2015 Update

Communication Studies

Summary of five year open-ended responses to alumni questionnaire: Responses to an open question about any thoughts the alum had on the program (sixty-nine alumni responding)

Strengths Noted # of Responses
General Praise for Program as a whole: 34
Faculty: 55
  Faculty (General comments of praise and appreciation) (20)
  Faculty expertise in and passion for the discipline and for teaching (17)
  Faculty caring about and taking a personal interest in the students (18)
  Variety of the faculty (2)
Material covered in the Program: 44
  Courses were excellent (17)
  Material is helpful and applicable to everyday life (12)
  Material is helpful for the future life and/or my career (11)
  Loved learning the material (4)
Impact on student: 15
  Changed the student’s life positively (9)
  Increased student’s skills/knowledge associated with the major (6)
Would recommend this major to others 7
Student community was a plus 6
Department Advisor 6
Great as a double major 1
Good class sizes 1

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Areas to Improve Noted:

Need more classes: 18
  Hard to get into desired classes (11)
  Need a QI class in the program (2)
  Need for research methods courses (2)
  More variety of summer courses (1)
  Like more classes on culture (1)
  Like more classes on conflict (1)
Career focus: 9
  More internships (2)
  More career preparation/guidance (7)
Need a Graduate program 5
The name “Speech” communication is hard to explain -- change it 3
Like a more business focus 1
Hard to get good grades 1
Like more opportunities for students to get together 1
Like more service learning opportunities 1
Would like to see the program get bigger 1
Would like fewer group projects 1
More focus on application 1
Response to future plans questions:
Going directly into career or family life = 38
Going directly on to graduate school = 17
Working, but thinking of graduate school = 14

Year-by-Year Summaries

2015

Communication Studies
Responses to an open question about any thoughts the alumni had on the program (Sixteen alumni responding)

Pros
General Praise for Program as a whole: 9
Faculty: 10
   Faculty (General comments of praise and appreciation) (4)
   Faculty expertise in and passion for the discipline and for teaching (3)
   Faculty caring about and taking a personal interest in the students (3)

Material covered in the Program 6
   Courses were excellent (2)
   Material is helpful and applicable to everyday life (2)
   Material is helpful for the future life and/my career (2)

Changed the student’s life positively 2

Student community was a plus: 1
Dept. Advisor 2

Cons
More Career focus 1
More time to present student research or prepare for grad school 2
Hard to get into classes 6
Need a Graduate program 3

2014

Communication Studies
Responses to an open question about any thoughts the alumni had on the program (Seventeen alumni responding)

Pros
General Praise for Program as a whole: 14
Faculty: 11
   Faculty (General comments of praise and appreciation) (3)
   Faculty expertise in and passion for the discipline and for teaching (4)
   Faculty caring about and taking a personal interest in the students (4)
Material covered in the Program

Courses were excellent (3)
Material is helpful and applicable to everyday life (4)
Material is helpful for the future life and/or my career (5)

Impact on student:

Changed the student’s life positively (1)
Increased student’s skills/knowledge associated with the major (4)

Would recommend this major to others:

3

Student community was a plus:

2

Dept. Advisor

1

Cons

Career focus

More internships (2)
More career preparation (1)

Need more classes

More variety of summer courses (1)
Need a QI class in the program (2)
Hard to get into classes (2)
Need for research methods courses (1)

Need a Graduate program

1

===================== 2013 Communication Studies

Responses to an open question about any thoughts the alumni had on the program (Fifteen alumni responding)

Pros

General Praise for Program as a whole: 5
Faculty: 17

Faculty (General comments of praise and appreciation) (8)
Faculty expertise in and passion for the discipline and for teaching (4)
Faculty caring about and taking a personal interest in the students (4)
Variety of faculty (1)

Material covered in the Program 17

Courses were excellent (11)
Material is helpful and applicable to everyday life (3)
Material is helpful for the future life and/or my career (1)
Loved learning the material (2)

Impact on student: 6

Changed the student’s life positively (4)
Increased student’s skills/knowledge associated with the major (2)

Would recommend this major to others: 2
Student community was a plus: 2
Dept. Advisor 2
Cons
Need more career guidance 3
Hard to get into classes 2
Need a research methods course 1
Like more of a business focus 1

2012
Communication Studies
Responses to an open question about any thoughts the alumni had on the program (Eleven alumni responding)

Pros

| General Praise for Program as a whole: | 4 |
| Faculty: | 11 |
| Faculty (General comments of praise and appreciation) | 3 |
| Faculty expertise in and passion for the discipline and for teaching | 4 |
| Faculty caring about and taking a personal interest in the students | 4 |
| Material covered in the Program | 10 |
| Courses were excellent | 2 |
| Material is helpful and applicable to everyday life | 5 |
| Material is helpful for the future life and/and my career | 1 |
| Loved learning the material | 2 |
| Impact on student: | 5 |
| Changed the student’s life positively | 3 |
| Increased student’s skills /knowledge associated with the major | 2 |
| Would recommend this major to others: | 1 |
| Sense of community in program was a plus: | 2 |
| Dept. Advisor | 2 |

Cons
Need more career guidance 2
Hard to get good grades 1
Like more on culture than the one intercultural class 1
Like more service learning opportunities 1
Like more activities for students to get together 1

2011
Communication Studies
Responses to an open question about any thoughts the alumni had on the program (Ten alumni responding)

Pros

| General Praise for Program as a whole: | 6 |
| Dept. Advisor | 2 |
Faculty:  
Faculty (General comments of praise and appreciation) (2)  
Faculty expertise in and passion for the discipline and for teaching (3)  
Faculty caring about and taking a personal interest in the students (3)  
Variety of faculty (1)  

Material covered in the Program:  
Courses were excellent (2)  
Material is helpful and applicable to everyday life (3)  
Material is helpful for the future life and/or my career (1)  
Great as part of a double major (1)  

Increased student’s skills/knowledge associated with the major  

Cons  
Need more career guidance  
The name “Speech” Communication is hard to explain  
Would like the program to get bigger  
Hard to get into classes  
Like more classes on conflict  
Would like less group projects