

# PUBLIC RELATIONS (B.A.)

Students electing this major typically seek employment in one of the many career opportunities in public relations: business and industry; non-profit organizations; trade associations; government service; education; or account executive positions in an agency. Some students later pursue graduate-level study in fields such as organizational communication. The Public Relations program at Wayne State is one of two programs in Michigan accredited by The Public Relations Society of America.

In addition to the course work below, students must complete all of the department's general degree requirements (<http://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/college-fine-performing-communication-arts/communication/ba-requirements/>).

The major in Public Relations requires completion of a minimum of forty-two credits in coursework as outlined below.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses</b>		
All of the following are required		
COM 1500	Survey of Mass Communication	3
COM 2030	Journalistic Grammar and Style	3
COM 2100	News Reporting	3
COM 2170	Persuasive Speaking	3
or COM 3300	Business and Professional Presentations	
COM 3170	Fundamentals of Public Relations	3
COM 3210	News Editing	3
COM 3250	Introduction to Organizational Communication	3
COM 3400	Theories of Communication	3
COM 4130	Communication Ethics	3
COM 4170	Public Relations Writing	3
COM 4210	Research Methods in Communication	3
COM 5160	Public Relations Campaigns and Issues Management <sup>1</sup>	3
COM 5130	Communication and Social Marketing	3
Select one of the following:		
COM 5140	Public Relations and Social Media	3
COM 5300	Layout and Design	
COM 5500	Journalism and New Media	

<sup>1</sup> COM 5160 is the senior level capstone course. To be taken in last twenty-one credits of study

Recommended electives include: COM 2200 Interpersonal Communication, COM 2260 Digital Writing and Research Methods, COM 2290 Fundamentals of New Media Communication, COM 6190 Internship, as well as courses in Journalism (COM 4100 Feature Writing). An advisor should be consulted early in the student's program. Direct inquiries to 585 Manoogian Hall (313-577-2946).

## Departmental Honors Program

The Communication Department Honors program offers capable students the opportunity to pursue independent study and to work closely with department faculty members. Completion of the honors major results in an honors degree designation on the diploma.

In order to enter the departmental honors program students must have achieved academic excellence in previous work, such as a high school g.p.a. of 3.5 or a college or university g.p.a. of 3.3. Students must meet all

regular major requirements including the following: three honors-option courses within their major at the 2000 level or above, taught by full-time faculty members (internships cannot satisfy this requirement), at least one 42XX honors seminar offered through the Honors College, a senior honors thesis under the direction of a faculty advisor in their major area (COM 4996) and maintain a minimum g.p.a. of 3.3 cumulative and in the major.

## Departmental AGRADE Program

The AGRADE program enables highly qualified seniors majoring in Communication Studies or Public Relations to enroll simultaneously in undergraduate and graduate programs and to apply a maximum of 12 credits toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. The program encourages such students to continue to graduate school at Wayne State by reducing the time to the master's degree. Only AGRADE-approved courses in which the student has earned a B or higher will transfer to the graduate transcript. Once in the master's program, students may be required to repeat an AGRADE course in which they earn less than a B grade.

**Eligibility:** AGRADE applicants must have an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.5. Applicants are also expected to have performed at a superior level in their major, as determined by the major department and reflected in a GPA in the major of at least 3.6 at the time of application.

**Application:** A student seeking AGRADE status should present to the Department of Communication Graduate Committee all of the materials which that department requires for normal admission to the M.A. program with a concentration in Communication Studies. Specific departmental admission requirements can be found in this bulletin or obtained from the Graduate Advisor in the Department of Communication (313-577-2959).

The earliest date by which a student may apply for the AGRADE program is during the semester in which he/she completes 90 credits toward the undergraduate degree.

**AGRADE Credits:** Students may elect a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve AGRADE credits. These credits will be used to complete the baccalaureate degree as well as to serve as the beginning of graduate study. Upon formal admission to a master's program, AGRADE credits are transferred as if they were graduate credits transferred from a graduate program at another university. The remaining graduate credits required for the master's degree will be earned in the conventional manner following formal admission to the graduate program. Formal admission to the graduate program occurs as AGRADE students complete their baccalaureate degree.

Students admitted into an AGRADE program will develop a Plan of Work for the master's program, specifying the courses that will be taken in the AGRADE status as well as the courses required for the balance of the undergraduate degree. **Note that COM 7000 must be taken in the first semester of AGRADE coursework.** The remaining AGRADE courses must be approved by both the student's undergraduate program advisor and the graduate director of the master's program. In courses permitting both undergraduate and graduate students to enroll, AGRADE students will be held to the graduate standard.

For more details about the AGRADE program, contact the Graduate Advisor in the Department of Communication (313-577-2959)