

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Where do I go for advising?

A: The CLAS Advising Center (C-1-140 MAK, 331-8585) is a good place to start for matters related to General Education requirements, general information about the Communication Studies Major, and GVSU requirements. For advising specific to the Communication Studies Major, visit the faculty advisor assigned to you (listed on your MyPath account). Faculty advisor office hours are posted on faculty office doors, and can also be found in the School of Communications main office (290 LSH).

Q: Can I do an internship or an independent study?

A: Yes. For internships, please see the link on the School of Communications website (also on the Blackboard website) <http://www.gvsu.edu/soc/internship-general-information-94.htm>. To find additional information about internships, please see Grand Valley's useful site:

<http://www.gvsu.edu/experiencematters/> Doing more than one internship or independent study is approved only by an advisor.

Q: What area of study from within the School of Communications can I minor in, if any? How is that different from the "emphasis"?

A: Only two of the majors within the School have minors: APR (21 credits), Theatre (20 credits). Minors are different from an "emphasis" within Com Studies. Minors appear on transcripts, once they have been fulfilled. (That is, a student is listed as having completed their major and also the minor[s] they chose.) An "emphasis" selected within Com Studies does NOT appear on a transcript. It is simply a collection of courses the student has selected (from those available) that represents an area of interest within communication. There is a university rule about how many credit hours can overlap between majors and minors: "regardless of the overlap, the major must contain at least 30 credits not duplicated in the 20 credits of the minor." (In other words, there need to be 10 three-credit hour courses in the major that do not appear in (do not "double-dip" in) the minor.

Q: What is a senior thesis/project? (is it required? how do you register for it?)

A: A senior thesis/project is a requirement of the major and gives students the opportunity to pursue an area of interest across the course of the semester and create a thesis or project related to that area of interest. You may complete the senior thesis requirement in one of two ways: The first way is to register for the 3 credit hour Senior Thesis course listed in the course schedule. If you choose this option, go to the School of Communications main office (290 LSH) and ask for a COM 498 form. Processing this form will allow you to register for the course, and doing this early will help ensure that the COM 498 class will not be cancelled due to early assessments of enrollment. The second way is to work with a faculty member independently. To find out more about doing a senior project this way, talk with your faculty academic advisor.

Q: What kind of a job can I get with a Communication Studies Major?

A: You don't get jobs with majors, you get jobs with skills and talents that you develop as you make your way through a major. The Communication Studies Major is grounded in both the humanities and professional approaches to communication, and is designed to help students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and thinking logically, ethically and critically. The Communication Studies Major also encourages exploration of other communication and communication-related disciplines (through emphasis area credits), so that professional and artistic interests may be further pursued and developed. In addition, we encourage you to explore resources available through GVSU's Career Services (<http://www.gvsu.edu/careerresources/>). Another useful online site is O*NET (<http://www.onetonline.org/>) which can help you explore the connection between your skills and potential careers.

Q: What is a graduation audit and when should I apply for one?

A: A graduation audit is a final check of a student's degree progress done by the registrar. Students need to go to the registrar windows in the Students Services Building and request a graduation audit the semester before the semester in which they plan to graduate. If any problems are discovered, the student and their faculty advisor will be notified.