

**Community College of Denver
Communication Degree With Designation
Program Student Learning Outcomes**

September 2015

In the Spring of 2012, Communication faculty from public two and four year higher education institutions throughout Colorado convened and settled upon an articulation agreement for students in the COM discipline. The requirements of the approved degree would give CCD students a plan to complete an Associate of Arts degree that emphasized Communication classes among the rest of the degree requirements and would allow a transfer student junior status at a 4-year school. The degree would allow the student to graduate with an Associate's degree by completing 60 credit hours, and completing a Bachelor's degree within 120 credit hours.

The committee agreed upon several Communication classes in the CCCS and CCD catalog that would be guaranteed acceptance towards a Bachelor's degree at 4-year schools as part of a 60-credit Associate's degree package. They include: COM 115, Public Speaking; COM 125, Interpersonal Communication; COM 217, Group Communication; and COM 220, Intercultural Communication. The group also gave the student the flexibility to take one additional COM class, although whether it counted as an elective or as a class fulfilling a COM requirement within a Bachelor's Degree program would be dependent on the specific four-year school the student would transfer to. (The decision was largely the result of COM 225, Organizational Communication being offered at a wide variety of section numbers at the four year institutions.)

After several years, the Degree was ratified and officially offered for the first time in Colorado Community Colleges in the Spring of 2015. With the implementation, the Communication Department at CCD now has an "official" degree program to offer students that know already at the community college level that they want to study the Communication discipline. At the time of this writing this plan, there are 37 students officially enrolled at the Community College of Denver that are pursuing Associate of Arts Degrees with a Designation in Communication.

With the movement to offering a Degree with Designation in our discipline, the COM department has decided to implement Student Learning Outcomes, program-wide. While before we offered various Communication classes that may or may not have had much in common, we'd like to be more intentional and strategic about how and what we teach in each of our COM courses; especially the four that are guaranteed to transfer within the Associate's Degree package to four years schools.

The Program Student Learning Outcomes chosen by the COM Department are taken from the National Communication Association's "Learning Outcomes in Communication Project." Posing the question "What Should a Graduate with a Communication Degree Know, Understand, and Be Able to Do?" this Lumina Foundation-funded project identified nine learning outcomes for Communication departments to attain. This project, however, was done with Communication majors in mind: that of the four-year variety. We have selected the outcomes from this list that we believe are most applicable to students that complete a DWD in Communication at CCD. We hope that these outcomes will adequately prepare a CCD student to take their COM discipline knowledge to the next level at a public four year school in Colorado.

The Program Student Learning Outcomes we've chosen are listed as follows. Students that graduate with an Associate's Degree with Designation in Communication from the Community College of Denver will be able to:

Describe the Communication Discipline and Its Central Questions ^{1,5}

- Explain the origins of the Communication Discipline
- Categorize the various career pathways for students of Communication
- Articulate the importance of communication expertise in career development and civic engagement

Employ Communication Theories, Perspective, Principles and Concepts ^{1,3}

- Explain Communication theories perspectives, principles, and concepts
- Apply Communication theories perspectives, principles, and concepts

Create Messages Appropriate to the Audience, Purpose, and Context ^{1,2,3,4}

- Locate and use information relevant to the goals, audience, purposes, and contexts
- Select creative and appropriate modalities and technologies to accomplish communicative goals
- Adapt messages to the diverse needs of individuals, groups, and contexts
- Critically reflect on one's own messages after the communication event

Utilize Communication to Embrace Difference ^{3,4}

- Articulate the connection between communication and culture
- Recognize and appreciate individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Respect diverse perspectives and the ways they influence communication
- Adapt one's communication in diverse cultural contexts

CCD Institutional Outcomes Addressed:

1 = Complex Thinker

2 = Effective and Ethical User of Technology

3 = Effective Communicator

4 = Globally Aware

5 = Personally Responsible

6 = Numeric Thinker

Program Name: Communication Degree with Designation	Course Numbers/Program Requirements			
Outcomes	COM 115	COM 125	COM 217	COM 220
Describe the COM Discipline	I	U	U	U
Employ COM Theories	I	E	E	E
Create Appropriate Messages	E	E	E	E
Utilize COM to Embrace Differences	I	U	U	E

Table Key:

I = Introduced

E = Emphasized

U = Utilized

A = Currently Formally Assessed

N = Not Addressed

For more information concerning Learning Outcomes in Communication from the National Communication Association, see: <https://www.natcom.org/LOC/>

For more information concerning Institutional Outcomes from Community College of Denver, see: <http://catalog.ccd.edu/institutional-outcomes.htm>

Assessment Plan of Program Level Outcomes

Fall 2015-Spring 2017 (first PSLO)

Fall 2017-Spring 2019 (second PSLO)

Fall 2019-Spring 2021 (third PSLO)

Fall 2021-Spring 2023 (fourth PSLO)

What we will assess: Depends on the PSLO

Assessment Methods: Depends on the PSLO

Time Frame: Two years for each PSLO

Who will conduct assessment: All full-time faculty

Feedback: Will be shared with all faculty, full-time and adjunct

Closing the Loop: Adjustments will be made to assignments/classes based on results

	Fall (beg)	Fall (end)	Spring (beg)	Spring (end)
2015-2016				
Preparation	Complete PSLO statements (begun in Spring 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match Outcomes to current curriculum • Develop assessment strategies and 4 year plan 		
Data Collection			Assessment administered	
Analysis				
Reporting/Use				
2016-2017				
Data Collection				
Analysis				
Reporting/Use				
2017-2018				
Data Collection				
Analysis				
Reporting/Use				
2018-2019				
Data Collection				
Analysis				
Reporting/Use				