

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The Graduate Certificate in Communication Studies is an 18-hour online program. The certificate consists of two required courses and four elective courses. Full-time students will be able to complete the program in a year. Students can complete the certificate in one year.

The elective coursework can be tailored to advance various professional goals in areas such as education, management, leadership, human resources, nonprofit, government employment, and more. For students who already hold a master's degree, a graduate certificate in Communication Studies provides the credentials necessary to teach dual-credit courses as well as undergraduate or community college classes in communication.

As an accelerated program, classes are scheduled in 7.5-week sessions during the fall and spring semesters (7A and 7B sessions). Summer courses are 10 weeks.

This Graduate Certificate is eligible to receive Title IV funding – Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Graduate PLUS loans by request. To be considered for aid, students need to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/certificate/communication-studies/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Students are admitted to the graduate program on a rolling basis throughout the year. Students may be admitted in the Fall, Spring, and Summer. The application deadline for the Fall 7A session is August 1st and for the Fall 7B session is October 1st. The application deadline for the Spring 7A session is December 1st and the Spring 7B session is February 20th. The application deadline for Summer is May 15th. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Admission into the program is based on the listed requirements and faculty/student ratios. Applications submitted after the deadline will be considered only if there is space available in the program. Students seeking admission to the graduate program in Communication Studies must submit the following documents to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/prospective-students.html>):

1. Graduate Application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>): The Graduate Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency.
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>): An application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.*
4. Applications with a GPA of 3.25 or higher will be automatically admitted into the program regardless of their major. Applications with a GPA of 3.0-3.24 that have a major in communication studies or related (e.g., sociology, psychology) will be automatically admitted into the program. If a non-communication related major applies with a GPA of 3.0-3.24, a letter of intent is required. Applications with a GPA of 2.99 or lower will be required to submit a letter of intent that summarizes the applicant's educational and professional goals, how a Communication Studies degree or certificate will help the applicant obtain his/her professional goals, how the applicant's personal and professional experiences have prepared him/her for our graduate program, and a narrative that provides an explanation for the applicant's low GPA and why the GPA is not indicative of the applicant's academic and professional potential.

*Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

Note: Incomplete applications are held in the Office of Graduate Admissions until they are complete. If you have any questions about your admission file, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/prospective-students.html>).

If a student enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Communication Studies wishes to switch over to the Master of Arts in Communication Studies (<https://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2025-2026/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-ma/>), he/she should contact the Graduate Director for department approval.

Students enrolled in the graduate certificate must complete 18 hours of coursework within the Communication Studies discipline. The two required courses for the certificate program may not be offered every semester. Therefore, students should register for a required course when it is offered; otherwise, the student may not be able to graduate on time, even if he or she takes a full load every semester because he or she is lacking a required course. Students should contact the Graduate Director for academic advisement.

Three hours of transfer credits may be applied with prior approval from the Graduate Director, Dean of the academic college, and Dean of Graduate Students.

Each graduate course carries three credit hours. To earn the graduate certificate in Communication Studies, students must complete six courses – two required and four electives.

Beyond the two Required Courses, students can pick from the Prescribed Elective courses to complete degree requirements, or they can choose between either one of two Concentration options: *Communication Studies for Educators and Dual Credit Instructors* or *Communication Studies for*

Leadership, Management, and Business Professionals. The Concentration will be printed on diplomas if requested by the student when applying for graduation.

Code	Title	Hours
Graduate Certificate in Communication Studies		
Required Courses		
COMS 5335	Advanced Communication Theory	3
COMS 5360	Advanced Interpersonal Communication	3
Concentration OR Prescribed Electives ^{1, 2}		12
Concentration in Communication Studies for Educators and Dual Credit Instructors		
Select four from the following:		
COMS 5334	Pedagogy of Public Speaking for Novice Instructors	
COMS 5362	Advanced Intercultural Communication	
COMS 5363	Interpersonal Conflict	
COMS 5381	Intergenerational Family Communication	
COMS 5395	Social Support and Well-Being	
Concentration in Communication Studies for Leadership, Management, and Business Professionals		
Select four from the following:		
COMS 5350	Computer Mediated Communication	
COMS 5362	Advanced Intercultural Communication	
COMS 5363	Interpersonal Conflict	
COMS 5371	Sex & Gender In Communication	
COMS 5396	Advanced Risk Communication	
COMS 5397	Persuasion & Social Influence	
Prescribed Electives		
Select an additional 12 hours of COMS 5000 level coursework. ¹		
Total Hours		18

¹ COMS Prescribed Elective coursework must be in addition to Required Courses, therefore, excludes the use of COMS 5335 and COMS 5360.

² With advisor approval, students may be permitted to apply alternate courses to fulfill Concentration requirements.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's 60x30TX plan and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The Graduate Certificate in Communication Studies is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Professional oral and written communication.
- Effective presentation skills.
- Research and analytical skills.
- Evaluation of sources and information validity.
- Data synthesis.
- Critical thinking and the ability to compare and contrast information.
- Multi-cultural competencies.
- Conflict management and resolution.
- Interpersonal communication.
- Leadership and teamwork.
- Problem solving.
- Ethical communication.