New York City College of Technology, CUNY

CURRICULUM MODIFICATION PROPOSAL FORM

This form is used for all curriculum modification proposals. See the [Proposal Classification Chart](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/collegecouncil/files/2014/08/2013-10-09-Proposal_Classification_Chart.pdf) for information about what types of modifications are major or minor. Completed proposals should be emailed to the Curriculum Committee chair.

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| **Title of Proposal** | Academic Minor in Communication Studies |
| **Date** |  |
| **Major or Minor** | Major |
| **Proposer’s Name** | Denise Scannell |
| **Department** | Humanities |
| **Date of Departmental Meeting in which proposal was approved** | 5-6-2024 |
| **Department Chair Name** | Ann Delilkan |
| **Department Chair Signature and Date** | 5-6-2024 |
| **Academic Dean Name** | Justin Vazquez-Poritz |
| **Academic Dean Signature and Date** | 10-18-24 |
| **Brief Description of Proposal**  (Describe the modifications contained within this proposal in a succinct summary. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body. | The Department of Humanities of the School of Arts and Sciences at New York City College of Technology proposes a 15-credit academic minor in Communication Studies using existing courses. |
| **Brief Rationale for Proposal**  (Provide a concise summary of why this proposed change is important to the department. More detailed content will be provided in the proposal body). | The Humanities department currently offers a bachelor’s degree in health communication. There is an unmet need, however, to serve students in non-health related programs by providing them with opportunities to add valuable communication tools to their educational program. An academic minor in Communication Studies complements any major and provides opportunities for students to add valuable communication tools to their educational program. The proposed minor builds upon existing communication courses offered by the Humanities Department. CUNY colleges which already offer a minor in communication studies include Baruch, Brooklyn College, BMCC, Bronx, Kingsborough, LAGCC, Staten Island. Articulation agreements with senior colleges, such as Baruch and Brooklyn College, will make is possible for students to transfer into a four-year Communication Studies program. |
| **Proposal History**  (Please provide history of this proposal: is this a resubmission? An updated version? This may most easily be expressed as a list). | Submission of new minor program |

Please include all appropriate documentation as indicated in the Curriculum Modification Checklist.

For each new course, please also complete the New Course Proposal and submit in this document.

Please submit this document as a single .doc or .rtf format. If some documents are unable to be converted to .doc, then please provide all documents archived into a single .zip file.

**ALL PROPOSAL CHECK LIST**

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| Completed CURRICULUM MODIFICATION FORM including: |  |
| * Brief description of proposal |  |
| * Rationale for proposal |  |
| * Date of department meeting approving the modification |  |
| * Chair’s Signature |  |
| * Dean’s Signature |  |
| Evidence of consultation with affected departments  List of the programs that use this course as required or elective, and courses that use this as a prerequisite. |  |
| Documentation of Advisory Commission views (if applicable). |  |
| Completed [Chancellor’s Report Form](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/collegecouncil/files/2014/08/2013-10-09-Chancellor_Report_Quick_Reference_Guide1.doc). |  |

**EXISTING PROGRAM MODIFICATION PROPOSALS**

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| Documentation indicating core curriculum requirements have been met for new programs/options or program changes. |  |
| Detailed rationale for each modification (this includes minor modifications) |  |

Proposal for an Academic Minor in Communication Studies

Humanities Department

Major Curriculum Modification

**1) Rationale**

The National Communication Association reports that employers seek individuals with strong communication skills and that society needs effective communicators to support productive civic activity in communities (2024)*.* The Communication discipline has many areas of specialization that can be tailored to a student’s academic and professional interests. The Humanities department currently offers a specialized bachelor’s degree in health communication. There is an unmet need, however, to serve our students in non-health related programs by providing them with opportunities to add valuable communication tools to their academic program.

An academic minor in Communication Studies complements any major and provides students with the opportunity to discover other educational interests, strengths, and ambitions. Students continuing to professional schools and graduate schools or those with interdisciplinary interest can also benefit from obtaining a minor in Communication Studies. Finally, an academic Communication Studies minor will enrich the Health Communication B.S. program and broaden the scope of teaching, research and curriculum development.

The proposed minor builds upon existing communication courses offered by the Humanities Department. The curriculum will include concentrated areas of communication, including interpersonal, organizational, rhetoric, cultural, health and mediated communication.

CUNY colleges which already offer a minor in communication studies include Baruch, Brooklyn College, BMCC, Bronx, Kingsborough, LAGCC, and Staten Island. Articulation agreements with senior colleges, such as Baruch and Brooklyn College, will make is possible for students to transfer into a four-year Communication Studies program.

**2) Detailed Description of the Proposed Minor:**

The minor consists of one required course: COM 1332 Introduction to Human Communication (3 credits) and four elective courses: COM 1330 Public Speaking (3 credits), COM 1335 Group Communication (3 credits), COM 1340 Oral Interpretation of Literature (3 credits), COM 2401 International Communication (3 credits), COM 2402 Intercultural Communication (3 credits), COM 2403 Health Communication (3 credits), COM 2404 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits), COM 2405 Principles of Persuasion (3 credits), COM 2406 Gender and Health Communication (3 credits), COM 3401 Business and Professional Communication (3 credits). The Communication minor will be available to students in any academic major programs. The minor consists of 15 or more credits available in General Education Flexible Common Core and College Option Requirements. Students must take at least one upper level course. Students must achieve a grade of 2.0 or higher in all courses that contribute towards the minor in order to be granted a minor designation on their transcripts.

**Required and Elective Courses for the Minor**

The Communication minor will be available to students in any academic major program. The minor consists of 15 or more credits available in General Education Flexible Common Core, and College Option Requirements. The minor in Communication Studies can be completed in all BS degrees and most BTech degrees within the required credits for the degree program. Students must earn a C or above in course work in order to be granted an academic minor designation on their transcripts. At least one upper level class is required. A minimum of 9 credits must be taken at City Tech.

**Required Course:**

COM 1332 Introduction to Human Communication (3 credits, Individual & Society)

**Elective Courses:** Students select four elective courses from optional Pathways categories. Students must choose at least one upper level course.

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| **Individual and Society** |
| COM 1330 Public Speaking (3 credits) |
| COM 1335 Group Communication (3 credits) |
| COM 2402 Intercultural Communication (WI) (3 credits) |
| COM 2403 Health Communication (WI) (3 credits) |
| COM 2404 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits) |
| COM 2405 Principles of Persuasion (3 credits) |
| COM 3401 Business and Professional COM (Capstone, WI) (3 credits) |
| **Creative Expression** |
| COM 1340 - Oral Interpretation of Literature (3 credits) |
| **World Cultures and Global Issues** |
| COM 2401 - International Communication (WI) (3 credits) |
| **US Experience in Its Diversity** |
| COM 2406 - Gender and Health Communication (3 credits) |
| **Interdisciplinary College Option** |
| COM 2403ID Health Communication (3 credits) |
| **Non Pathways Program Electives** |
| COM 1403 Introduction to Communication in Healthcare Professions (3 credits) |
| COM 1400 Media Studies (3 credits) |

**Program Learning Outcomes**

The Communication curriculum will focus on the concepts, theories, and practice of human communication. The curriculum is designed to cover numerous oral and written skill sets and competencies. Students will be able to:

* Apply their understanding of Communication research and principles to personal, professional, and cultural relationships and concerns.
* Develop an understanding and appreciation of human message exchanges and recognize how communication influences interpersonal, social, organizational, political, and cultural contexts.
* Acquire proficiency in critical analysis, social scientific and humanistic research methods, argumentation, and oral/written presentation.
* Communicate clearly and concisely in speech, writing and multimedia.
* Challenge disparities related to gender, race, ethnicity, income, sexual orientation, age or ability.
* Identify, evaluate and effectively respond to ethical issues in communication context.

**Sample Maps with Communication Studies Minor**

**Health Science A.S. Program and Communication Studies Minor**

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| **Program/Gen Ed Requirements Health Science A.S.** | **Courses for Proposed Minor** |
| COM1403 Introduction to Communication in Healthcare Professions | COM1403 Introduction to Communication in Healthcare Professions |
| COM 2403 Health Communication | COM 2403 Health Communication |
| Flexible Common Core (WCGI) | COM 2401 International Communication |
| Additional Flexible Common Core (IS) | COM 1332 Introduction to Human Communication (required) |
| Free Elective | Free elective |

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| **Health Care Policy & Management** | **Courses for Proposed Minor** |
| **Require: COM 1330 or Higher**  Recommend: COM 1403 Introduction to Communication in Healthcare Professions  OR COM 2403/2403ID Health Communication | **Require: COM 1332 Introduction to Human Communication (Individual & Society)**  \*This class fulfills the college’s oral requirements and includes overlapping learning outcomes with COM 1403 and COM 1330 |
| Interdisciplinary requirement | COM 2403ID Health Communication |
| Flexible Common Core (WCGI) | COM 2401 International Communication |
| Flexible Common Core (USD) | COM 2406 Gender and Health |
| Free Elective | COM 3500 Health Policy and Communication Advocacy OR \*HSCI 4970 - Social Marketing in Healthcare Settings \*Only for HCPM students |

**Paralegal BS Program and Communication Studies Minor**

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| **Program/Gen Ed Requirements** | **Courses for Proposed Academic Minor** |
| COM 1340 Oral Interpretation of Literature (CE)  *OR* COM 2402 Intercultural Communication (IS) | COM 1340 Oral Interpretation of Literature (recommend) |
| Flexible Common Core (UD) | COM 2406 Health and Gender |
| Flexible Common Core (WCGI) | COM 2401 International Communication |
| Additional Flexible Common Core | COM 1332 Introduction to Human  Communication (required) |
| Free Elective | COM 2405 Principles of Persuasion or COM 3401 Business and Prof Communication (recommend) |

**Business & Technology of Fashion BS Program and Communication Studies Minor**

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| **Program/Gen Ed Requirements** | **Courses for Proposed Academic Minor** |
| COM 1330 Public Speaking (oral requirement, IS) | COM 1330 Public Speaking |
| Flexible Common Core (IS) | COM 3401 Business Communication (WI, Capstone) |
| Flexible Common Core (WCGI) | COM 2401 International Communication (WI) |
| Additional Flexible Common Core | COM 1332 Introduction to Human  Communication (required) |
| Free Elective | COM 1400 Media Studies (recommend) |

**Professional and Technical Writing Btech Program and Communication Studies Minor**

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| **Program/Gen Ed Requirements** | **Courses for Proposed Academic Minor** |
| COM 1330 Public Speaking (oral requirement, IS) | COM 1330 Public Speaking |
| Flexible Common Core (UD) | COM 2406 Health and Gender |
| Flexible Common Core (WCGI) | COM 2401 International Communication (WI) |
| Additional Flexible Common Core | COM 1332 Introduction to Human  Communication (required) |
| Free Elective | Free elective |

**Biomedical Informatics B.S. Program and Communication Studies Minor**

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| **Program/Gen Ed Requirements** | **Courses for Proposed Academic Minor** |
| COM 1330 Public Speaking (IS) or higher | COM 1332 Introduction to Human  Communication (required) |
| Flexible Common Core (UD) | COM 2406 Health and Gender |
| Interdisciplinary course requirement | COM 2403ID Health Communication |
| Additional Flexible Common Core | Optional |
| Free Elective | Free elective |

As the Sample Curriculum Map illustrates, an Academic Minor in Communication Studies can be completed in most BS degrees and most BTech degrees within the required credits of the degree program.

**Administration and Advisement**

An Academic Minor Coordinator will be appointed by the Humanities department Chair once the program is approved. The coordinator will be responsible for contacting and advising students who are interested in the proposed minor. This would include currently enrolled students in the computer science associate degree and applied math bachelor’s programs.

**Assessment Statement**

To assess student learning outcomes, an exit survey will be administered for students completing the minor to provide the opportunity to share overall feedback and thoughts with the academic community about the minor and how they benefitted from it. Enrollment trends will also be tracked, as well as rates of completion and grade distributions. Graduation and retention rates, successful completion and time to graduation for students declaring the minor might also be compared with those of the overall student population. Additionally, grade distributions for the classes taken by students declaring the minor could be compared with those of the general population of students who take these classes.

**Diversity and Inclusive Education Statement**

This academic minor welcomes students from all backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. In accordance with the City Tech and CUNY missions, this academic minor intends to provide an atmosphere of inclusion, respect, and the mutual appreciation of differences so that together we can create an environment in which all students can flourish. It is the instructor’s goal to provide materials and activities that are welcoming and accommodating of diversity in all of its forms, including race, gender identity and presentation, ethnicity, national origin, religion, cultural identity, socioeconomic background, sexuality and sexual orientation, ability, neurodivergence, age, and etc. Your instructor is committed to equity and actively seeks ways to challenge institutional racism, sexism, ableism and other forms of prejudice. Your input is encouraged and appreciated. If a dynamic that you observe or experience in the courses included in the academic minor concerns you, you may respectfully inform your instructor without fear of how your concerns will affect your grade. Let your instructor know how to improve the effectiveness of the courses for you personally, or for other students or student groups. We acknowledge that NYCCT is located on the traditional homelands of the Canarsie and Lenape peoples.

Reference: National Communication Association. (2024). https://www.natcom.org/

**Chancellor’s Report Form**

New Minor in Communication Studies

**Offered by the Humanities Department**

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| **From**: | **To**: |
| No such minor is currently offered. | **MINOR IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES**  Creation of a Minor in Communication Studies using existing courses. This program will allow students throughout the college to add the designation “Minor in Communication Studies” to their transcript. |
| **Rationale**: | The Humanities department currently offers a bachelor’s degree in health communication. There is an unmet need, however, to serve students in non-health related programs by providing them with opportunities to add valuable communication tools to their educational program. An academic minor in Communication Studies complements any major and provides opportunities for students to add valuable communication tools to their educational program. The proposed minor builds upon existing communication courses offered by the Humanities Department. CUNY colleges which already offer a minor in communication studies include Baruch, Brooklyn College, BMCC, Bronx, Kingsborough, LAGCC, Staten Island. Articulation agreements with senior colleges, such as Baruch and Brooklyn College, will make is possible for students to transfer into a four-year Communication Studies program. |
| **Effect Outside Department:** It will provide students in programs with additional oral and written communication skills for employment, and the opportunity for additional credential to their bachelor’s degree. | |
| **Date of Department Approval**: | |
| **Date of College Council Approval**: | |

Appendix: Letters of Support: Health Sciences, English Department, Business Department

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