



Communication Arts

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, play writing and directing. We work to develop life-long learners as global citizens determined to build productive lives, fruitful careers, and vibrant communities. We develop habits of perception and expression that guide one toward the rewards of ethical human communication. Our 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. We work collectively to 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:

1. Intro to Rhetoric & Communication
2. Intro to Film & Theatre
3. Intro to Media Studies
4. Historical Studies in Communication Arts
5. Research Methods in Communication Arts
6. Capstone in Communication Arts

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

Major Emphasis

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

An emphasis areas would assist a student to focus on a particular field within our discipline.

EMPHASIS: [SAMPLE COURSES]

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

Minor Requirements

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

Students choose courses including:

- 1 - Introductory communication arts course
- 1 - History of communication arts course
- 2 - 200-level communication arts courses
- 2 - 300-level communication arts courses

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



Program Website

washjeff.edu/communication-arts-department

facebook.com/wjcommarts

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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.

Research and 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 non-profit organizations. We encourage networking with alumni from around the country, as well as professionals in the Pittsburgh and southwestern PA region.

Students have interned with these organizations:

- Mylan Inc., human resources department
- The Pittsburgh Steelers marketing department
- Ford Theatre, in Washington D.C., theatre operations
- UPMC, media relations office

Graduate Schools Attended

- The Ohio State University - political communication
- Carnegie Mellon University - theatre
- Duquesne University School of Law

Careers

Our students are prepared to work in fields including:

- theatre administration/acting/management
- public relations writer/social media manager
- sports information director/producer/news writer
- grant writing/fund raising/alumni relations

Alumni Achievements

Our faculty work diligently to keep in touch with our graduates, so we keep current with the potential needs in industries, as well as build bridges for our students to potential job opportunities. We hold an annual reception for our alumni to join our students majoring or minoring in communication arts, for students to gain experience in networking and communicating in small group situations. Our alumni are consistently impressed with the maturity of our undergraduates.

