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

Bachelor of Science degree-seeking students
Core Curriculum Area F 18 hours
Choose 6 courses from the following courses not taken in other areas of the core:
ARTS 2211, ARTS 2212, ARTS 213, COMM 2100, COMM 2300, ENGL 2114, ENGL 2115, ENGL 2116, ENGL 2131, ENGL 2132, ENGL 2401, GEOG 1101, HIST 1111, HIST 2201, HUMN 2221, ITEC 2215, JRNL 1101, JRNL 2510, MATH 2000 (strongly encouraged) MUSC 1100, POLS 2401, PSYC 1101, RELG 1100, RELG 1100, SOCI 1101, THEA 1100

Bachelor of Arts degree-seeking students
Core Curriculum Area F 18 hours
Foreign Language through 2002 (Required) 6 to 9 hours
Choose 3 to 4 courses from the courses above not taken in other areas of the core 9 to 12 hours

Senior College Curriculum 60 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 Rural Studies Internship 3
RLST 4980 Capstone Seminar: Senior Project OR
RLST 4990 Capstone Seminar 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 4100 Focused Media Outlet Practicum 3
COMM 4210 Communication Ethics 3
COMM 4500 Persuasive Communication 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 Advanced Grammar, Editing, and Style 3
ENGL 4300 Rural Fictions: Re-examining Paradise 3
ENGL 4500 Writing for Publication 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),(B) Global Experiential Learning)

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