

LIFE SCIENCES COMMUNICATION, BS

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the University General Education Requirements, all undergraduate students in CALS must satisfy a set of college and major requirements. Courses may not double count within university requirements (General Education and Breadth) or within college requirements (First-Year Seminar, International Studies, Science, and Capstone), but courses counted toward university requirements may also be used to satisfy a college and/or a major requirement; similarly, courses counted toward college requirements may also be used to satisfy a university and/or a major requirement.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CALS BS DEGREE PROGRAMS

Code	Title	Credits
Quality of Work: Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 to remain in good standing and be eligible for graduation.		

Residency: Students must complete 30 degree credits in residence at UW-Madison after earning 86 credits toward their undergraduate degree.

First year seminar (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSFIRSTYearSeminarCourses>) 1

International studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSIInternationalStudiesCourses>) 3

Physical science fundamentals 4-5

CHEM 103	General Chemistry I
or CHEM 108	Chemistry in Our World
or CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry

Biological science 5

Additional science (biological, physical, or natural) 3

Science breadth (biological, physical, natural, or social) 3

CALS Capstone Learning Experience: included in the requirements for each CALS major (see "major requirements") (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSCapstoneRequirement>)

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses may not double count within the major (unless specifically noted otherwise), but courses counted toward the major requirements may also be used to satisfy a university requirement and/or a college requirement. Students must have a minimum of 15 credits within the Life Sciences Communication major that do not double count toward CALS or university general education requirements.

MATH AND STATISTICS FOUNDATION

We strongly recommend that all students complete MATH 112 College Algebra or MATH 114 Precalculus to complete the university quantitative reasoning A requirement and either STAT 301 Introduction to Statistical Methods, STAT 371 Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences or SOC/C&E SOC 360 Statistics for Sociologists I to complete the university quantitative reasoning B requirement.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Course		
LSC 212	Introduction to Scientific Communication	3
Core		
LSC 250	Research Methods in the Communication Industry	3
LSC 251	Science, Media and Society	3
Complete two of the following:		6
LSC 270	Marketing Communication for the Sciences	
LSC 314	Introduction to Digital Video Production	
LSC 332	Digital and Print Media Design	
LSC 340	Misinformation, Fake News, and Correcting False Beliefs about Science	
LSC 350	Visualizing Science and Technology	
LSC 360	Science Podcasting & Radio	

Depth within the Major

Complete 6 credits from one of the following depth categories (see course lists below): 6

Communication Strategy Depth

Communication Skills and Technologies Depth

Capstone

LSC 515	Social Marketing Campaigns in Science, Health and the Environment	3
or LSC 640	Case Studies in the Communication of Science and Technology	

Total Credits 24

DEPTH WITHIN THE MAJOR**Communication Strategy Depth**

This depth category focuses on the skills and theory necessary to effectively communicate with audiences in the life sciences context, while satisfying the long terms strategic goals of an organization. The depth category includes courses in marketing, strategic and risk communication, and data analysis.

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two of the following:		6
LSC 435	Brand Strategy for the Sciences	
LSC 440	Digital Media and Science Communication	
LSC 480	Culturally Responsive Science Communication	
LSC/COM ARTS/ JOURN 617	Health Communication in the Information Age	
LSC 625	Risk Communication	
LSC 660	Data Analysis in Communications Research	

Communication Skills and Technologies Depth

This depth category focuses on the skills required to translate organized information into informative and persuasive messages for a variety of media, such as writing, documentary photography, social media, web design and video production.

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two of the following:		6
LSC 430	Communicating Science with Narrative	
LSC 432	Social Media for the Sciences	
LSC 450	Documentary Photography for the Sciences	
LSC 460	Social Media Analytics	
LSC 480	Culturally Responsive Science Communication	
LSC 532	Web Design for the Sciences	
LSC 614	Advanced Video Production	

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students admitted to the university and to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are invited to apply to be considered for admission to the CALS Honors Program.

Admission Criteria for New First-Year Students:

- Complete program application including essay questions

Admission Criteria for Transfer and Continuing UW-Madison Students:

- UW-Madison cumulative GPA of at least 3.25
- Complete program application including essay questions

HOW TO APPLY

The application is available on the CALS Honors Program website (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/honors-program/>). Applications are accepted at any time.

New first-year students with accepted applications will automatically be enrolled in Honors in Research. It is possible to switch to Honors in the Major in the student's first semester on campus after receiving approval from the advisor for that major. Transfer and continuing students may apply directly to Honors in Research or Honors in the Major (after approval from the major advisor).

REQUIREMENTS

All CALS Honors programs have the following requirements:

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.25 GPA at UW-Madison (some programs have higher requirements)
- Complete the program-specific requirements listed below
- Submit completed thesis documentation to CALS Academic Affairs

LIFE SCIENCES COMMUNICATION HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Students may apply for admission to honors in the major in Life Sciences Communication at any time but are strongly advised to apply before their junior year. Interested students are encouraged to meet with the Life Sciences Communication advisor with any questions about honors in the major.

- 24-28 credits of coursework, as outlined in the chart below.
- For the 15 credits of LSC coursework taken for honors credit:
 - Students must earn at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA in this coursework.
 - It is the student's responsibility to enroll in honors sections or to select honors optional in order for courses to count toward honors in the major.
 - Thesis and independent study credits do not count toward the required 15 credits of LSC honors coursework.
- Complete a senior honors thesis and present the thesis at the CALS Undergraduate Research Symposium or another public venue.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Coursework		
STAT 301 or STAT 371 or C&E SOC/ SOC 360	Introduction to Statistical Methods Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences Statistics for Sociologists I	3
LSC 289 or LSC 299	Honors Independent Study Independent Study	2

or LSC 699	Special Problems	
LSC 681 & LSC 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	4-8
15 credits of LSC coursework taken for honors credit		15
Total Credits		24-28

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.