

# **On Becoming a Comm. Studies Major**

## **But I'm not a Communication Studies Major, so don't even talk to me about it! In fact, why should I even read this thing, anyway?**

Well, that's a good question. Maybe you have no plans whatsoever to major in Comm Studies; maybe you're already well on your way toward getting a degree in nursing, engineering, accounting, or whatever. We get it! But you know, you just might be surprised at how well Comm Studies fits in to your existing plans. We like to think of the information we're going to give you as a sort of inside look into the whole majoring process. Many students are not even aware of how many options they have! So why would we be so selfless in telling you this stuff? Because we're helpers, that's why! We live to serve! It's what we do!

Let's start by clearing up a few things:

### **1. "If I declare as a Comm. Major, then I have to continue that once I transfer, right?"**

Noooo! You can be a Comm. Major here at Cabrillo, get your AS degree in Comm Studies, and then switch to whatever you want once you transfer. It's not like it's a binding contract! You want to be a circus management major once you transfer to Barnum and Bailey University? No problem! Once you get to the university of your dreams, you can major in whatever you like: underwater basketweaving, navel contemplation, or whatever your particular school offers.

Being a Comm. Major here just means that you'll have another marketable skill for when you graduate and apply for the job of your dreams. It's like a twofer! You get to be the trapeze artist you've always dreamed of being; you'll just be one with exceptional communication skills – something you'll need for when you're putting your life into the hands of someone who's going to be catching you 70 feet up in the air!

### **2. But I'm NOT a Comm Major. I'm a Medieval Mongolian Studies major and I'm not gonna change! You can't make me!**

We would never dream of standing in the way of you and your Medieval Mongolian plans! But did you know that you could double-major? True! Double your major, double your fun! No matter what your current major is, you can add in Comm. Studies and it will simply enhance your Central Asia Dark Ages plans! Undoubtedly you're going to want to share with the world everything you've learned about 14<sup>th</sup> century Ulan Batar (who wouldn't?) Happily, double-majoring in Comm. Studies will help you do just that, and you'll make lots of like-minded friends along the way, too! A win-win!

### **3. But if I double-major, I'll never get out of here!!**

Nope, you'll scoot right along, we promise. You see, many of the classes that count toward our major, **already** count toward GE requirements you have to take anyway! Need an Oral Comm requirement to get into the school of your choice? No problem, we've got you covered! We've also got your back with classes that fulfill Area A, Area D, Area E, the Critical Thinking and the Diversity requirements. And by the time you do those, you're almost there for an AS in Comm! Taking a Psych 1 class? It counts toward

our major! So does Soc 1, CS 1L and Math 12. See? You're practically a Comm major already and you didn't even know it! This is especially true of you Comm. Award recipients. Why not get the degree when you have to take the classes anyway? Might as well! Why not get rewarded for doing what you're already doing, right? Right!

**4. Yeah, well, here's the thing: I hate giving speeches. Like, I really hate it! Why would I want to take more classes that make me do that?**

Friend, you're not alone. Most everyone dislikes giving speeches on some level. But here's something that may surprise you: not all Comm. Studies classes make you give speeches! Some do, that's for sure; if you're taking an Oral Comm. Requirement class, you're gonna have to give some speeches, no getting' around it. But there are other classes where you don't have to! Some of this depends on the specific class and the instructor who teaches it, but as an example, you don't have to give speeches in some sections of Comm. 7 (Interpersonal Comm.), Comm. 12 (Intercultural Comm), Comm. 6 (Listening) and Comm. 8 (Comm. Activities). Just like with your other courses, ask around, see which instructor requires what, and you just might be surprised at the number of Comm. classes you can take that'll never ask you to get anywhere near a podium!

**5. I've read this far, but I still don't really think that being a Comm. Major is going to help me in my future career as say, an Amazonian Tree Frog researcher (or fill in the career of your choice).**

Oh ye of little faith! Would we ever ask you to do anything that would steer you wrong for the rest of your whole professional life? Never! The thing is: all the world loves a Comm. Major! True, dat! You see, wherever you go and whatever you do, you're going to have to communicate with others, even if it's just with your fellow Tree Frog researchers. Certainly you don't want to be stuck in the Amazon doing six months worth of field research and not be able to get along with your other Tree Frog enthusiasts, now do you? And probably you'd like to get along with the locals as well, am I right? This is where your specialized knowledge of communication is going to come in very, very handy!

Not only that, but virtually ALL employers want workers who have strong verbal skills, can work well in teams, and who are interculturally sensitive. Zillions of polls asking employers what their top "most desired" qualities in a worker would be list "good communication skills." If you've ever worked at a job with people who **weren't** good communicators, you know exactly what I mean here. Having a degree in Comm. Studies opens a lot of doors for you no matter what field you go into. It's something that will only help you, never hurt you.

So there you have it! Being a Comm. Studies major will be beneficial to you in so many ways, and it can fit it perfectly with your existing plans. No muss, no fuss! So don't delay, declare today, and watch your life improve in many ways. We look forward to seeing you in our classes soon! And hey, thanks for taking the time to read this. We appreciate it! ☺