

Communication Arts



WASHINGTON
& JEFFERSON
COLLEGE

The Department of Communication Arts includes faculty with expertise and research agendas in theatre, public relations, media studies, gender and women's studies, theatre history, communication ethics, playwriting and directing. They work to **develop life-long learners as global citizens** determined to build **productive lives, fruitful careers and vibrant communities**. Students will develop habits of perception and expression that guide them toward the **rewards of ethical human communication**. The curriculum and co-curricular offerings expose W&J students to interrelated experiences that provide historical insights, theoretical literacy and practical opportunities in the communication arts. Study in this area will **foster intellectual development, enhance critical thought, improve student performance, and empower students to thrive in local and global communities**.

Major Requirements

Courses required to complete a communication arts major:

- Intro to Rhetoric & Communication
- Intro to Theatre
- Intro to Media Studies
- Research Methods in Communication Arts
- Capstone in Communication Arts
- Public Speaking*

Along with **four** chosen electives from: Women in Theatre & Film, Writing for Stage, Stage Design, PR Research & Strategies, Film, Form & Genre, Political Economy of Media, Communication Ethics, Radio/Podcasting and Journalism.

Major Emphases

Students may choose to add an emphasis area to the communication arts major.

An emphasis area would assist a student to focus on a particular field within the communication arts discipline.

EMPHASIS: [sample courses]

- Media Studies [journalism/film/media economy]
- Public Relations [strategies/research/campaigns]
- Theatre [acting/playwriting/set design]

*Public Speaking is not required for those with a Theatre emphasis.

Minor Requirements

To add value to any major across the curriculum, students may be interested in taking **five** courses to earn a minor in communication arts.

Courses would include:

- One 100-level communication arts course
- Two 200-level communication arts courses
- Two 300-level communication arts courses

Department Chair

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Faculty

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Beyond the Classroom

Students have many opportunities for research, internships, conferences and networking beyond the classroom that give them an advantage to prepare for life after W&J.

Internships

Internships have become integral in helping students put theory into practice. Experiential work allows students a chance to interact with professionals in various industries and nonprofit organizations.

Students are encouraged to network with alumni from around the country, as well as professionals in the Pittsburgh region.

Students have interned with the following organizations:

- Viatrix (formerly Mylan), human resources
- Pittsburgh Steelers, marketing
- Ford Theatre (Washington D.C.), theatre operations
- UPMC, media relations
- Pittsburgh CLO

Graduate Schools Attended

- Ohio State University, political communication
- Carnegie Mellon University, theatre
- Duquesne University (Kline School of Law), law

Employment

W&J students are prepared to work in fields including:

- theatre administration
- acting
- management
- public relations writing
- social media management
- sports information director
- producer
- news writing
- grant writing
- fundraising
- alumni relations

Alumni Achievements

W&J faculty work diligently to keep in touch with graduates, which helps to build bridges for students and lead to potential job opportunities.

Some recent alumni include:

- Cole Grecco '18, associate producer for the Emmy-award winning television show, CBS Mornings
- Tessa Markle '11, actress, filmmaker and podcaster in Los Angeles, CA
- India March '18, sports marketing expert with experience in the NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL.



Program Website

washjeff.edu/programs/communication-arts

Your Future. Founded here.

A full list of courses and descriptions can be found online in the College Catalog.