

Political Communication

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The program in political communication is designed for those students wishing to supplement their major programs with an emphasis on communication skills, knowledge and abilities specifically relevant to participation in political environments.

Students must complete a core set of courses, an internship or practicum in the field of political communication, and a set of electives. Students are expected to meet the prerequisite requirements prior to enrolling for a course. All speech communication majors with a minor in PCOM are required to take a three-credit hour internship in the School of Communication Studies or the Department of Political Science. POSC majors minoring in PCOM must complete POSC 495 to meet the internship requirement. Non-POSC and non-SCOM majors may satisfy their internship requirement by completing a three hour practicum in communication studies or POSC 495. Before pursuing an internship, students should consult with the PCOM coordinator to ensure that the internship is suitable for the minor.

For political science majors, all political science courses taken for PCOM credit may also be counted toward the political science major. For majors in communication studies or media arts and design who minor in PCOM, a maximum double counting of six credit hours of course work between the minor and the home academic unit or major is permitted. All PCOM students must complete 24-26 credit hours of coursework in the minor.

Required Courses	Credit Hours
GPOSC 225. U.S. Government	4
SCOM 240. Process of Human Communication	3
POSC/SCOM/SMAD 472. Media and Politics	3
Choose one of the following:	2-4
Non-POSC and Non-SCOM majors	
SCOM 318. Practicum in Communication Studies (3 credits)	
POSC 495. Internship (4 credits)	
SMAD 495. Internship (2 credits) SMAD majors only, by special arrangement	
POSC majors	
POSC 495. Internship (4 credits)	
SCOM majors	
SCOM 495. Internship (3 credits)	
Choose one of the following internship options:	3
POSC 365. American Political Campaigning	
POSC 369. Parties and Elections	
<i>Note: if both courses are taken, one may be counted toward elective requirements</i>	
Choose one of the following:	3
SCOM 353. American Political Culture and Communication	
SCOM 453. Political Campaign Communication	
<i>Note: if both courses are taken, one may be counted toward elective requirements</i>	
Choose two of the following electives:	6
POSC 366. Congressional Elections	
POSC 362. Political Behavior	
POSC 368. Interest Groups and Public Policy	
POSC 383. Women and Politics	
POSC 385. The U.S. Congress	
SCOM 341. Persuasion	
SCOM 342. Argumentation and Advocacy	
SCOM 346. Free Speech in America	
SCOM 352. Communication and Social Movements	
SCOM 354. Communication, Environment and Environmentalism	
SCOM 431. Legal Communication	
<i>Note: Some electives may not yet be listed in the JMU catalog in association with this minor. These items will be accepted in the form of course substitutions on your graduation application.</i>	

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For additional information, contact the coordinator of the minor in Political Communication, the head of the Department of Political Science, or the director of the School of Communication Studies.