

Understanding the COM sequence @UW

COM1

In general, COM1 provides **an introduction to college-level communication**. It focuses heavily on **written communication**, promotes critical approaches to reading, and develops students' understanding of appropriate purpose, structure, and support in academic communication. This course also introduces students to general distinctions between various oral, written, and digital modes of communication.

COM2

This course will **continue to develop students' transferable communication skills (especially oral communication) while moving students towards discipline-specific communication activities**.

A COM2 that is designed primarily for students in a specific major may fit best in courses (preferably at the 1000- or 2000-level) that introduce students to interdisciplinary ways of knowing and/or that engage students in *applying* disciplinary knowledge and modes of communication.

A COM2 that is open to students across majors may be more focused on cross-disciplinary habits than on disciplinary conventions. These courses will help students develop foundational oral communication skills while continuing to promote practice with written communication tasks.

In terms of digital communication, COM2 courses should help students begin to identify and use those digital habits, skills, and knowledge which can help students to compose, critically analyze, and present information using digital media.

COM3

Though this course will continue to refine generally valued communication skills, the focus of an embedded COM3 should be on **developing students' understanding of and experience with oral, written, and digital communication tasks that are most central to their success in their academic or professional careers**. Senior capstone courses as well as other courses which ask students to understand and practice appropriate disciplinary discourse(s) may be especially good fits for the COM3 designation.

A COM3 that is open to students across majors will naturally be focused on cross-disciplinary communication skills. It may also have a heavier emphasis on common professional forms of oral, written, and digital communication.

In terms of digital communication, COM3 courses will help students continue to compose, critically analyze, and present information, using digital media in ways most valuable to their disciplinary and professional success as communicators.