

# Health Communication, Graduate Certificate

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**Purdue University**  
**Graduate Certificate in Health Communication**  
**[Department of Communication](#)**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

*Neff Hall 230 ~ 260-481-6825*

*Michelle Kelsey, Chair*  
*Steven Carr, Graduate Program Director*

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The graduate certificate in Health Communication is designed to educate students to become better communicators with the healthcare sector. Students will learn about epidemiology, health communication, and organizational leadership. Students will have the opportunity to focus their education in family health, public health, health policy and health organizations. This certificate prepares students to work in various sectors of health care and will enhance current health care employees' communication skills.

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## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Work with individuals of various cultural backgrounds to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values.
2. Use the knowledge of one's own role to aid medical professionals in appropriate assessing and addressing the health care needs of patients and promoting and advancing the health of populations.
3. Communicate with patients, families, communities, and professionals in health and other fields in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team approach to the promotion and maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of disease.
4. Apply relationship-building values and the principles of team dynamics to perform effectively in different team roles to plan, deliver, and evaluate patient/population-centered care, and population health programs.
5. Understand, develop, and effectively communicate policies that are safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.

## **Declaring this Certificate:**

- Declare this certificate within the [Department of Communication](#)
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## Program Requirements:

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- A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for successful completion
- A grade of B- or higher in each course is required
- At least 9 credit hours must be earned as resident credit
- Only 9 hours from a Master of Arts (MA) or a Master of Science (MS) degree can overlap with credits taken for this certificate

## Required Courses: Credits 12

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- [COM 58200 - Descriptive/Experimental Research in Communication](#) Cr. 3. **or**
- [COM 58500 - Qualitative Methods in Communication Research](#) Cr. 3. \*
- \* (or another approved research methods course)
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- [COM 57600 - Health Communication](#) Cr. 3.
- [PPOL 51700 - Managerial Epidemiology](#) Cr. 3.
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- [COM 69800 - Research MA or MS Thesis](#) Cr. 1-18. **or**
- [PPOL 60000 - Capstone in Public and Environmental Affairs](#) Cr. 3.
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## Elective Courses: Credits 6

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An additional 6 hours taken from the following list:

- [COM 51200 - Theories of Interpersonal Communication](#) Cr. 3.
- [COM 51800 - Theories of Persuasion](#) Cr. 3.
- [COM 52000 - Small Group Communication](#) Cr. 3.
- [COM 52100 - Theories of Rhetoric](#) Cr. 3.
- [COM 57400 - Organizational Communication](#) Cr. 3.
- [PPOL 54300 - Health Services Management](#) Cr. 3.
- [PPOL 54500 - The U.S. Healthcare System](#) Cr. 3.
- [PPOL 54600 - Health Services Utilization](#) Cr. 3.
- [PPOL 55000 - Topics in Public Affairs](#) Cr. 1-3.

## Total Credits: 18

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# **Student Responsibility**

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You are responsible for satisfying the graduation requirements specified for your selected program. Thus, it is essential that you develop a thorough understanding of the required courses, academic policies and procedures governing your academic career. All requests for exceptions to specific requirements must be made in writing and may be granted only by written approval from the appropriate chair or dean.

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