

# PATHWAYS MINORS

# HEALTH COMMUNICATION



## What is it?

The Health Communication minor prepares students to work in one of the fastest growing industries in the United States and across the world: healthcare. Students will learn the factors that affect health behavior and explore both theoretical and practical tools that can be used to promote and affect change related to health behavior.

## Why do it?

This minor will position students to enter the healthcare industry with the ability to understand and integrate relevant areas of knowledge such as discourse, reasoning in the social sciences, quantitative and computational thinking, ethical reasoning, and intercultural and global awareness.



## Who is it for?

The Health Communication minor benefits students seeking to enter the healthcare field. Since healthcare professionals come from various disciplines, this minor targets students from majors across the university. STEM majors who plan to pursue professions (such as medicine or pharmacy) that include direct contact with patients will find opportunities to build their communication skills in a health-related context. Non-STEM majors, such as those in marketing, human development, and human nutrition, food, and exercise, will also benefit from this minor as it complements various curricula.

## Pathways Core Concepts

- 1 - Discourse
  - 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities
  - 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
  - 5f - Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking
- Additional concepts possible depending on elective choices.

## Pathways Integrative Concepts

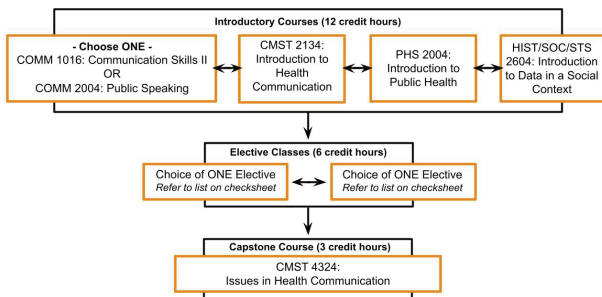
- Ethical Reasoning
- Intercultural and Global Awareness

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## Requirements

The 21-hour minor in Health Communication includes 12 hours of required introductory courses, 6 hours of electives, and a required 3-hour capstone course. The introductory courses introduce students to health communication as a discipline that includes communication, health, and using data to identify and interpret patterns of human behavior. The two mid-level elective courses develop both the theoretical knowledge and the practical tools needed in health communication. The mid-level courses represent a cross-section of disciplines that build upon the foundational experience. The capstone course, CMST 4324: Issues in Health Communication, offers a summative experience, allowing students to synthesize and analyze the prior coursework. Students will discuss, debate, and write about the convergence of factors (communication, health, data) which affect health behavior and messages across cultural, political, and social contexts.



## Required courses

- COMM 1016: Communication Skills II or COMM 2004: Public Speaking
- CMST 2134: Introduction to Health Communication
- PHS 2004: Introduction to Public Health
- HIST/SOC/STS 2604: Introduction to Data in a Social Context

## Elective courses

Students select 6 credit hours of elective courses, choosing one course from each of two groups. One group includes courses that allow students to explore the social and cognitive influences on health behavior. The other group includes courses that expose students to tools that can be used to promote and affect change related to health behavior. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet at <https://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/index1.html>.



[www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors](http://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors)

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PATHWAYS TO GENERAL EDUCATION