School of Arts and Humanities

Visual and Performing Arts with Communication Concentration (BA)

Students who complete the major in Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) pursue an interdisciplinary study of the arts by completing a major core that includes courses in writing, interdisciplinary studies, professional development, historical context, theory, and practice. The VPA major culminates in a Senior Capstone. Students who are majoring in VPA can focus their studies by choosing from nine possible concentrations. The Communication concentration focuses student work on the theories, concepts, and skills of oral, written, and mediated communication. Communication courses teach students how to engage in critical thinking and problem solving, to participate effectively in meetings and in teams, and to communicate competently in relationships and in public speaking contexts.

Since the following catalog course descriptions are very general, students are urged to consult the detailed course descriptions available on the web site for the School of Arts and Humanities. At least one-half of the semester credit hours for a major must be taken at UT Dallas. Unless otherwise noted, courses in Visual and Performing Arts are open to all students in the University.

Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts with Communication Concentration

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)¹

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Associate Professor: Shelley D. Lane
Clinical Associate Professor: Maribeth (Betsy) Schlobohm
Associate Professor of Instruction: Christopher (Chris) Ryan
Senior Lecturers: Barbara Baker, Karen Baynham, Janece Glauser, Allison Templeton, Patricia Totusek

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours²

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

RHET 1302 Rhetoric

And choose one course from the following:

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
COMM 1315 Public Speaking

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

Select any 3 semester credit hours from Mathematics Core courses
Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences Core courses

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours
FILM 1303 Transnational Film and Video
or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture Core courses

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours
AHST 1303 Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
AHST 1304 Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
AHST 2331 Understanding Art
ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts
DANC 1310 Understanding Dance
THEA 1310 Understanding Theatre
FILM 2332 Understanding Film
MUSI 1306 Understanding Music
MUSI 2322 Music in Western Civilization
Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Creative Arts Core courses

American History: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from American History Core courses

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours
GOVT 2305 American National Government
GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Social and Behavioral Sciences Core courses

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours
DANC 1305 Introduction to World Dance Forms
Or select any 6 semester credit hours from Component Area Option Core courses

II. Major Requirements, Lower-Division: 0-6 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum
Choose one course from the following: (0 semester credit hours beyond Core
Curriculum

AHST 1303 Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
AHST 1304 Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
AHST 2331 Understanding Art
ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts
DANC 1305 Introduction to World Dance Forms
DANC 1310 Understanding Dance
FILM 1303 Transnational Film and Video
THEA 1310 Understanding Theatre
FILM 2332 Understanding Film
MUSI 1306 Understanding Music
MUSI 2322 Music in Western Civilization

Lower-division preparatory courses from one of the following (3 semester credit hours):

COMM 1320 Interpersonal Communication
COMM 1315 Public Speaking
COMM 2314 Oral Interpretation
COMM 2317 Topics in Communication
THEA 1351 Acting 1
THEA 1352 Acting 2
THEA 2372 Improvisation
THEA 2373 Languages of the Body

III. Major Requirements, Upper-Division: 42 semester credit hours

Major Core Courses: 18 semester credit hours

ARHM 3342 Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities
VPAS 3300 Elements of Art and Performance
  or Related Upper-Level Course from the School of Arts and Humanities
VPAS 3340 Writing in the Arts
VPAS 4389 Theory and Practice of the Visual and Performing Arts
VPAS 4390 Senior Capstone

Select 3 semester credit hours of Professional Development Courses from the following:
ARTS 3311 Contemporary Art Practices
ARTS 4310 Studies in Contemporary Exhibitions
COMM 4370 Communication and Leadership
COMM 4371 Communication and Professionalism
ISAH 4V50 Internship
VPAS 4310 Entertainment Law

Communication Concentration Requirements: 24 semester credit hours

COMM 3351 History and Theory of Communication
COMM 4360 Communication Ethics
COMM 4314 Persuasion and Interpersonal Influence
Choose 6 semester credit hours of upper-division courses from the following Communication Performance courses:

COMM 3320 Readers' Theater
COMM 4340 Small Group Communication
COMM 4313 Advanced Public Speaking
THEA 3372 Advanced Improvisation

And 9 semester credit hours of COMM Electives

IV. Elective Requirements: 30-36 semester credit hours

Free Electives: 30-36 semester credit hours

Both upper- and lower-division courses may be used as electives, but students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of ARHM 1100. 

1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.
2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.
3. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours may be counted in Core Curriculum.
4. 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum, if the student has not previously completed other courses to satisfy these core curriculum requirements.
5. Course cannot come from the COMM prefix.