

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Program Learning Outcomes for the Certificate in Public Science Communication

Upon completing the certificate in Public Science Communication, students will be able to:

1. Be knowledgeable about the importance of communicating science to general audiences, and aware of the various ways in which it can be effectively communicated.
2. Demonstrate the ability to convey technical information about the content, context, and importance of science using effective communication strategies through various modalities (e.g. written, oral, visual).
3. Be able to critically evaluate examples of science communication.
4. Produce original materials that effectively convey science to a general audience.

Requirements for the Certificate in Public Science Communication

Students pursuing the certificate in Public Science Communication must complete:

- A minimum of 6 courses (16 credit hours) to satisfy certificate requirements.
- An Experiential Learning Program or Internship Requirement.
- A Capstone Requirement.
- All course requirements met with Rice University coursework (transfer credit not permitted). For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 1) tab.
- A minimum certificate GPA of 2.00 or higher in all coursework that satisfies requirements for the certificate with a minimum grade of C (2.00 grade points) in each course.

This certificate is not a freestanding degree program; in addition to fulfilling the certificate requirements outlined below, candidates will be required to complete successfully the degree program to which they have been admitted in order to receive this certificate. Upon completion, the certificate is awarded at the same time as the conferral of the student's Rice degree, along with a formal notation on their academic transcript.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this certificate. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the certificate's academic advisor or, where applicable, the Program Director. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the certificate's [Official Certifier](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>.) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Certificate in Public Health Communication		16

Certificate Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Core Requirements

NSCI 220	FUNDAMENTALS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	3
NSCI 320	PUBLIC SCIENCE COMMUNICATION SEMINAR	1

Elective Requirements

Select 2 courses from the following: 6

ENGL 201	INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING
ENGL 305	INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING
ENGL 308	INTRODUCTION TO PODCASTING
ENGL 309	TOPICS IN CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING
ENGL 310 / ENST 310	NONFICTION NATURE WRITING
FILM 324	ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING
FILM 327 / ANTH 324 / ARTS 327	DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION
HEAL 212	PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE MEDIA
HUMA 201	PUBLIC SPEAKING
HUMA 309	ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE
MDHM 260 / ENGL 261	CREATIVE WRITING AND MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Internship Requirement

NSCI 321	INTERNSHIP IN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	3
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Capstone Requirement

NSCI 420	CAPSTONE IN SCIENCE COMMUNICATION	3
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Total Credit Hours 16

Policies for the Certificate in Public Science Communication

Admissions

Upon completing an advising plan to complete the Elective Requirements and Internship Requirement, students may apply in the spring of their sophomore or junior year for admittance to the certificate in Public Science Communication.

To apply, students must submit an application, including an i) academic transcript and ii) Statement of Interest (no more than 1 page). Only students who demonstrate a coherent path of preparation will be admitted to the certificate program.

Upon admission, students must declare the certificate using the *Declaration and Change of University Certificate Form (UG)* available

in [ESTHER \(https://esther.rice.edu/\)](https://esther.rice.edu/). Declaration of the certificate requires the student to obtain the approval of the appropriate certificate advisor for the university certificate program.

Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the Certificate in Public Science Communication should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in [Majors, Minors, and Certificates \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/), students may declare their intent to pursue a university certificate only after they have first declared a major.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the designated transfer credit advisor for the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content). The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors \(https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/\)](https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with the applicable transfer credit advisor as well as their academic program director when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the certificate in Public Science Communication should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guideline:

- Transfer credit coursework cannot be applied or used to meet any of the program's course requirements

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Public Science Communication website: <https://naturalsciences.rice.edu/science-communication> (<https://naturalsciences.rice.edu/science-communication/>).

Opportunities for the Certificate in Public Science Communication

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Additional Information

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