

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

### GRADUATE MINOR IN COMMUNICATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The United States government has called for specific communication knowledge and skills that universities can provide to students who seek careers in national security (international business, diplomacy, intelligence, military, etc.). The government encourages universities to help students in such areas as communication skills, critical thinking, analytical abilities, and knowledge of cultures and nations most related to American national security concerns.

Increasing numbers of communication studies students and students with other majors would like to work with the federal government in various aspects of national security. As stated above, the federal government is looking for specific skills set that the discipline of Communication Studies can help students develop. The national security professionals of the United States governments are looking for student applicants who have strong communication knowledge and skills. Thus, the graduate minor can be a major tool that helps graduate students with their applications for government positions. It can also help those students who apply to Ph.D. programs related to national security areas of study. The minor is open to all majors on campus so the benefits are not limited to Communication Studies students.

The following curriculum will make up the graduate minor:

**TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS: 12**

Core Courses:

Students will take three of the four courses below plus one outside course approved by the department. The list below is our expected course rotation.

Comm 555 Fundamentals of Communication and National Security  
Comm 557 Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy  
Comm 556 Communication and the Intelligence Cycle  
Comm 558 Intercultural Communication and National Security

The courses from other departments can include special topics courses or related courses relevant to this minor, as well as regular courses such as the ones listed below.

GEOG 501, Research Design and History of Geographic Thought (should focus the research project on national security).  
GOVT 562, Advanced Issues in Security and Intelligence Studies  
GOVT 568, Advanced Intelligence Studies  
HIST 561, Islam and the West: Cultural Contacts, Conflicts and Exchanges (pre-requisites or co-requisites include HIST 221G or HIST 222G)

SOC 478, Sociology of Development and the World System  
SOC 489, Globalization

There are no required elective courses beyond the fourth course.

Course descriptions are provided below. Note that the courses are double-listed for both undergraduate students and graduate students.

*COMM 455/555 Fundamentals of Communication & National Security:*

*Short Title:* Fund Comm and Nat Sec

This course addresses communication perspectives informing national security, strategic intelligence, and the intelligence process. Students will examine U.S. national security history, policy, the development of the Intelligence Community, and intelligence as processes of communication. This course serves as an introduction to national security studies. Graduate students will be required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

*COMM 456/556 Communication & the Intelligence Cycle:*

*Short Title:* Comm and Intel Cycle

This course addresses communication requirements and the technical, cognitive, and cultural complexity of the collaborative research environment. Students participate in novel, team-based problem scenarios that provide the foundation for acquiring advanced cognitive analytic methods and strategies. Students will engage in interdisciplinary information science processes and will develop and present analytic products responding to national security requirements. Graduate students will be required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

*COMM 457/557 Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy*

*Short Title:* Strat Comm and Pub Diplom

This course covers history, theory, and research related to the use of communication to change attitudes in favor of U.S. national security interests. Students will examine the use of strategic communication and influence in diplomacy, intelligence, and military communities in terms of specific strategies, effects, and issues. Students will learn to distinguish public diplomacy, information operations, public affairs, and other forms of political communication that are used by the U.S. government to persuade target populations about American interests and goals. Topics include soft power, intelligence-based negotiation processes, and research methods used to identify influence techniques of groups that threaten U.S. national security. Graduate students will be required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

*COMM 458/558 Intercultural Communication and National Security:*

*Short Title:* Intcul Comm and Nat Sec

This course provides a concentration on cultural factors in international affairs and conflicts, how culture affects perceptions of national interests, and the relationship of U.S. national security to understanding the general and political cultures of other nations. Students will integrate cultural and intercultural communication theory and behavior, with an emphasis on the development of specific communication skills to facilitate developing cultural knowledge in government and political contexts. Students will learn how to study the cultural factors that affect international conflicts and how strategic communication should address such cultural factors. Graduate students will be required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

*Advanced Requirements for Graduate Students:*

This minor is aimed at graduate students who seek employment in national security, intelligence, international business, military affairs in other nations, and other positions which require knowledge of how communication affects the national image of the United States and how Americans communicate with member of other cultures about political matters. Graduate students will be required to write a special analysis for each course that is not required of the undergraduate students. Each graduate student will also be required to present a one-hour lecture on an area of research specialization.