

# English Major: Communication Studies Concentration

Effective communication is valuable and vital. It's the glue that holds relationships and communities together, helping us understand, relate to and collaborate with others. As part of a quality liberal arts program, the English department at PC offers a concentration in communication studies. The program prepares you for graduate school and multiple career fields, including media, law, and corporate communication. And it will help you refine your ability to both speak and write clearly—skills that employers in all vocations value.

PC's caring professors inspire you to be generous in your thinking and interacting with others in the world. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

## What You'll Study When You Concentrate in Communication Studies

The communication studies concentration integrates the written and spoken word with other modes of composition, including visual and audio design. In each course you'll explore how communication functions in a diverse society and helps citizens be more productive, ethical, and engaged. You'll see real-world communication issues from diverse perspectives—from sports and healthcare, to social media and film. The program challenges you to know your audience, communicate persuasively, and evaluate and critique messages that influence human behavior.

Communication studies coursework totals 39 to 40 hours. During your first two years you'll take required courses that include Introduction to Communication Studies and Communicating Citizenship. You'll also pick a Foundations course such as Public Speaking or Studies in Linguistics, and a Survey course in British, American or world literature. Your final two years include higher-level courses, with studies in visual, digital, and mass communication. As a senior, you'll demonstrate your skills in research, writing, and presentation through a capstone project. If eligible, you may also conduct an honors project, which earns you marks of distinction on your transcript and diploma.

The English department also offers concentrations in creative writing and English education.

## Experiences Outside the Classroom

No matter your major, at PC you'll have a number of opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

- **Studying abroad.** PC's English department organizes "Maymester" trips to a variety of international locations such as Berlin, China, England, Ireland and Prague. Students recently spent their spring break studying literature and creative writing in Paris.
- **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
- **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
- **Internships.** Recent English majors have interned in such varied fields as alumni relations, chambers of commerce, journalism—even the FBI.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other extracurricular activities are available to you as a student in the English department.

- **Publications.** Students may write for the *Blue Stocking* campus newspaper and *Figs & Thistles*, the literary magazine.
- **Broadcasting.** PC's campus radio station, WPCX 97.1 FM, has plenty of opportunities for those interested in broadcasting. And Blue Tube is a creative media outlet overseen entirely by PC students.
- **Film.** The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers visits campus each year. Students have the opportunity to watch films and meet the filmmakers.
- **Speaker Series.** The English department invites published writers onto campus to speak with students, sit in on classes and give public readings.

## Career Outcomes

If you've heard that humanities degrees are impractical and not valued in the job market, you can put those rumors to rest. Your English degree, with its emphasis on communication and critical thinking, prepares you for employment in a variety of sectors. While English majors make great professors and writers, many also follow career paths into advertising, business, and government.

According to PayScale's [College Salary Report](#), a bachelor's degree in English can earn you a mid-career salary of \$69,000 or more. Many English majors find high-paying positions with titles like Content Marketing Manager and Communications Director.

Graduates from PC's English department now work as legal assistants, grant writers and credit risk analysts. They teach at primary and secondary schools in the US, and internationally in places like Thailand and Hong Kong. And alumni are pursuing advanced degrees in law, medicine, and public administration. No matter your major, PC's liberal arts education prepares you with problem-solving, communication, and other soft skills employers look for.

## 4 Fast Facts

1. Communication studies includes a wide range of courses, from literature and rhetoric to visual and digital communication.
2. Communication skills are routinely listed among the top abilities employers look for in new hires.
3. More and more firms are hiring content editors and creators who can create podcasts, websites, and print media, all of which are central to communication studies.
4. The proportion of people on LinkedIn who report they work in content/editor roles at non-media companies has grown by 32% in the past decade.

## Meta Page Description

Presbyterian College's English major includes a Communication Studies concentration that prepares you for graduate school and multiple careers.