissions/>) page of this catalog.

Seamless Transfer Agreement with Gateway Community College (GCC), Housatonic Community College (HCC) and Norwalk Community College (NCC)

Under this Transfer Agreement, GCC, HCC and NCC graduates will be guaranteed admission into a bachelor's degree program with third year (junior) status at Quinnipiac University on the condition that they:

- Graduate with an associate in arts, an associate in science in business, College of Technology engineering science, nursing or an allied health degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (this may be higher in specific programs).
- Satisfy all other Quinnipiac University transfer admission requirements and requirements for intended major.

Quinnipiac University agrees to accept the general education embedded in these associate degree programs in accordance with Quinnipiac preferred choices for general education as meeting all the requirements of its undergraduate general education where courses are encumbered by the major (e.g., General Chemistry for the Disciplinary Inquiry Natural Science requirement for a Biochemistry major).

Suggested Transfer Curriculum for BA in Communications

A minimum of 60 credits is required for transfer into the BA in Communications. Below is a sample plan of study for the first two years.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall Semester		
Communications Core		3
Introduction to Mass Communication		3
English I		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
Communications Core		3
English II		3
Math		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credits		15
Second Year		
Fall Semester		
Communications		3
Public Speaking		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credits		15
Spring Semester		
Communications		3
Communications		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		60