

# LSU DISTINGUISHED COMMUNICATOR PROGRAM

## WHY?

IE's often work with upper and middle management, clients, customers and suppliers, and other disciplines. The ability to communicate effectively is critical to success, and we strongly encourage all eligible IE students to pursue the **LSU Distinguished Communicator Certificate** as evidence to employers of communication skill.

## REQUIREMENTS

- **Overall GPA  $\geq$  3.0.** If your GPA is below 3.0, you can petition to enter the program by submitting a letter explaining why you would make a good Distinguished Communicator candidate despite your GPA, as well as submitting two of your best communication work samples (writing, speaking, visual, or technological).
- **$\leq$  80 hours of course work completed.** For students with over 80 hours completed, a petition may be made to enter the program if you have at least two semesters remaining before graduation.

## PROCESS

A [detailed checklist](#) is available from the CxC site. The basic process is as follows:

1. Apply for the program via PAWS (students services > cxc registration). See requirements above. This can be done as early as freshman year.
2. Attend at least 3 workshops on improving communication skills (CxC holds them regularly)
3. Start taking CI (communication intensive) courses. You must earn a 3.0 or higher in at least 4 CI courses.
  - Minimum: 3 written, 2 spoken, 1 visual, & 1 technological (courses are normally certified for at least two modes).
  - A non-CI course may be considered if the faculty is willing to provide additional communication components and reflection on an individual basis (see [individual CI contract](#))
    - For IEs, the necessary coursework is normally satisfied by required program courses.
4. Start compiling documentation from your courses for your Private Portfolio – video of presentations,

reports, PowerPoint's, technical documents / drawings.

5. Select a faculty advisor and complete the advisor/student contract
6. Perform an internship, undergraduate research, or study abroad utilizing communication skills (reflection required).
7. Hold a leadership role on campus (student organization or service learning) or within the community. Reflection required.
8. Prepare private and public digital portfolios of your work.
9. Have advisor and CxC committee review your portfolios

## DISTINGUISHED COMMUNICATOR CERTIFICATE AND THE IE PROGRAM

Most IE students will meet the CI course requirements based on their required IE program courses alone. Transfer students may need to take some general education CI courses, or use an individual CI contract with an IE faculty on another IE course. Communication intensive certified IE courses include:

COURSE	MODES
IE 1002	WV
IE 2060	VT
IE 4425	WS
IE 4530	WT
IE 4599	WS

(W=Written, S=Spoken, V=Visual, T=Technological)

Presentations in these courses are videotaped for program assessment purposes. Students will generally be able to get video documentation needed for their private portfolios even if do not join the distinguished communicator program until their sophomore, junior, or early senior year (note: you must have at least 2 full semesters remaining at time of application to program).

Contact Dr. Harvey (IE Program Director; [harvey@lsu.edu](mailto:harvey@lsu.edu); ph: 578-8761, 2519B Patrick Taylor) or CxC (<http://cxc.lsu.edu/Home.html>) with any questions.