

Associate in Arts in Communications

Program Overview

Upon completion of this degree, students will be able to deliver messages appropriate to a variety of specific audiences and understand the role effective communication plays in human relationships across social and cultural contexts. Students will be introduced to key theoretical approaches within the field of communications and apply those theories across various contexts, including managing conflicts, working collaboratively with others, active listening, etc.

To Learn More About This Program

Contact Joel Thompson at 269-782-1295 or jthompson09@swmich.edu.

Degree Requirements

To earn this degree, students must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, complete a minimum of 60 credit hours, and fulfill the course requirements of the program listed below. Students, working closely with their advisor, are permitted to substitute the courses in the General Education and MTA Courses section below according to the guidelines on page 35 of this catalog. Each general education course, prerequisite course, internship/practicum, and capstone course must be completed with a final grade of C or better.

Course Offerings

Students pursuing an Associate in Arts in Communications may complete select courses for this program online. Courses within this program may also be offered on-site at our Dowagiac or Niles campus.

General Education and MTA Courses

COMMUNICATIONS

Course ID	Course	Credits
ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W	Freshman English 2 (or with workshop)	3 to 4 credits
ENGL 104	Freshman English 3	3 credits

MATHEMATICS

Course ID	Course	Credits
MATH 128	Contemporary Mathematics	4 credits

NATURAL SCIENCE

Course ID	Course	Credits
ENST 112	Environmental Science	4 credits
GEOG 110	Physical Geography	4 credits

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Course ID	Course	Credits
PSYC 101	General Psychology	3 credits
SOCI 201	Principles of Sociology	3 credits

HUMANITIES

Course ID	Course	Credits
ENGL 261	Creative Writing/Fiction	3 credits
HUMA 210	Intro to Non-Western Civilization	4 credits

Major-Specific Required Courses

Course ID	Course	Credits
EDUC 120	Educational Exploration and Planning	1 credit
COMM 110	Introduction to Mass Communication	3 credits
COMM 115	Writing for Mass Media	3 credits
SPEE 102	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3 credits
SPEE 104	Intro to Human Communication	3 credits

Complete at least 6 credits from the list below

Course ID	Course	Credits
BUSI 200	Small Business Management	3 credits
BUSI 214	Business Communications	3 credits
ENGL 231	American Literature 1	3 credits
ENGL 232	American Literature 2	3 credits
ENGL 235	American Ethnic Literature	3 credits
ENGL 263	Creative Writing/Poetry	3 credits
ENGL 265	Creative Nonfiction Writing	3 credits
ENGL 282	Survey of British Literature 2	3 credits
HUMA 243	Women's and Gender Studies in the Humanities	3 credits
SLP 110	Introduction to Speech Language Pathology	2 credits

Total Program Credits: 50
(Need 60 credits to graduate)

Additional Notes About the A.A. in Communications Program

- A prerequisite course may be needed prior to enrollment in some courses within this program. Specific prerequisite requirements are listed in the Course Description section in the Course Catalog. A summary of the prerequisites is listed below in the Example Course Sequence.
- This program as outlined meets MTA requirements.
- This program may not provide a student with all 60 credits needed to earn a degree. Students may need to take additional courses to reach 60 total credits.
- Courses taken out of sequence may delay a student's ability to complete the program in a timely manner. Please consult your advisor regularly.
- Each student should submit a graduation application at least one full semester before they plan to graduate.
- This program is subject to change. Students should consult with their advisor for program updates.

Example Course Sequence

The following is a sample of a semester-by-semester approach to completing this program.

FIRST SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
EDUC 120 Educational Exploration and Planning	1 credit	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W Freshman English 2 (or with workshop)	3 to 4 credits	ENGL 103W: English test score (Level 2 or higher) ENGL 103: ENGL 115 or English test score (Level 3); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
ENGL 261 Creative Writing/Fiction	3 credits	None
MATH 128 Contemporary Mathematics	4 credits	AUTO 113, CONS 113, or WELD 113, Math test score (Level 3 or higher), or concurrent enrollment in MATH 128C
PSYC 101 General Psychology	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed

SECOND SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
COMM 110 Introduction to Mass Communication or COMM 115 Writing for Mass Media	3 credits	ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W (concurrent enrollment allowed)
ENGL 104 Freshman English 3	3 credits	ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W
GEOG 110 Physical Geography	4 credits	None
SPEE 102 Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3 credits	None
General or Program Elective (if needed)	3 credits	See Course Description for details

THIRD SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
HUMA 210 Intro to Non-Western Civilization	4 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
SPEE 104 Intro to Human Communication	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
ENST 112 Environmental Science	4 credits	None
Program Elective	3 credits	See Course Description for details
General or Program Elective (if needed)	3 credits	See Course Description for details

FOURTH SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
SOCI 201 Principles of Sociology	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or English test score (Level 2 or higher); concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed
COMM 110 Introduction to Mass Communication or COMM 115 Writing for Mass Media	3 credits	ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W (concurrent enrollment allowed)
Program Elective	3 credits	See Course Description for details
General or Program Elective (if needed)	3 credits	See Course Description for details
General or Program Elective (if needed)	3 credits	See Course Description for details