THE PROGRAM
Courses for the Communication Studies (CS) major reflect a broad range of subjects that aim to foster the analytical and practical skills needed globally as modern communication platforms advance and diversify. The CS curriculum emphasizes proficiency in public speaking, interpersonal communication, and writing. This stress on eloquence is foundational to Jesuit education, whose humanistic roots extend from antiquity to the Renaissance and into the present era. Communication Studies thus reflects multiple philosophical and historical perspectives.

CS faculty work with students to give them an experience that blends practical interpersonal and public speaking skills with a critical understanding of the evolution of communication and culture.

Studies have proven that the most successful people in any profession are exceptional communicators. Therefore, the Communication Studies major stresses practical skills, grounded in conceptual understanding, to ensure that students are able to express themselves effectively in a variety of mediums. Engaging and relevant subjects, including mass media, history, popular culture, politics, leadership, rhetoric, and current events, provide the essential source material for a wide range of CS courses. The content of CS courses continually evolves to absorb innovative communicative practices and theoretical and scientific advances. CS courses place special emphasis on leadership and organizational communication in order to help students acquire the communication skills necessary to understand and master discourse in a variety of professional, social, and personal settings.

While CS courses have vast practical applicability, students also receive a firm theoretical grounding. Courses are designed to help develop their analytical powers. They also promote an appreciation and understanding of the complexities of the communication process, which, among other things, includes learning about how cultures create a sense of identity through shared values, symbols, and narratives.

In addition to its course offerings, the Communication Studies department sponsors the annual John Quincy Adams oratory contest, a storied Gonzaga University tradition that is now a televised event. CS also sponsors the University’s nationally respected and frequently ranked intercollegiate debate program, whose home on Gonzaga’s campus is the Conway House.

THE PASSION
Communication Studies (CS) is built upon one of the pillars of the humanities: rhetoric—or the art of persuasion. Since antiquity, Western culture has valorized eloquence—ars eloquentiae—as the essence of an excellent education and evidence of superior critical judgment. This classical foundation supports a CS curriculum rich in choice and direction, enabling students to cultivate a full range of communication skills.

THE POTENTIAL
CS is the major of the future: it bridges multiple fields while preparing students for many different career paths, such as law, business, teaching, government, public service, and non-profit administration. In recent years, students have used the conceptual and practical skills from their Communication Studies degree to secure internships and jobs with a variety of companies and organizations across the country. Recent examples include:

- Walt Disney
- Boeing
- United Way
- Special Olympics
- Teach For America
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Shriners
- Nordstrom
- Target

CS courses also prepare students for a range of graduate studies in communication areas that span media research, critical and cultural studies, journalism, filmmaking, and other creative arts. Recent graduates have also landed scholarships for graduate study in other disciplines, including law, fashion merchandising, and public health. Recent graduates have been accepted to a number of excellent graduate programs, including:

- Boston University
- Gonzaga University
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
THE PEOPLE

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