

Speech Communication


| American River College

Speech Communication courses offer instruction and practice in a variety of communication settings. The program includes theory and practice in public speaking, group work, and interpersonal relationships. Critical thinking, listening, and communicating across cultures are also part of the program.


Human Resource officers again and again claim the top skills they are seeking in employees are the ability to communicate in spoken and written form, plus the ability to be an effective team member. Speech communication courses are essential for personal and professional growth.

[\(/academics/arc-program-road-maps\)](/academics/arc-program-road-maps)

DIVISION DEAN [Diana Hicks \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/diana-hicks\)](/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/diana-hicks)

 [Humanities Division Office \(/academics/arc-humanities-division-office\)](/academics/arc-humanities-division-office)

DEPARTMENT CHAIR [David Austin \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/david-austin\)](/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/david-austin)

 (916) 484-8653

 DorofeL@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:DorofeL@arc.losrios.edu>)

Associate Degree for Transfer

A.A.-T. in Communication Studies

This degree provides a foundation for students to transfer to a CSU campus with a major in Communication, Speech Communication, Communications, or Communication Studies.

The Associate in Arts degree in Communication Studies for Transfer provides students with a major that fulfills the general requirements of the California State University for transfer. Students with this degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system.

The Associate in Arts degree in Communication Studies for Transfer (A.A.-T.) may be obtained by the completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program outlined below (earning a C or better in these courses), and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Degree Requirements

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	UNITS
SPEECH 301	Public Speaking	3
A minimum of 6 units from the following:		6
SPEECH 311	Argumentation and Debate (3)	
SPEECH 321	Interpersonal Communication (3)	
SPEECH 331	Group Discussion (3)	
A minimum of 6 units from the following:		6
SPEECH 302	Persuasive Speech (3)	
SPEECH 325	Intercultural Communication (3)	
SPEECH 361	The Communication Experience (3)	

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	UNITS
JOUR 310	Mass Media and Society (3)	
A minimum of 3 units from the following:		3 ¹
ANTH 310	Cultural Anthropology (3)	
ENGWR 302	Advanced Composition and Critical Thinking (3)	
ENGWR 482	Honors Advanced Composition and Critical Thinking (3)	
JOUR 300	Newswriting and Reporting (3)	
PSYC 300	General Principles (3)	
SOC 300	Introductory Sociology (3)	
Total Units:		18

¹or any course not used previously

The Associate in Arts in Communication Studies for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- assess the factors which contribute to communication competency.
- generate strategies to communicate effectively with others in dyads, groups, and public situations.
- evaluate the role of communication in human interactions.
- analyze evidence, reasoning, and persuasive appeals for credibility, logic, and relevance.
- demonstrate skills and behaviors which contribute to open and respectful communication of diverse ideas and beliefs.

Career Information

A primary skill employers in all fields seek is effective communication. A degree in Communication Studies enriches personal development and enhances opportunities for employment and promotion in such diverse professional fields as education, law, law enforcement, health, science, management, organizational development, psychology, public service, sales, training, entertainment, and social services.

Speech (SPEECH)

SPEECH 301 Public Speaking

Units:	3
Hours:	54 hours LEC
Prerequisite:	None.
Advisory:	Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
Transferable:	CSU; UC
General Education:	AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; IGETC Area 1C
C-ID:	C-ID COMM 110

This course covers oral composition and delivery of messages in public speaking situations. It focuses on how to manage anxieties about speaking in public, organize ideas when speaking to inform and persuade, use supporting materials to increase the effectiveness of messages, appeal to different audiences,

and critically evaluate messages. By the end of the course, students will be more confident and effective in oral communication situations. Audio/video recording equipment may be used as an aid to self-analysis and improvement.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- organize and deliver informative speeches.
- organize and deliver persuasive discourse designed to convince or actuate an audience.
- research and critically evaluate information to create informed responses to issues and problems.
- defend claims with appropriate evidence.
- manage personal communication apprehension in public speaking situations.
- analyze and identify factors that contribute to effective design, development, and delivery of speeches.
- design messages that adapt to target audiences in order to maximize communication effectiveness.
- produce messages extemporaneously.

SPEECH 302 Persuasive Speech

Units:	3
Hours:	54 hours LEC
Prerequisite:	None.
Advisory:	SPEECH 301 with a grade of "C" or better; and eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
Transferable:	CSU; UC (UC credit limitation: SPEECH 302 & 311 combined: maximum credit, one course)
General Education:	CSU Area A3
C-ID:	C-ID COMM 190

This course is a detailed study of persuasive discourse through an understanding of basic communication principles. Emphasis is placed on the use of proofs, language, and logical thinking. Audio- and/or video-recording equipment may be used as an aid for self-analysis and improvement.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- analyze persuasive appeals.
- design persuasive messages.
- produce effective oral persuasion responsibly and ethically.
- evaluate the ways language produces influence.
- demonstrate the skills necessary for open and respectful communication of diverse ideas and beliefs.

SPEECH 311 Argumentation and Debate

Units:	3
Hours:	54 hours LEC

Prerequisite:	None.
Advisory:	ENGWR 300, ENGWR 480, or SPEECH 301
Transferable:	CSU; UC (UC credit limitation: SPEECH 302 & 311 combined: maximum credit, one course)
General Education:	CSU Area A3
C-ID:	C-ID COMM 120

This course focuses on critical thinking with an emphasis on building and analyzing logical arguments. Rhetorical strategies are discussed and practiced. The course covers organization, supporting materials, delivery of effective arguments, and the use of questioning in critical thinking.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- critically evaluate reasoning and evidence.
- develop research questions for presentations.
- arrange and organize ideas.
- prioritize main points and distinguish these from subordinate ideas.
- support claims with logic and reasoning.
- identify fallacies of reasoning.
- debate convincingly with clarity and impact.

SPEECH 321 Interpersonal Communication

Units:	3
Hours:	54 hours LEC
Prerequisite:	None.
Advisory:	Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
Transferable:	CSU; UC
General Education:	AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area E1
C-ID:	C-ID COMM 130

This course focuses on communication between individuals, with emphasis on the acquisition of techniques and skills essential to self-actualization and to establishing authentic personal, social, and professional relationships. Effective communication strategies are discussed, practiced, and reflected upon both in and outside the classroom environment.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify key principles of ethical interpersonal communication.
- devise strategies for increasing interpersonal effectiveness.
- diagnose issues relating to the success or failure of interpersonal relationships.
- detect the impact of the self, others, and perception on interpersonal communication.
- produce and process competent verbal and nonverbal messages.
- evaluate the relative merits of various interpersonal communication strategies.

SPEECH 325 Intercultural Communication

Units:	3
Hours:	54 hours LEC
Prerequisite:	None.
Advisory:	Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
Transferable:	CSU; UC
General Education:	AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4
C-ID:	C-ID COMM 150

This course is an introduction to the challenges and rewards of intercultural communication in everyday situations. It is designed to increase understanding of variations in communication patterns across cultures and prepares individuals for more effective communication. Emphasis is on both international culture variance and sub-cultural group-based experiential background variance.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- assess the major areas of cultural diversity and their impact on communication.
- analyze the effects of cultural variance on the selection and interpretation of verbal and nonverbal cues.
- formulate strategies for interacting successfully across intercultural communication barriers.
- distinguish between cultural practices and universal human communication behaviors.
- describe how culture affects perceptions, values, norms, and roles.
- resolve conflict arising from cultural differences.

SPEECH 331 Group Discussion

Units:	3
Hours:	54 hours LEC
Prerequisite:	None.
Advisory:	Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
Transferable:	CSU; UC
General Education:	AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; IGETC Area 1C
C-ID:	C-ID COMM 140

This course covers the dynamics of group communication and prepares individuals to function more effectively in groups. It focuses on oral communication in task and social groups. Topics include communication concepts and behaviors in problem solving, decision making, leadership, conflict management, and group roles and norms.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- operate as an effective member of small task-oriented groups.
- judge benefits of group work.
- generate and persuasively express critical thought which contributes positively to group decision making.
- devise solutions by using structured problem-solving techniques.
- evaluate benefits of conflict.

- assess the appropriateness of various conflict-management techniques.
- use effective conflict management techniques.
- choose productive approaches to leadership.
- examine the impact of group roles and norms.
- manage verbal and nonverbal behavior to increase communication effectiveness in the small group setting.
- prepare for, organize, and deliver presentations effectively within small group settings.
- discover, critically evaluate, and accurately report information.

SPEECH 361 The Communication Experience

Units:	3
Hours:	54 hours LEC
Prerequisite:	None.
Advisory:	Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
Transferable:	CSU; UC
General Education:	AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area A1; IGETC Area 1C
C-ID:	C-ID COMM 180

This course provides an introduction to basic skills and concepts necessary for effective communication in a variety of contexts. Topics include effective listening, facilitation of interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution, media communication, practical group experience, and public speaking.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- assess and manage communication apprehension.
- design and employ effective listening strategies.
- generate effective verbal and nonverbal messages applicable to a variety of communication situations.
- manage group interactions productively.
- organize and orally present information using effective public speaking strategies.
- predict and recognize sources of conflict.
- demonstrate behaviors that contribute to respectful communication of diverse ideas.
- assess aspects of media communication.

SPEECH 495 Independent Studies in Speech

Units:	1 - 3
Hours:	54 - 162 hours LAB
Prerequisite:	None.
Transferable:	CSU

Independent Study is an opportunity for the student to extend classroom experience in this subject, while working independently of a formal classroom situation. Independent study is an extension of work offered in a specific class in the college catalog. To be eligible for independent study, students must have completed the basic regular catalog course at American River College. They must also discuss the study with a professor in this subject and secure approval. Only one independent study for each catalog course will be allowed.

Faculty

David Austin

Professor

Office: ARC Main, Davies Hall, D375
Email: AustinD3@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:AustinD3@arc.losrios.edu>)
Phone: (916) 484-8120
Web: [David Austin's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/david-austin\)](#)

Tanika Byrd

Speech Communication Assistant Professor

Office: ARC Main
Email: ByrdT@arc.losrios.edu (<mailto:ByrdT@arc.losrios.edu>)
Phone: (916) 484-8179
Web: [Tanika Byrd's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/tanika-byrd\)](#)

Camela Callaway-Higgins

Adjunct Faculty

Office: ARC Main
Email: CallawC@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:CallawC@arc.losrios.edu>)
Web: [Camela Callaway-Higgins's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/camela-callaway-higgins\)](#)

Victoire Chochezi

Assistant Professor

Office: FLC Main, Aspen Hall, FL1-140
Email: ChocheV@flc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:ChocheV@flc.losrios.edu>)
Phone: (916) 608-6825
Web: [Victoire Chochezi's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/victoire-chochezi\)](#)

Paul Duax

Professor

Office: ARC Main, Howard Hall, H158
Email: DuaxP@arc.losrios.edu (<mailto:DuaxP@arc.losrios.edu>)
Phone: (916) 484-8940
Web: [Paul Duax's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/paul-duax\)](#)

John Gilgun

Adjunct Professor

Office: ARC Main
Email: GilgunJ@crc.losrios.edu (<mailto:GilgunJ@crc.losrios.edu>)
Web: [John Gilgun's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/john-gilgun\)](#)

Elizabeth Harder

Adjunct Professor

Office: ARC Main
Email: HarderE@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:HarderE@arc.losrios.edu>)
Web: [Elizabeth Harder's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/elizabeth-harder\)](#)

LaToya Jackson

Adjunct Professor

Office: ARC Main
Email: JacksoL@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:JacksoL@arc.losrios.edu>)
Phone: (916) 286-3691 ext. 12211
Web: [LaToya Jackson's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/latoya-jackson\)](#)

Pam Jurach

Professor

Office: ARC Main, Davies Hall, D341

Scott Kirchner

Adjunct Faculty

Office: ARC Main

Email: JurachP@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:JurachP@arc.losrios.edu>)

Phone: (916) 484-8578

Web: [Pam Jurach's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/pam-jurach\)](#)

Email: KirchnS@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:KirchnS@arc.losrios.edu>)

Phone: (916) 484-8653

Web: [Scott Kirchner's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/scott-kirchner\)](#)

Paul Lagergren

Adjunct Professor

Office: Natomas Center

Email: LagergP@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:LagergP@arc.losrios.edu>)

Web: [Paul Lagergren's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/paul-lagergren\)](#)

Ryan Lingsweiler

Adjunct Professor

Office: ARC Main

Email: LingswR@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:LingswR@arc.losrios.edu>)

Phone: (916) 286-3691 ext. 12146

Web: [Ryan Lingsweiler's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/ryan-lingsweiler\)](#)

Justin Norton

Adjunct Professor

Office: ARC Main

Email: NortonJ@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:NortonJ@arc.losrios.edu>)

Web: [Justin Norton's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/justin-norton\)](#)

Kelly Riese

Adjunct Professor

Office: ARC Main

Email: RieseK@arc.losrios.edu (<mailto:RieseK@arc.losrios.edu>)

Web: [Kelly Riese's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/kelly-riese\)](#)

Alisa Shubb

Professor

Office: ARC Main, Davies Hall, D311

Email: ShubbA@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:ShubbA@arc.losrios.edu>)

Phone: (916) 484-8468

Web: [Alisa Shubb's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/alisa-shubb\)](#)

Joni Stead

Adjunct Professor

Office: ARC Main

Email: SteadJ@arc.losrios.edu (<mailto:SteadJ@arc.losrios.edu>)

Web: [Joni Stead's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/joni-stead\)](#)

Karen Vasquez

Adjunct Faculty

Office: ARC Main

Email: VasqueK@arc.losrios.edu
(<mailto:VasqueK@arc.losrios.edu>)

Phone: (916) 563-3276

Web: [Karen Vasquez's Profile Page \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/karen-vasquez\)](#)

Cookies Disclaimer

The American River College website uses cookies to enhance user experience and analyze site usage. By continuing to use this site, you are giving us consent to do this. Review our [Privacy Policy \(/about-us/our-values/privacy-policy\)](#) to learn more.

