

LIFE SCIENCES COMMUNICATION, BS

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (<https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/>) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives 3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.

Communication & Literacy 6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/>)

Humanities & Arts 6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.

Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning 6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: <https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement> (<https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/>)

Natural Science & Wellness Complete both:

- 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
- one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.

Social & Behavioral Science 3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.

Total Credits 30 credits.

For more information see the policy (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/>).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree 120 degree credits.

Residency Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and:

- is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or
- is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.

Quality of Work Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.

Math Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by:

- placing above MATH 96, or
- successfully completing MATH 96, or
- successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.

English Language If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by:

- earning credit for ESL 118, or
- achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.

Language Complete one:

- 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or
- one course with the second semester Language designation.

Major Declaration Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES REQUIREMENTS

CALS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Cumulative Credits

- Students must earn 120 degree credits.
- Students declared in Biological Systems Engineering BS must earn 125 degree credits.

Quality of Work Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 to remain in good standing and be eligible for graduation.

Residency Students must complete 30 degree credits in residence at UW-Madison after earning 86 credits toward their undergraduate degree.

In addition to the university's general requirements, all undergraduate students in CALS must satisfy a set of college and major requirements. Courses may not double count within university requirements, CALS college requirements, or major requirements. A course may count toward university requirements and a college and/or a major requirement; similarly, a course counted toward college requirements may also be used to satisfy a university and/or a major requirement.

CALS COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

CALS First-Year Seminar 1 credit. See the full list of eligible courses below or use this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/calsfirstyearseminars> (<https://go.wisc.edu/calsfirstyearseminars/>)

Ethnic Studies 3 credits with the Ethnic Studies designation.

Communication A Complete either:
 • 1 course with the Communication A designation, or
 • satisfaction of Communication A based on UW Placement Test.

Quantitative Reasoning A Complete either:
 • 1 course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation, or
 • satisfaction of Quantitative Reasoning A based on UW Placement Test.

Introductory Chemistry Complete one:
 • CHEM 103
 • CHEM 108
 • CHEM 109

CALS International Comparisons 3 credits. See the full list of eligible courses below or use this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/calsinternationalcomparisons> (<https://go.wisc.edu/calsinternationalcomparisons/>)

Communication B 1 course with the Communication B designation.

Quantitative Reasoning B 1 course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation.

Biological Science 5 credits with the Biological Science designation.

Additional Science 3 credits with the Biological, Physical, or Natural Science designations.

Science Breadth 3 credits with the Biological, Physical, Natural, or Social Science designations.

Humanities 6 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation.

Social Sciences 3 credits with the Social Sciences designation.

Capstone Learning Experience Each major articulates the required capstone learning experience.

CALS First-Year Seminars

Code	Title	Credits
AN SCI 135	Grand Challenges and Career Opportunities in Animal and Dairy Sciences	1
BIOCHEM 100	Biochemistry First-Year Seminar	1
COUN PSY 125	The Wisconsin Experience Seminar	1
F&W ECOL 101	Orientation to Wildlife Ecology	1
F&W ECOL 105	Environment, Pollutants, and You	3
GENETICS 155	Freshman Seminar in Genetics	1
INTEGSCI 100	Exploring Biology	2
INTEGSCI 140	Exploring Service in STEM	1
INTER-AG 155	Issues in Agriculture, Environment, and Life Sciences	1

LSC 155	First-Year Seminar in Science Communication	1
MICROBIO 150	Microbiomes and Microbiology - First-Year Seminar	1
PLANTSCI/AGROECOL 100	First-Year Seminar in Agroecology and Plant Science	1
PL PATH 155	Food Frontlines: Security, Sustainability, and Survival	1
SOIL SCI 155	First-year Seminar in Soil and Environmental Sciences	1

Learning Community/Student Group Courses

The following learning community/student group courses are approved as CALS First-Year Seminars.

COUN PSY 117	PEOPLE First Year Seminar	1
INTEGSCI 110	BioHouse Seminar: Biology for the 21st Century	1
INTER-AG 117	GreenHouse Roots Seminar	1
INTER-AG 140	CALS QuickStart: Foundations	1
INTER-AG 175	WISE Seminar	1

CALS International Comparisons

Code	Title	Credits
The 3 credit requirement may be fulfilled as either a stand-alone 3 credit course or as a set of courses as listed below.		
A A E/ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy	4
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy	3
A A E/NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition	3
A A E 352	Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy (approved for enrollments Summer 2021 and later)	4
A A E/INTL ST 373	Globalization, Poverty and Development	3
A A E/INTL ST 374	The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy	3
A A E/ECON 473	Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia	3
A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	3
A A E/ECON/INTL BUS 462	Latin American Economic Development	3
A A E/ECON 477	Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa	3
AGROECOL 377	Global Food Production and Health	3
AN SCI/DY SCI 370	Livestock Production and Health in Agricultural Development	3
ASIAN/HISTORY/POLI SCI 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations (approved for enrollments Summer 2021 and later)	3-4
C&E SOC/SOC 341	Labor in Global Food Systems (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
C&E SOC/ENVIR ST/SOC 540	Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability	3

CSCS 500	Global Health and Communities: From Research to Praxis	3
DY SCI 471	Food Production Systems and Sustainability	3
ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 201	Insects and Human Culture—a Survey Course in Entomology	3
ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 205	Our Planet, Our Health (approved for enrollments Fall 2026 and later)	3
ENTOM/ ZOOLOGY 371	Medical Entomology: Biology of Vector and Vector-borne Diseases	3
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST 100	Forests of the World (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 360	Extinction of Species	3
LSC 251	Science, Media and Society (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
PL PATH/ BOTANY 123	Plants, Parasites, and People	3
PL PATH 311	Global Food Security	3
PLANTSCI 370	World Vegetable Crops	3
The following study abroad courses fulfill the CALS International Comparisons requirement. Only the specific course numbers and titles listed, including Topics titles (in parentheses), are approved to meet the CALS International Comparisons requirement.		
BIOCHEM 307	Study Abroad: Introduction to Biological Sciences Research in Japan (approved for enrollments Fall 2026 and later)	3
NUTR SCI/INTER- AG 421	Global Health Field Experience (UW Mobile Clinics and Health Care in Uganda)	3
INTER-AG 321 & INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Study Abroad Pre-Departure Seminar and Global Health Field Experience (UW Global Health Community Health and Asset-Based Community Development in Sri Lanka)	3
INTER-AG 321 & INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Study Abroad Pre-Departure Seminar and Global Health Field Experience (UW Agriculture, Health and Nutrition in Uganda)	3
INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Global Health Field Experience (UW Health, Education and Tanzanian Culture)	3

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses may not double count within the major (unless specifically noted otherwise), but courses counted toward the major requirements may also be used to satisfy a university requirement and/or a college requirement. Students must have a minimum of 15 credits within the Life Sciences Communication major that do not double count toward CALS or university general education requirements.

MATH AND STATISTICS FOUNDATION

We strongly recommend that all students complete MATH 112 College Algebra or MATH 114 Precalculus to complete the university quantitative reasoning A requirement and either STAT 301 Introduction to Statistical Methods, STAT 371 Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences or SOC/C&E SOC 360 Statistics for Sociologists I to complete the university quantitative reasoning B requirement.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Course		
LSC 212	Introduction to Scientific Communication	3
Core		
LSC 250	Research Methods in the Communication Industry	3
LSC 251	Science, Media and Society	3
Complete two of the following: 6		
LSC 270	Marketing Communication for the Sciences	
LSC 314	Introduction to Digital Video Production	
LSC 332	Digital and Print Media Design	
LSC 340	Misinformation, Fake News, and Correcting False Beliefs about Science	
LSC 350	Visualizing Science and Technology	
LSC 360	Science Podcasting & Radio	
Depth within the Major		
Complete 6 credits from one of the following depth categories (see course lists below): 6		
Communication Strategy Depth		
Communication Skills and Technologies Depth		
Capstone		
LSC 515	Social Marketing Campaigns in Science, Health and the Environment	3
or LSC 640	Case Studies in the Communication of Science and Technology	

Total Credits **24**

DEPTH WITHIN THE MAJOR

Communication Strategy Depth

This depth category focuses on the skills and theory necessary to effectively communicate with audiences in the life sciences context, while satisfying the long terms strategic goals of an organization. The depth category includes courses in marketing, strategic and risk communication, and data analysis.

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two of the following: 6		
LSC 435	Brand Strategy for the Sciences	
LSC 440	Digital Media and Science Communication	
LSC 480	Culturally Responsive Science Communication	

LSC/COM ARTS/ Health Communication in the
JOURN 617 Information Age

LSC 625 Risk Communication

LSC 660 Data Analysis in Communications
Research

Communication Skills and Technologies Depth

This depth category focuses on the skills required to translate organized information into informative and persuasive messages for a variety of media, such as writing, documentary photography, social media, web design and video production.

Code	Title	Credits
Complete two of the following:		6
LSC 430	Communicating Science with Narrative	
LSC 432	Social Media for the Sciences	
LSC 450	Documentary Photography for the Sciences	
LSC 460	Social Media Analytics	
LSC 480	Culturally Responsive Science Communication	
LSC 532	Web Design for the Sciences	
LSC 614	Advanced Video Production	

HONORS IN THE MAJOR ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Students admitted to the university and to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are invited to apply to be considered for admission to the CALS Honors Program.

New First-Year Students

- Complete program application including essay questions

Transfer and Continuing UW-Madison Students

- UW-Madison cumulative GPA of at least 3.25
- Complete program application including essay questions

HOW TO APPLY

The application is available on the CALS Honors Program website (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/honors-program/>). Applications are accepted at any time.

New first-year students with accepted applications will automatically be enrolled in Honors in Research. It is possible to switch to Honors in the Major in the student's first semester on campus after receiving approval from the advisor for that major. Transfer and continuing students may apply directly to Honors in Research or Honors in the Major (after approval from the major advisor).

REQUIREMENTS

All CALS Honors programs have the following requirements:

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.25 GPA at UW-Madison (some programs have higher requirements)
- Complete the program-specific requirements listed below
- Submit completed thesis documentation to CALS Academic Affairs

LIFE SCIENCES COMMUNICATION HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Students may apply for admission to honors in the major in Life Sciences Communication at any time but are strongly advised to apply before their junior year. Interested students are encouraged to meet with the Life Sciences Communication advisor with any questions about honors in the major.

- 24–28 credits of coursework, as outlined in the chart below.
- For the 15 credits of LSC coursework taken for honors credit:
 - Students must earn at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA in this coursework.
 - It is the student's responsibility to enroll in honors sections or to select honors optional in order for courses to count toward honors in the major.
 - Thesis and independent study credits do not count toward the required 15 credits of LSC honors coursework.
- Complete a senior honors thesis and present the thesis at the CALS Undergraduate Research Symposium or another public venue.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Coursework		
STAT 301 or STAT 371	Introduction to Statistical Methods Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	3
or C&E SOC/ SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	
LSC 289 or LSC 299 or LSC 699	Honors Independent Study Independent Study Special Problems	2
LSC 681 & LSC 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	4-8
15 credits of LSC coursework taken for honors credit		15
Total Credits		24-28