COMMUNICATION
http://communication.gmu.edu/

Name and description of the field:
The Communication major studies ways to communicate effectively face-to-face or with a large audience through human relations, technology, and media. If you are interested in strengthening your skill in such areas as human resources, management, advertising, journalism, marketing, public relations, political communication, management, events management, speech writing, or media production, then you should consider the communication field. Our program offers students the opportunity to understand theory and research and build their oral, written, and various media production skills.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?
The Communication program of classes, activities and internships enhances students’ abilities to:
• explain basic principles of communication that govern interpersonal, public, and mediated communication;
• speak, write, and produce media so that their messages will be understood and responded to as intended;
• listen and read to interpret and respond to hidden or unintended messages, build relationships, and understand cultural differences;
• use media strategically to enhance message-sending and reception, and
• create and analyze arguments that develop, defend, and reject probable choices.

Since communication is essential to most business transactions, graduates of this field are found in many jobs not directly labeled "communication." GMU communication graduates find work in:
• Radio and Television Production: Work involves all aspects of producing TV or radio programs for stations, small companies, or corporate production divisions.
• Public Relations/Strategic: Work ranges from developing campaigns with PR firms to creating ads for real estate ventures to helping clients overcome stigma.
• Political Communication: Employment is typically found in congressional offices and lobbying organizations. Some communication majors go on to law school and become attorneys.
• Associations: Work includes producing newsletters, organizing meetings, writing articles for magazines, and developing new memberships for associations.
• Corporate Communication: Work varies from recruiting and orienting new employees to the company to facilitating training seminars to hosting Websites.
• Journalism: Graduates work for news magazines, newspapers, television, and emerging media.
• Teaching and Research: Teaching communication courses, both in college and high school settings. Graduates interested in teaching and research might study health communication, crisis, risk, and strategic communication at the master’s and doctoral levels.

Is a Minor available? Yes. The department offers minors in communication, electronic journalism, and sports communication. In addition, the department participates in several interdisciplinary minors, including film studies, women's studies, and multimedia.

Are there concentration options within the major? Yes. The department offers concentrations in Interpersonal & Organizational Communication, Journalism, Media Production & Criticism, Persuasive and Political Communication, and Public Relations.

What are recent graduates doing? Recent Communication graduates have found a variety of positions in print and electronic media, human resources, public relations, and events management including:
• Reporter
• Junior Public Affairs Assistant
• Account Executive for PR firm
• Media Relations
• Events Manager
• Services Coordinator
• Human Resources Intern
• PR Coordinator
• Communications Specialist
• Research and Data Analyst
For more information on the major, minors, graduate programs, and internships:
http://communication.gmu.edu/comm_degrees

In addition, for more information on careers:
Print resources located in the Career Services Library, 3400 SUB I:
Online resources: http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/com.htm

Whom should students contact for further information?
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Academic Advising and Transfer Center                 University Career Services
3500 SUB I                              3400 SUB I
703-993-2470            703-993-2370

Advising Appointments:  All of the department’s advising sessions for majors are scheduled online at,
http://communication.acuitscheduling.com.  If you need advising for a minor in the Communication Department,
please email your advisor directly for an appointment. Electronic Journalism and Sports Communication minors:
sklein1@gmu.edu; general Communication minor: stomasov@gmu.edu.