Degree: Bachelor of Arts or Science (B.A. or B.S.)
Major: Rural Studies
Track: Writing and Communications

The Writing and Communications track of the Rural Studies major addresses issues related to identifying the rural audience and shaping and publishing materials for that audience in meaningful ways. It emphasizes the social and cultural aspects of rural development and prepares students to identify needs and to offer workable solutions for issues of the changing rural landscape. The track prepares students for work in public and private sector communications departments such as government agencies, hospitals, non-profit organizations, businesses that deal with rural issues or operate in a rural setting, and others of similar nature; or be ready to enter graduate school programs in areas such as writing, communication, journalism, law, and others. The track emphasizes critical thinking skills, encourages an appreciation of diverse cultural perspectives, and develops a greater understanding of the issues particular to the rural environment to provide an avenue of self-knowledge, cultural understanding, and social responsibility.

Core Curriculum: Areas A-E (See ABAC Core Curriculum, Area B using at least 4 hours AND Area D Non-Science option) 42 hours

Bachelor of Science degree-seeking students

Core Curriculum Area F: 18 hours
Choose 6 courses from the following list of courses not taken in other areas of the core:
ARTS 2211, ARTS 2212, ARTS 2213, BUSA 2105, COMM 2100, COMM 2300, CSCI 1100, ENGL 2114, ENGL 2115, ENGL 2116, ENGL 2131, ENGL 2132, ENGL 2401, ENGL 2402, GEOG 1101, HIST 1111, HIST 1112, HIST 2201, HIST 2232, HUMN 2221, HUMN 2222, ITEC 2215, JRNL 1101, JRNL 2510, MATH 2000 (strongly encouraged) MUSC 1100, POLS 2401, PSYC 1101, RELG 1100, SOCI 1101, THEA 1100.

Bachelor of Arts degree-seeking students

Core Curriculum Area F: 18 hours
Foreign Language through 2002 (Required) 9 hours
Choose 3 courses from the courses above not taken in other areas of the core 9 hours.

Foundation Courses: 15 hours
COMM 3100 Professional Communication Methods 3
ENGL 4010 Introduction to Professional Writing 3
RLST 3000 Introduction to Rural Studies 3
RLST 4790(A, B or C) Rural Studies Internship 3
RLST 4980 Capstone Seminar: Senior Project OR
RLST 4990 Capstone Seminar: Public Policy 3

Track Courses: 30 hours
Choose 30 hours from the following:
COMM 3325 Intercultural Communication 3
COMM 3850 Introduction to Public Relations 3
COMM 4000 Mass Media Industries 3
COMM 4210 Communication Ethics 3
COMM 4500 Persuasive Communication 3
ENGL 3020 Advanced Composition 3
ENGL 3050 Writing the Rural Life 3
ENGL 3115 Visual Rhetoric and Document Design 3
ENGL 3300 Literature of Rural America 3
ENGL 3325 Literature and Film: Representing the Rural 3
RLST 4020 Proposal and Grants Writing 3
ENGL 4030 Editing 3
ENGL 4310 Topics in Rural Literature 3
ENGL 4760 Survey of Southern Literature 3
JRNL 3125 Writing for Contemporary Media 3

General Rural Studies Elective Courses: 15 hours
(Must be comprised of courses numbers 3000 or above from any Rural Studies curriculum and not used in the above areas, or GLST 3700(A or B) Global Experiential Learning).

Total hours required for the degree: 120 hours
Plus PHED 1100 and two PE activities courses.

Revised 17 July 2015