

IUPUI Graduate Office Form for Creation of a Graduate Minor

Date: 10-31-2016

Institution: Indiana University

School: IU School of Liberal Arts

Department: (optional)

Communication Studies

Location: On Campus

Is 50% or more online?

Yes No

Official Name of Minor: (required)

Projected Semester and year of implementation*:

PhD Minor in Health Communication

Fall 2017

Academic Career: (required)

GRAD

*This does not guarantee the minor will be approved by the semester requested. It must still go through the appropriate approval process

Please explain limitations to this minor, if any:

N/A

Brief Description: (required)

The Department of Communication Studies is offering a PhD minor in health communication, offering curriculum that focuses on interpersonal, organizational, and media communication in health contexts.

Rationale for new minor: (required)

Given the health focus of many programs on campus, such as nursing, public health, biomedical informatics, clinical psychology, rehabilitation sciences, and others, a minor in health communication is a natural fit and offers an important complement for these programs. The Communication Studies Department is well-positioned to offer this minor, given that a number of our health communication faculty have appointments with other departments on campus (IU School of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Regenstrief Institute) and are actively engaged in research collaborations with faculty and students from other health-related departments on campus (Rehabilitation Sciences, Psychology, School of Medicine, Regenstrief Institute, VA)—and given the integral role of communication in the experience and delivery of healthcare.

List of required courses: (required)

List of electives (6 credits required):

C592 **Advanced Health Communication (3Cr)**
C500 **Advanced Communication Theory (3 Cr)**

C650 **Health Communication Media (3Cr)**
C695 **Communication and Healthcare (3Cr)**
C510 **Health Provider-Consumer Communication (3 Cr)**

	C591 Topics/Seminar in Applied Communication (3 Cr)
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Contact Information

Contact person for this minor: (required)

Marianne Matthias

Contact person's email: (required)

mmatthia@iupui.edu

Contact person's phone number: (optional)

317 278 3154

Student advisor (if different than above):

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Student advisor's email:

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Student advisor's phone number: (optional)

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comments:

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Application for Ph.D. Minor in Health Communication
Department of Communication Studies
School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI

Director of Graduate Studies: Marianne S. Matthias, Ph.D.

mmatthia@iupui.edu

(317) 278-3154

Title of Minor and Department

Ph.D. Minor in Health Communication

Department of Communication Studies, School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI

Statement of Purpose and Rationale

The Ph.D. minor is designed for students who are interested in health communication and are enrolled in a Ph.D. program at IUPUI. Given the health focus of many programs on campus, such as nursing, public health, biomedical informatics, clinical psychology, rehabilitation sciences, and others, a minor in health communication is a natural fit and offers an important complement for these programs. The Communication Studies Department is well-positioned to offer this minor, given that a number of our health communication faculty have appointments with other departments on campus (IU School of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Regenstrief Institute) and are actively engaged in research collaborations with faculty and students from other health-related departments on campus (Rehabilitation Sciences, Psychology, School of Medicine, Regenstrief Institute, VA).

Evidence of Need and Compatibility with Campus Mission

Health communication is a rapidly growing field that has contributed to knowledge of and improvement in the delivery of health care. Important work focuses on patient advocacy, empowerment, and activation; shared treatment decision-making; successful transfers of care between clinicians; communicative approaches to reducing racial, ethnic, and gender healthcare disparities; caregiver communication; and addressing clinician burnout. The broad range of questions and problems that the study of health communication speaks to adds unique and important dimensions to healthcare delivery—whether in nursing, public health, biomedical informatics, or other disciplines. In addition, healthcare is the largest source of employment in the state. Having a Ph.D. minor in health communication will help to expand the excellent work of health communication scholars, which, in many cases, has helped to improve the lives and care of patients. The more doctoral students we are able to share this important knowledge with, the greater the potential for benefits for patients and providers.

Relation to Existing Programs

The health communication Ph.D. minor fits into the current Ph.D. program in health communication; thus resources and faculty will be shared. The Ph.D. curriculum and faculty are already in place, and courses are already being offered. This Ph.D. minor provides the opportunity to reach additional students who can benefit from a minor that focuses on the communication that takes place in healthcare, and the importance of this communication. In addition to the benefits a health communication minor can bring to students, bringing in new students will help to enrich existing courses, students, and faculty, as we are able to explore a broader variety of perspectives.

New Resources Required and Proposed Date of Initiation

None/Fall 2017

Program Director

Marianne Matthias, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies; Adjunct Associate Research Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, IU School of Medicine; Research Scientist, Regenstrief Institute and VA

Completion Requirements

For a Ph.D. minor in health communication, students are required to take 12 credit hours of health communication courses. All courses must be at the 500-level or higher and be completed with a grade of B or higher. Students are required to take Comm C592 (Advanced Health Communication), Comm C500 (Advanced Communication Theory), and two additional courses that focus on health communication in interpersonal, group, or media contexts. See course listing below for details.

Course Listing

All courses listed below are already offered as part of the department's health communication Ph.D. program. No new courses are required for the Ph.D. minor, and no new courses are being proposed. All courses are offered at the IUPUI campus, and all courses are 3 credit hours.

Required:

C592 Advanced Health Communication: A course designed to teach communication skills and practices related to health care, by examining health care communication theory and research. Topics covered range across communication levels (interpersonal, intrapersonal, group, organizational, mass media and mediated communication) within a variety of health care contexts.

C500 Advanced Communication Theory: Students explore how scholars from various traditions have described and explained the universal human experience of communication. Students develop an understanding of a variety of communication theories to more completely interpret events in more flexible, useful and discriminating ways.

Electives (Select 2):

C650 Health Communication Media: Focus on the effect of media on health behavior. Theories of health behavior change and media effects examined; applications of theory to health campaigns evaluated. Examples of mediated health campaigns and effectiveness discussed. Considerations include: interplay among theory, research, practice; how theory informs practice; how research aids in theory construction/refinement.

C695 Communication and Healthcare: This seminar offers an interface between learning from practicing providers and experts in medical care specialties and becoming enmeshed in health communication research. The course is structured so that the student gains insights from experts in the medical field while also gaining an overview of research issues through reading and engaging in health communication research.

C510 Health Provider-Consumer Communication: This course is designed to teach communication skills and practices related to health care talk by examining transactional communication within health care contexts. Topics covered in this course focus directly upon interpersonal dialogue between health care providers and patients.

C591 Topics/Seminar in Applied Communication: This is a revolving topics course. The changing nature of the topic allows graduate students to explore, synthesize, and integrate knowledge of the field of communication and the particular discipline of applied communication while focusing on a single topic not otherwise addressed in the course of study. Health-communication related topics include E-Health, family communication in health contexts, and communication in chronic illness. (Note: The C591 course must be health-communication oriented to count toward the minor.)

Sample Curriculum

Fall Semester

C500 Advanced Communication Theory

C592 Advanced Health Communication

Spring Semester

C650 Health Communication Media

C591 Seminar in E-Health