



Undergraduate Degrees in Organizational and Professional Communication



PennState
World Campus

A world of possibilities.
Online.

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“As our mission statement indicates, ‘The Department of Communication Arts and Sciences is committed to the study, teaching, and practice of human communication for the betterment of Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world.’ The major in Organizational and Professional Communication invites students to participate in fulfilling this mission. Our society needs citizens who understand the role of communication in diverse professional, civic, cultural, and personal contexts. This major emphasizes the development of knowledge and competencies that people need to be successful, transcend times of discord, and foster collective well-being.”

— **Denise Solomon, Ph.D.**
Department Head and Liberal Arts Professor
Communication Arts and Sciences



Why a Degree in Organizational and Professional Communication?

By acquiring a degree in organizational and professional communication from the College of the Liberal Arts, delivered online through Penn State World Campus, you can enhance your understanding of the ways that we use language to influence people and the world around us. The ability to communicate effectively with others in personal, social, work, and multicultural situations is essential in modern society. In these programs, you can learn to think critically, analyze and solve problems, understand and manage conflict, argue persuasively, influence people, form and keep relationships, give effective presentations, and participate in the life of a community.

You may find one of the degrees of particular value if you are a working professional seeking an applied learning experience that will not only help you advance your career, but also empower you to make critical contributions toward improved organizational practices at work, in society, and beyond. The degrees offer preparation for a variety of careers, such as academics, administration, law, business, sales, market analysis, human resources, or human services. They can also prepare you for graduate study in communication science or rhetoric, as well as related fields, such as law, public policy, behavioral science, health and human services, and social work.

Undergraduate Certificate in Organizational Communication

The 12-credit online certificate can prepare you to make practical improvements in organizational communication so that the exchange of information with peers, supervisors, customers, and other stakeholders can be both efficient and effective.

The two required 3-credit courses are Interpersonal Communication and Organizational Communication.

To successfully complete the program, you will add 6 additional credits from a choice of five elective courses.

The credits you earn in this certificate can be applied to the requirements for the Bachelor's Degree in Organizational and Professional Communication, if you are accepted into the bachelor's program.

worldcampus.psu.edu/ugcertoc

Bachelor of Science in Organizational and Professional Communication

The 120-credit online B.S. program can increase your understanding of how people interact to influence others and achieve specific goals. The ability to communicate as effectively as possible is critical—and becomes all the more important in businesses and organizations so they can function at their optimum level.

This program can prepare you to analyze, interpret, or facilitate interpersonal communication using quantitative and qualitative research methods. Acquiring these skills can help you understand how communication influences relationships within and between groups and, specifically, its effects on their leadership.

Part of your curriculum will include reflecting on how your own prior experiences have been shaped by

principles of communication. You will integrate those experiences into your course work, exploring how effective communication can influence the workplace. Upon completion of the program, you should be able to apply the principles of leadership to interpersonal and group situations. You should also have a critical and ethical understanding of conflict in interpersonal, group, and organizational settings.

This program could be of particular interest if you plan to pursue graduate study in the field or if you already work in a more specialized technical area. It can also help you prepare for a career in law, business communication, health administration, social services, or human relations.

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Bachelor of Arts in Organizational and Professional Communication

The 120-credit online B.A. program can prepare you to use communication concepts, principles, and perspectives to aid in decision-making and problem-solving in organizations and other professional environments. It emphasizes the value of research methods to reinforce ethical practices; you can acquire skills in the effective creation, acquisition, and presentation of reliable information.

In this program, as you integrate your own experiences into your course work, you can learn how the creation of effective interpersonal messages may vary according to many cultural, rhetorical, and professional contexts.

The curriculum can prepare you to create messages that are appropriate to their audience, purpose, and context—a critical consideration as organizations conduct more business around the world. Upon your successful completion of this program, you should be able to locate, synthesize, and assimilate new information from diverse sources and use it to communicate within an organization, writing professional texts for a variety of media.

This program could be particularly valuable if you plan a career in such fields as public information, human resources, corporate training, business management, or research.

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Dispute Management and Resolution Minor

This minor can help you develop your skills in critical thinking, conflict management, and communication—all essential to both professional and managerial positions in nearly every field of study and practice. The choice of courses in this program will give you the opportunity to learn about, and develop skills appropriate to, the management and resolution of problems created by differences

in attitudes, beliefs, values, and behavioral preferences of individuals primarily in interpersonal, group, and organizational contexts. The courses will explore a variety of perspectives related to these areas. By choosing the minor in dispute management and resolution, you can further your development as a professional in your major field of study and in your career.

Why Penn State?

Experience in Distance Education

As a distance education pioneer, Penn State has developed a nationally recognized support system for students who are geographically removed from campus. With our team of Penn State instructors, academic advisers, technical support experts, and student support representatives, we'll help you get where you want to go—successfully—through distance education.

Military-Friendly University

Penn State has the experience you need to help you meet your goals during and after your military service to your country. Through our commitment to increasing access to education for military personnel, veterans, and military family members, we have aligned our online programs, student support services, policies, and procedures to address your unique needs.

Reputation for Excellence

Having a Penn State degree on your résumé is a great way to broaden your career options and prove to current and potential employers that you are a well-educated professional. No distinction will be made on your official Penn State transcript or diploma that your courses were completed online.

An Exceptional Student/Alumni Body

Whether you take our courses online or in a traditional classroom, you become a “Penn Stater,” who is part of:

- › an institution with more than 150 years of excellence in teaching, research, and service
- › a proud network of more than 692,000 alumni located around the world, with representation in hundreds of professions. Take advantage of our vast alumni network to help you advance your career.

Student Support

We support our students with a number of learning opportunities, including those that allow for real-time online interaction with classmates and professors. We also offer assistance for students, from financial support to a learning center, as well as support with internships.

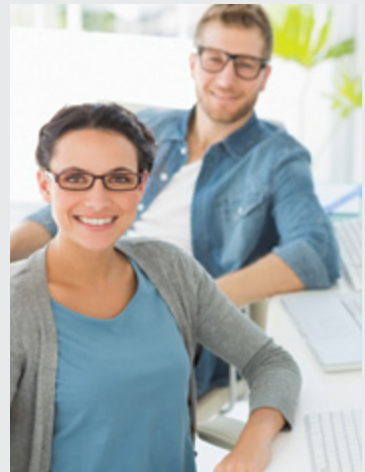
Library Services

As a Penn State World Campus student, you will have access to one of the top research library collections in North America—the Penn State University Libraries system, which holds more than 800 online research databases, 110,000 scholarly journals, and 1 million electronic books. You can search the online catalog and review databases as if you were sitting at a terminal in any Penn State library.

Begin Your Application Today

How to Begin

1. For the Undergraduate Certificate program, visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/ugcertoc
For the Bachelor of Arts program, visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/baopc
For the Bachelor of Science program, visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/bsopc
2. Click the "Apply Now" button to access your application.



Application Materials

- › Online application and fee
- › Official high school transcripts or GED transcript along with records from high school
- › Official college or university transcripts, if you attended another institution, and/or official military transcripts (if applicable)
- › TOEFL or IELTS score (if applicable)

To apply or for more information about these application materials, visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions

Did You Know?

- › Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus.
- › Our online courses involve frequent interactions among students and faculty.
- › Penn State World Campus is consistently ranked in the top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report* for having the best online bachelor's programs.

Contact Us

Admissions Questions

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worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions



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