The Ohio State University
College of Arts and Sciences

Health, Environment, Risk, & Science Communication Minor (HERSCOM-MN)

School of Communication
3033 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210-1339
614-292-8444; http://www.comm.osu.edu

The minor in Health, Environment, Risk, and Science Communication provides students with an understanding of the role of communication in health and health care, science, and the communication of risk. All of these areas deal with the communication of complex information that has implications for people's well-being and safety.

The Health, Environment, Risk, & Science Communication minor requires the completion of at least four courses for 12 credits, including one foundational course. To declare the minor, students should meet with their assigned academic advisor or any advisor in the School of Communication. Any variation from the program described below needs the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students may request approval of a minor variation by filing a petition through the School of Communication Advising Office.

Required foundational course (3 credit hours)

2596 – An Introduction to Health, Environment, Risk, & Science Communication (3)

Choose at least three from these electives (9 credit hours)

3340 – Principles of Environmental Campaigns (3)
4240 – Science Communication (3)
3332 – Risk Communication (3)
3333 – Crisis Communication (3)
4736 – Health Communication in Interpersonal Contexts (3)
4737 – Health Communication in Mass Mediated Contexts (3)
4738 –Health Communication and New Media (3)

Electives can include one of the following:
*4998 – Undergraduate Research (1-15) (no more than 3 hours can count toward the minor)
OR
*4999H – Honors Thesis Research (1-12) (no more than 3 hours can count toward the minor)

*the Honors (H) version of any of the above courses can be used to meet the requirements for the minor

Health, Environment, Risk and Science Communication minor program guidelines

Credit hours required A minimum of 12. 1000 level courses shall not be counted in the minor. At least 6 credit hours must be at the 3000-level or above.

Transfer and EM credit hours allowed
A student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.

Overlap with the GE A student is permitted to overlap up to two courses between the GE and the minor as long as the minor consists of at least 4 courses.

Overlap with the major and additional minor(s)
• The minor must be in a different subject than the major.
• The minor must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from the major and/or additional minor(s).

Grades required
• Minimum C- for a course to be listed on the minor.
• Minimum 2.00 cumulative point GPA for all minor course work.
• Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count on the minor.
• No more than 3 credit hours of course graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory may count toward the minor.

X193 credits No more than 3 credit hours.

Minor approval The minor may be approved by the student's assigned academic advisor via the Degree Audit Report (DAR). If the minor is not complete on the DAR, the student must consult with a School of Communication advisor.

Filing the minor program form The minor program form must be filed at least by the time the graduation application is submitted to a college/school advisor.

Changing the minor Once the minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by the School of Communication Advising Office.

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum and Assessment Services
306 Dulles Hall, 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave.
http://artsandsciences.osu.edu
approved CAA 5/7/14
BV 8-10-15
DH 6-1-18
DH 6-9-21B
DH 2-18-23
Updated 10-13-2026 MCR