

**COMMUNICATION, CONCENTRATION—MASS COMMUNICATION-JOURNALISM ACADEMIC MAP:
DEGREE BA/BS (120 CREDIT HOURS)**

This degree map is a semester-by-semester course schedule for students majoring in **Communications with a concentration in Mass Communication-Journalism**. This map reflects both the Bachelor of Science (BS) and the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees. Differences in the course requirements for the two types of degrees are indicated within the content of the map. The milestones listed to the right of each semester are designed to keep a student on track to graduate in four years. The schedule serves as a general guideline to help build a full schedule each semester. Milestones are courses and special requirements necessary for timely progress to complete a major. When one or more milestones are missed, students should consult with an academic advisor to determine if another degree path would be more suitable.

The Mass Communication program offers an emphasis in multi-media journalism with specialties within today's converged media environment. Students will learn all areas of reporting including print, broadcast, and on-line. Students work with campus media outlets to learn writing, shooting, editing, and more across a variety of media platforms. Students take this experience to local, regional and national internships, and on to the job market. Interns and graduates have gone to NBC, CBS, C-SPAN, BET, CNN, WBBM, CMT, MTV, the Philadelphia Enquirer, Indianapolis Star, and the Tampa Tribune (to name a few), as well as various local stations and publications in Nashville and elsewhere, and have worked on Hollywood film productions. Students and graduates have won awards from organizations including the Society of Professional Journalists, National Association of Black Journalists, National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the National Broadcasting Society.

In the Communications major with a concentration in Mass Communication – Journalism, students will be given extensive hands on experience in the various fields of media. Students must pass all required Communications courses with a minimum “C” grade. Individuals will be most successful if they consult with an advisor each semester to continually work towards graduation. Because the program is very active with a multitude of required video, audio and writing projects for various classes, as well as opportunities for extensive co-curricular experience, strategic planning for each semester will increase students’ chances for success.

Before taking the upper level (3000 – 4000) courses, the core classes for writing, along with the introduction to technology and production courses (COMM 1040, 1050, 1060), must be completed with a minimum “C” grade. Students who are having difficulty with writing are strongly encouraged to seek additional instruction through the Writing Center on campus. Writing ability is critical to success as a Communication major, as well as professional success after graduation. Students are also encouraged to be active in the Departmental media outlets, such as WTST (The Blaze) campus radio, TV98, PAC House Productions, the *Meter* student newspaper, and Departmental online publications, to gain experience that enhances course work. Projects from classes and media outlets are added to the student’s online portfolio, which is evaluated during the senior year. Students can further strengthen professional skills and portfolio by taking advantage of a variety of internship opportunities during the junior and senior years.

Tennessee State University recognizes that students have diverse learning, life, and professional experiences. The University provides opportunities for students to earn college credit toward the degree through a number of assessment options that evaluate their learning experiences. These paths are grouped under the category “Prior Learning Assessment” (PLA). Various means of earning PLA credit at TSU are the following: Advanced Placement Program, American Council of Education (ACE) Military Credit, College Level Exam Program (CLEP), DSST Credit by Examination Program (includes DANTES Examination), Institutional Course Challenge Exams (Departmental Exams), International Baccalaureate Credit, Other Military Service, Portfolio Assessment. To learn more about PLA contact your academic advisor or the Office of Student Support Services for Adult and Distance Learners at (615) 963-7001 or adultstudentsupport@tnstate.edu.

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Fall Schedule		Milestones
Semester 1	Hrs.	Semester 1
UNIV 1000*	1	
ENGL 1010	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before ENGL 1020, and HIST 2010, HIST 2020, HIST 2030, HIST 2060, HIST 2070, or HIST 2700; Minimum grade "C" required
Natural Science w/lab**	4	
COMM 1040	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before all COMM 3000—4000 courses without stated pre-requisites; Minimum grade of "C" required
Foreign Language I*** or Elective	3	Foreign language is not required but is highly recommended.
Total Hours	14	

*An Orientation course taken at another University does NOT meet this requirement. Students with less than 60 transfer credit hours must take UNIV 1000 at TSU.

**Natural Science-Must have 8 semester hours which includes the appropriate labs. Recommended courses are: BIOL 1010/1011, CHEM 1030/1031, PHYS 2030/2031 or ASTR 1010.

***Four semesters of a single foreign language are required for the BA degree.

Spring Schedule		Milestones
Semester 2	Hrs.	Semester 2
ENGL 1020	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before taking HIST 2010, HIST 2020, HIST 2030, HIST 2060, HIST 2070, or HIST 2700; Minimum grade "C" required
Natural Science w/lab*	4	
MATH 1013 or 1110 or 1710	3	
COMM 1050	2	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 2640; Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM 1060	1	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 2360, COMM 2400, COMM 2500 ; Minimum grade of "C" required
Foreign Language II** or Elective	3	Foreign language is not required but is highly recommended.
Total Hours	16	

*Natural Science-Must have 8 semester hours which includes the appropriate labs. Recommended courses are BIOL 1020/1021, CHEM 1040/1041, PHYS 2040/2041 or ASTR 1020. See Catalog for complete list of qualifying courses.

**Four semesters of a single foreign language are required for the BA degree.

Fall Schedule		Milestones
Semester 3	Hrs.	Semester 3
History 2010*	3	
Foreign Language III** or Elective	3	Foreign language is not required but is highly recommended.
COMM 2400	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 3000—4000 Journalism courses; Minimum Grade of "C" Required
COMM 2640	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 3000—4000 courses; Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM 2200	3	
Total Hours	15	

*The Department recommends HIST 2010; however, HIST 2030, HIST 2060, HIST 2070 or HIST 2700 satisfy this requirement.

**Four semesters of a single foreign language are required for the BA degree.

Spring Schedule		Milestones
Semester 4	Hrs.	Semester 4
THTR 1020	3	
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective*	3	
HIST 2020**	3	
ENGL Literature ***	3	2000-level literature
Foreign Language IV or Elective	3	Foreign language is not required but is highly recommended. Also note that four semesters of a single foreign language are required for the BA degree.
Total Hours	15	

*Students must take a 3-credit-hour course from the following list of approved general education Humanities courses: AREN 2310, ART, 1010, HIST 1000, THTR 1020, MUSC 1010, PHIL 1030, or RELS 2010.

**The Department recommends HIST 2020; however, HIST 2030, HIST 2060, HIST 2070, or HIST 2700 satisfy this requirement.

***Courses in the series ENGL 2012-2322 literature courses will meet this requirement.

Fall Schedule		Milestones
Semester 5	Hrs.	Semester 5
COMM 2800	3	Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM 3800	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 4350; Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM 3300	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 4360; Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM 3400	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 4350; Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM Elective 3000 – 4000 level*	3	Minimum grade of "C" required
Total Hours	15	

*Students should select any 3000-4000-level Communications courses in consultation with the academic advisor. Course prerequisites apply.

Spring Schedule		Milestones
Semester 6	Hrs.	Semester 6
COMM 4050	3	Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM 3150	3	Pre-Requisite Course: Must be taken before COMM 4500 or COMM 4510; Minimum grade of "C" required
COMM 3950*	3	Student must have place of intern employment approved by the Instructor or Department Chair. Minimum grade of "C" required
Elective Any Level Course	3	
Elective 3000 – 4000 Level Course	3	
Total Hours	15	

*3 credit hours of COMM 3910, at 1 hour per semester, may be taken in place of COMM 3950

Fall Schedule		Milestones
Semester 7	Hrs.	Semester 7
		Review degree requirements with the advisor and Department head. Complete the Senior Standing Form
COMM 4350 or 4360	3	
COMM Elective 3000 – 4000*	3	Minimum Grade of “C” Required
COMM 3520	3	Prerequisite: COMM 1040: Minimum grade of “C” required.
Elective 3000 – 4000 Level Course	3	
Social/ Behavior Science**	3	
Total Hours	15	

*Students should select 3000-4000-level Communications courses in consultation with the academic advisor. Course prerequisites apply.

**The following courses can meet the Social Science elective: AFAS 2010, ANTH 2300, ECON, 2010, GEOG 1010, HPSS 1510, POLI 1010 PSYC 2010, WMST 2000, and URBS 2010. Students must remember not to duplicate a course option from a previous semester.

Spring Schedule		Milestones
Semester 8	Hrs.	Semester 8
		Take Senior Exit Exam and Apply for Graduation
COMM 4500 or 4510	3	Research or creative project, plus portfolio; Permission required to take 4510.
Electives 3000-4000 Level Course	3	
Electives Any Level Course	6	
Social Behavior Science*	3	
Total Hours	15	

*The following courses can meet the Social Science elective: AFAS 2010, ANTH 2300, ECON, 2010, GEOG 1010, HPSS 1510, POLI 1010 PSYC 2010, WMST 2000, and URBS 2010. Students must remember not to duplicate a course option from a previous semester.

Employment Information:

Many career options are available with a degree in Mass Communication. These include Advertising/Marketing, Business, Broadcasting, Cable and Corporate Video, Film, Journalism, Publishing, Radio and Live Events production. The Journalism track specifically prepares students for careers in news and information, including traditional media and online and social media, as well as public relations and freelance media.

Representative Job Titles Related to this Major:

Reporter, Producer, Associate Producer, Writer, Videographer, Multi-media Journalist, editor, researcher, online editor, non-fiction author.

Representative Employers:

Interns and graduates have gone to NBC, CBS, C-SPAN, BET, CNN, WBBM, CMT, MTV, the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, *Indianapolis Star*, and the *Tampa Tribune* (to name a few), as well as various local stations and publications in Nashville and elsewhere, and have worked on Hollywood film productions.

International study is available for all TSU students and may include opportunities for internships or taking course work towards various minors. International study may have an impact on the academic map; therefore, it is important to consult with the academic advisor for this major before participating in an international program opportunity. Students interested in study abroad opportunities should contact the Office of International Programs and consult with their academic advisor.

This map is not intended to be a contract, either expressed or implied, between the University and the students, but represents a flexible program of the current curriculum which may be altered from time to time to carry out the academic objectives of the University. TSU specifically reserves the right to change, delete or add to any map at any time within the student’s period of study at the University.

