

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION



BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS.

Students learn to examine the connection between language, thought, and interpersonal actions to improve their communication and build relationships among people, groups, and communities. Emphasis is placed on the ways in which communication shapes social reality.

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION FORMS THE BASIS FOR ALL YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.

Our classes prepare students to build effective interpersonal communication skills. Students learn how to give and receive information, develop relationships, provide emotional support, express their personal needs, build empathy for others, manage self-disclosure, and make sense of their world.

EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR STRONG INTERPERSONAL SKILLS.

Our students can negotiate relationships in a variety of settings. They learn how to influence others, manage conflict, problem-solve, and make decisions in personal, team, and small group settings. And our students are particularly well prepared to work with individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds.

WHY STUDY INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION AT EIU?

- + **RELATIONSHIP BUILDING** - Learn how to develop and maintain diverse relationships in a variety of contexts, including personal, romantic, family, and workplace relationships.
- + **COMMUNICATION SKILLS** - Gain vital skills in speaking, listening and interpreting messages.
- + **MANAGE CONFLICTS** - Recognize and navigate conflict as it emerges in various relational contexts.
- + **CROSS-DISCIPLINARY** - Interpersonal communication cuts across all areas of our personal and professional lives. Become a competent communicator in a variety of settings such as private, government, and non-profit sectors.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM

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IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU. APPLY TODAY AT [MY.EIU.EDU](https://my.eiu.edu).

eiu.edu/commstudies

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Interpersonal Communication option provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate effective communication in personal, professional, and group contexts.

It focuses on examining the communicative interaction among individuals, with particular attention on communication's power to impact relational development and affect outcomes across a variety of settings. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking as a tool for improving everyday communication skills and the ways in which communication shapes social reality.

Students can tailor the program to prepare themselves for work in multiple professional environments.

WHAT CAREERS CAN I PURSUE?

Interpersonal Communication students graduate with the enduring knowledge and transferable skills necessary to be successful in the contemporary workplace. This opens the door to a wide variety of employment opportunities.

Graduates find jobs in the private, government, and non-profit sectors. Employers often seek out relational skills as an important part of the hiring process and our graduates leave Eastern prepared to manage complex and dynamic relationships.

Graduates with this option are particularly well prepared to work with individuals and groups from varying backgrounds, with differing needs and interests, and where the goals of communication are to resolve problems or disputes.

REQUIRED COURSEWORK: 48 HRS

CATALOG YEAR 2023-2024

COMMUNICATION STUDIES CORE: 21 HRS

CMN 2010 - Introduction to Communication Theories
CMN 2040 - Argumentation & Critical Thinking
CMN 3000 - Communication Research Methods
CMN 3100 - Persuasion
CMN 3220 - Rhetoric of Race & Class
CMN 3903 - Rhetoric of Gender & Sexuality
CMN 4680 - Capstone in Communication Studies

INTERPERSONAL COMM. OPTION CORE: 18 HRS

CMN 2630 - Intro. to Interpersonal Communication
CMN 3470 - Small Group Communication
CMN 3640 - Advanced Interpersonal Communication
CMN 3660 - Communication & Conflict Management
CMN 3710 - Intercultural Communication
CMN 4765 - Communication in Families

INTERPERSONAL COMM. OPTION ELECTIVES: 9 HRS

Students may select any CMN prefix course as an elective. Other electives are available, selected in consultation with an advisor.