



University Council

February 6, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2025-2026

Susan Sanchez, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Julie Campbell

Arts and Sciences – Casie LeGette (Arts)

Paula Lemons (Sciences)

Business – Andrew Miller

Ecology – Amanda Rugenski

Education – Amy Murphy

Engineering – David Stooksbury

Environment and Design – Katherine Melcher

Family and Consumer Sciences – Melissa Landers-Potts

Forestry and Natural Resources – Richard Chandler

Journalism and Mass Communication – Yan Jin

Law – Joe Miller

Medicine – Erica Brownfield

Pharmacy – Duc Do

Public and International Affairs – Ryan Powers

Public Health – Heather Padilla

Social Work – Jennifer Elkins

Veterinary Medicine – Paul Eubig

Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost Benjamin Ayers

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – Yaw Buabeng

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to offer a Minor in Communication in Healthcare will be an agenda item for the February 13, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost Benjamin Ayers

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR MINOR PROGRAM OF STUDY

1. **School/College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
2. **Department/Division:** Communication Studies
3. **Minor Name:** Communication in Healthcare
4. **CIP:** 09090500
5. **Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026
6. **Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens
7. **Program Description:**

The proposed Minor in Communication in Healthcare will offer students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of communication theories and practices as well as provide a much-needed opportunity for professional development. As the fields of health and medicine grow, so too does the importance of communication among specialists and non-specialists alike. The proposed minor will be attractive to students interested in a variety of careers in health and medicine, including patient care, interdisciplinary research in science and medicine, public health outreach, public advocacy for health-related research support, and health-related non-profit and private sector organizational communication.

8. **Program of Study/Requirements:**

Foundational Courses (9 hours)

COMM 1110, Introduction to Public Speaking (3 hours) **OR** COMM 1500, Introduction to Public Speaking (3 hours)

COMM 4350/6350, Scientific Communication (3 hours)

COMM(HPRB) 4610/6610, Health Communication (3 hours)

Communication Skills in Healthcare (3 hours)

Choose one of the following courses:

COMM 3200, Business and Professional Communication (3 hours)

COMM 3350, Topics in Interpersonal and Health Communication Processes (3 hours)

COMM 3510, Nonverbal Communication in Close Relationships (3 hours) **OR** COMM 4510/6510, Nonverbal Communication (3 hours)

COMM 4540/6540, Interpersonal Conflict (3 hours)

Understanding Healthcare Communication in Society (3 hours)

Choose one of the following courses:

ANTH 3540, Multicultural Health Care (3 hours)

CMLT 4444/6444, Literature and Medicine (3 hours)

ENGL 3836, Literature and the Health Humanities (3 hours)

HIST 3343, History of Psychiatry and Mental Illness (3 hours)
HIST 3433, History of Medicine (3 hours)
HIST 4065/6065, History of Medicine in America to 1865 (3 hours)
HIST 4066/6066, History of American Medicine, 1865 to the present (3 hours)
HPRB 5310, Strategies for Effective Public Health Communication (3 hours)
PHIL 3220, Biomedical Ethics (3 hours)
PHIL 4260/6260, Advanced Topics in Bioethics (3 hours)
PSYC 3260, Human Sexuality (3 hours)
PSYC 3810, Psychology of Health (3 hours)
SOC1 3100, Medical Sociology (3 hours)
SOC1 3110, Sociology of Healthcare (3 hours)
SOC1 4000, Society, Bodies, and Health (3 hours)
WMST 4120/6120, Sex, Politics, Sciences, and Reproduction (3 hours)

Total = 15 hours

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Minor in Communication in Healthcare

College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department: Communication Studies

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2026

School/College:

- Interim Head of the Department of Communication Studies, Dr. Belinda Stillion Southard, 1/6/2026
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Paula Lemons, 1/21/2026

Use of Course Notifications:

- Head of the Department of Psychology, Dr. Malissa Clark, 2/3/2026
- Head of the Department of Anthropology, Dr. Ted Gragson, 2/3/2026
- Assistant Director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, Dr. Cecilia Herles, 2/3/2026
- Head of the Department of History, Dr. Kevin Jones, 2/3/2026
- Head of the Department of Philosophy, Dr. Aaron Meskin, 2/3/2026
- Head of the Department of Sociology, Dr. William Pridemore, 2/3/2026
- Director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, Dr. Patricia Richards, 2/3/2026
- Head of the Department of English, Dr. Roland Végső, 2/3/2026
- Head of the Department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies, Dr. Frans Weiser, 2/3/2026