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 Video³
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 Medieval³
AHST 1304 Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern³
AHST 2331 Understanding Art³
ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts³
DANC 1310 Understanding Dance³
THEA 1310 Understanding Theatre³
FILM 2332 Understanding Film³
MUSI 1306 Understanding Music³
MUSI 2322 Music in Western Civilization³
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

¹Incoming 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.

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