What is Health Communication

Health communication offers a unique blend of theory, research, and application focusing on health issues in interpersonal, small group, organizational, intercultural, public, and mass-mediated contexts. The coursework includes classes from the Department of Communication Studies, the Department of Psychology, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the School of Health Administration resulting in a interdisciplinary minor in health communication.

The study of health communication contributes to disease prevention and health promotion. Students gain knowledge in areas like provider-patient communication, patient-family communication, public health messages and campaigns, health in mass media, public health, and technology including the use of social media.

Health COMM Minor

Required Core Courses
- COMM 4326 Health Communication 3
- MC 4382P Health Communication Campaigns 3

Elective Courses (Select 1)
- COMM 2315 Interpersonal Communication 3
- COMM 2330 Small Group Communication 3

Elective Courses (Select 2)
- COMM 3318J Communication in Health Organizations 3
- COMM 3319 Organizational Communication 3
- COMM 3325 Communication & Conflict Management 3
- COMM 3326 Family Communication 3
- COMM 3328 Communication & Gender 3
- COMM 3329 Intercultural Communication 3
- COMM 3330 Nonverbal Communication 3
- COMM 3358 Professional Communication 3
- COMM 4324 Organizational Rhetoric 3
- COMM 4329 Training & Development 3
- COMM 4331 Persuasion 3
- COMM 4345 Political Communication 3
- COMM 4347 Leadership 3
- COMM 4351 Relational Communication 3
- COMM 4390 Communication Internship 3

Elective Courses (Select 2)
- HA 3308 Healthcare Organizations 3
- HA 3309 Ethics in Health Professions 3
- HA 3315 Healthcare Administration History, Culture, and Language 3
- HA 3341 Training and Professional Development in Healthcare Administration 3
- HA 4320 Seminar in Healthcare Administration 3
- MC 3355 Mass Media & Society 3
- MC 3343 Introduction to Public Relations 3
- MC 4309 Visual Literacy: Film 3
- PSY 3300 Lifespan Development 3
- PSY 3315 Abnormal Psychology 3
- PSY 3324 Psychology of Human Diversity 3
- PSY 3325 Psychology of Persuasion 3
- PSY 3331 Social Psychology 3
- PSY 3333 Industrial Psychology 3
- PSY 3361 Health Psychology 3

Why is Health Communication important?

Effective healthcare communication results in improved patient health. If health professionals lack communication skills then patients suffer. A minor in health communication provides essential skills to enhance communication among physicians, nurses, health specialists, health technicians and patients.

Skilled health communication professionals are needed because:

- Few healthcare workers receive health communication training.
- Healthcare professionals need collaborative problem-solving skills.
- Interpersonal communication skills are vital for enhancing healthcare provider-patient relationships.
- Healthcare professionals receive little training in conflict management and negotiation skills.
- Improved communication between patient and healthcare provider promotes healing.
- Technology and social media play an increased role in promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Healthcare is a growing priority in national political and economic discussions.
Health COMM Careers

What Can You Do With a Minor in Health Communication

Health Communication & Professional Careers
Health communication trainers
Health communication human resource specialists
Hospital health communication specialists
Healthcare consultants to health providers
Healthcare counselors

Business & Industry Health Communication
Healthcare administrators
Healthcare consultants
Healthcare sales and marketing specialists
Public health advocate

Healthcare in Media & Technology
Developers of health campaigns
Social media and healthcare experts
Specialists in health communication and public relations
Specialists in health communication and advertising
Communication development specialists in health organizations
Political communication and health communication advisors

For More Information

Academic Advising Center
College of Fine Arts & Communication,
512-245-1932
Dr. Melinda Villagran, Chair
Department of Communication
205 Centennial Hall, Suite 205
512-245-2165

The Chair welcomes students to our interdisciplinary minor: Health Communication!
Dr. Melinda Villagran, Chair

For More Information
www.commstudies.txstate.edu

Interdisciplinary Minor

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
The rising STAR of Texas

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™