

COM Studies CORE Skills

Core Skill	Definition
Confidence	Feeling able to do what you set out to do—mentally, emotionally, and physically.
Responsibility	Taking control of the actions necessary to do what you set out to do. This requires you to coordinate motivation, initiative and perseverance, in alliance with confidence.
Intellectual curiosity	Valuing and participating in experiences that enhance “the life of the mind”
Collaboration	Working with others to accomplish a high-quality outcome when completing a task, providing a service, creating a product, or giving a performance.
Critical thinking	Using sound reasoning, criteria, theories and definitions to explore specific questions or issues of concern.
Problem solving	Coordinating all that you know and can do to bring about satisfactory outcomes.
Civility	Showing appreciation for the dignity of other people and the importance of meeting social expectations.
Praxis	Able to do what the theory or concept tells you to do, with skill and self-awareness—competent action taken in line with responsible choice

“Can I really acquire Core Skills as a Communication Studies major?”

Core Skill	How to acquire or refine this skill as a COM student— <i>brief list, very few examples</i>
Confidence	Performance tasks (oral briefings, on-camera work, storytelling, etc.) and writing assignments can instill confidence in your ability to express yourself effectively under pressure.
Responsibility	Taking responsibility to ask high-level questions in class helps you connect concepts, themes and practices across courses...as does participating in extracurricular opportunities .
Intellectual curiosity	Requesting enrichment work, seeking peer or instructor feedback on early drafts of assignments, going beyond a minimally acceptable amount of research suggests intellectual curiosity, and enhances the experience of living “the life of the mind.”
Collaboration	Group projects (e.g., student panels, studio production projects, community-outreach service assignments) require collaboration and improve you as a collaborator...as does stretching yourself to be a better team member from one project to the next.
Critical Thinking	Your critical thinking will sharpen during such tasks as: preparing and conducting a debate, contributing during class discussion, analyzing scholarly or artistic texts, and composing essays that require you to construct an argument.
Problem solving	Encounter, analyze and solve problems when you undertake research projects, DIS challenges, internships...and when you actively participate in a COM student club or university club.
Civility	Respectful involvement in class discussion, serving as an engaged audience member during a performances, “pulling your own weight” out of respect for group members as people, being honest and supportive when giving peer feedback—civility is visible and refined during all such communication exchanges.
Praxis	Connect course content to your own thinking, bring that informed thought into a survey of communication choices you may make, and make choices that marry your thinking and values with the ethical imperative—the praxis of communication consists of the routine interplay, observable as congruent, among practice (i.e., communication action taken), thought and feeling.

COM Studies 2 of 4 Learning Objectives

Capacity to construct and deliver an effective oral argument or performance of text, based on thorough audience analysis and clear rhetorical objectives.

Capacity to construct effective written argument or media product based on thorough audience analysis and clear rhetorical objectives.