

COMMUNICATION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS – Course Descriptions

Required and optional courses reflect dimensions of communication from theoretical, applied, and contextual perspectives. All courses are 3 credit hours.

REQUIRED COURSES:

COSI 101 Introduction to Health Communication (Fall)

An introductory examination of the influences associated with the functions of human life, communication processes, and research related to health and the health care industry from interpersonal, cultural, and organizational communication perspectives. We review the history and development of the field of health communication, introduce research that examines and tests communication theories regarding health, diffusion of health information, and real world application related to findings.

COSI 109 Introduction to Communication Disorders

Forty-two million Americans have some type of communication disorder. How does a person with a communication disorder cope with the challenges of daily living? This course will examine the characteristics of communication disorders via first-hand and fictionalized accounts in books, films, and simulated communication disorders experiences. Topics will include disorders of speech, language, and hearing in children and adults, and the effects of communication disorders on families.

COSI 340 Theories of Health Communication (Spring)

This is an advanced examination into the theories and scholarship of health communication. Various communication processes assume a central role in the acquisition and enactment of health care. This course examines communication activity across a broad range of health care contexts. Attention will be given to provider-client communication, communication and ethical concerns, persuasive health promotion efforts, media impact on health, and health communication theory development, research, and methodology. **Prerequisite: COSI 101.**

CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTIVES:

COSI 200 Interpersonal Communication (Spring)

Communication is a primary means of initiating, maintaining, and dissolving relationships. Managing interpersonal relationships is a human concern across several contexts. Interpersonal communication considers the role of communication in personal relationships, including family, friendship, romantic, and other contexts. Concepts for study include communication competence, family interaction, relational messages, and conflict.

COSI 260 Multicultural Aspects of Human Communication

Introduces intercultural/interracial communication principles and theory and includes the exploration of differences in perceptions and use of verbal and nonverbal communication messages. The course emphasizes relationships between communication, race, culture; nature of race and culture; and how they influence the communication process. We also discuss practical outcomes that can encourage more positive intercultural/interracial encounters.

COSI 261 Multicultural Aspects of Communication Disorders

This course focuses on discussions surrounding implicit bias, racial and ethnic diversity in the US, racism, intercultural communication, subcultures surrounding race, ethnicity, second language learners, LGBTQ, disability, etc., and unbiased clinical assessments. Topics related to healthcare and best practice with a specific focus on communication disorders (for example, hearing loss, language impairment, etc.) are woven throughout the curriculum. The majority of students that take this class are non-COSI majors.

COSI 280 Organizational Communication (Spring)

This course includes a review and analysis of the development of organizational communication theories associated with social interaction in the workplace. The course addresses communication challenges that contemporary organizational leaders and members face and strategies used to develop analytical and practical skills that promote success in interactions in diverse organizational situations and cultures.

COSI 332 Persuasion (Fall)

This survey course is an introduction to persuasion and attitude change, and includes the history, dynamics, and theories of persuasion. There is an extensive focus on persuasive strategies and models of attitude change. The course aims to develop an understanding of principles of persuasion and the practical application of those principles in life and career situations.

COSI 345 Communication and Aging

This course addresses the normal and abnormal psychobiological changes that occur during aging and their effects on communication. Topics of discussion will include communicative interaction styles, disordered communication, and rehabilitation practices.