



WEBER STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# COMMUNICATION MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES



Spring Registration began November 7

Reach out to [an advisor](#) if you have questions.

New Class: [Health Communication COMM 3230](#), M/W 12:30-1:45

## COMM 3230 Health Communication

Spring 2023 – Mon/Wed 12:30-1:45 p.m.

**Have you ever wondered:**

- + How to talk to your doctor?
- + How to navigate the  
U.S. healthcare system?

COMM 3230 is a Communication elective.  
No prerequisite required.



Our MPC program has extended the application deadline to December 1<sup>st</sup> for spring admission. You can find [more information and apply here](#).

## Study Abroad Summer 2023



May 6 – May 18, 2023 The Communication Department is leading a Study Abroad trip to Finland for all Communication students and others as space allows. The program application opens November 16. Space is limited, so don't wait to apply! Students can apply for a \$500 grant through Study Abroad to cover the down payment for the trip. [Follow this link](#) for more details or reach out to trip leaders [Dr. Atkins](#) and [Dr. Defenbaugh](#) for

more information.

May 22- June 3, 2023 Study Abroad to Washington, DC where you can earn credit for two classes, including Communication Law and a Special Topics course. More information coming soon.

## Upcoming Events

Grad Finale, Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*What is Grad Finale? This event is where you pick up your free cap and gown courtesy of the university. You can [order announcements, rings](#), and grad gifts. You can meet with representatives of Weber States University about continuing your education in one of the many [Graduate Programs](#) offered at the university. You'll find everything you need to make your graduation celebration memorable.*

Speech Showcase, Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m

*Every fall and spring semester the best speaker from each of the 25 sections of Principles of Public Speaking (COMM 1020) battle it out to become one of the five finalists who present their speeches in front of a crowd of hundreds and receive prizes.*

Digital Media and Film Showcase, Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>

*The Digital Media and Film Showcase is an opportunity for students to share the projects they have created in the past year. Multiple awards are given for the best shorts, including an audience choice award.*

WASHINGTON  
DC

5 PILLARS  
OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT

- Speech
- Press
- Religion
- Assembly
- Petition

COMM 3650  
COMM 4500  
\$TBD

MAY 22 2023 -  
JUNE 3 2023

LEARN MORE AT WEBER.EDU/STUDYABROAD  
OR CALL 801-626-8711

There are many opportunities to get involved.

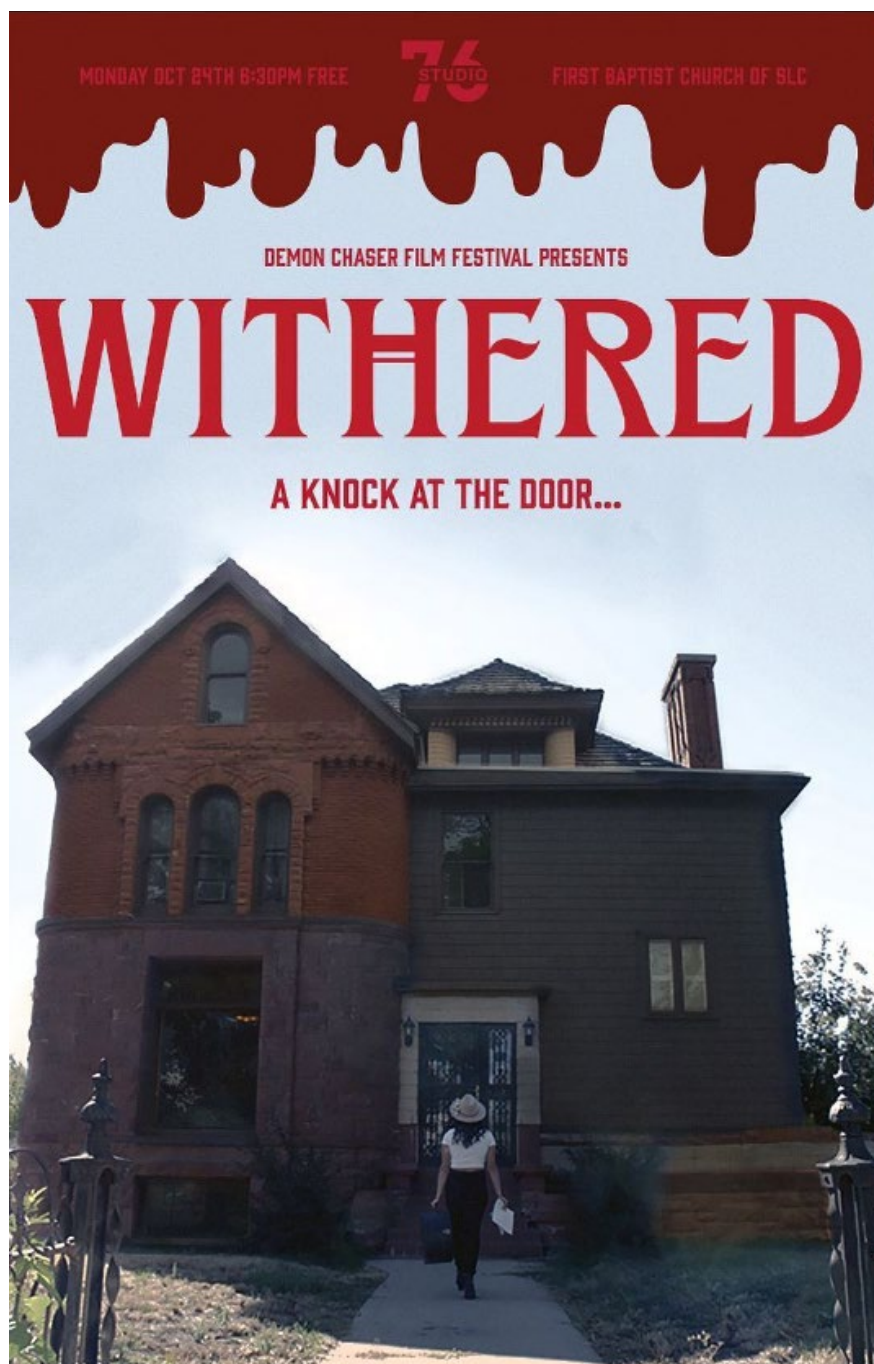
- **The Signpost:** Contact Dr. Jean Norman at [jeannorman@weber.edu](mailto:jeannorman@weber.edu)
- **Studio 76:** Contact Andrea Baltazar at [andreabaltazar@weber.edu](mailto:andreabaltazar@weber.edu)
- **KWCR Wildcat Radio:** Contact Dr. Nathan Rodriguez at [nathanrodriguez@weber.edu](mailto:nathanrodriguez@weber.edu)
- **WSU Debate:** Contact Lauren Johnson [laurenjohnson10@weber.edu](mailto:laurenjohnson10@weber.edu)
- **WSU Speech:** Contact Mark Galaviz at [markgalaviz@weber.edu](mailto:markgalaviz@weber.edu)
- **Ogden Peak Communications:** Contact Dr. Leslie Howerton at [lesliehowerton@weber.edu](mailto:lesliehowerton@weber.edu)
- **PRSSA:** Contact Dr. Leslie Howerton at [lesliehowerton@weber.edu](mailto:lesliehowerton@weber.edu)
- **Society of Professional Journalists:** Contact Dr. Jean Norman at [jeannorman@weber.edu](mailto:jeannorman@weber.edu)
- **Departmental Honors:** Contact Dr. Hailey Gillen Hoke at [haileygillenhoke@weber.edu](mailto:haileygillenhoke@weber.edu)
- **Lambda Pi Eta:** Contact Dr. Robin Haislett at [robinhaislett@weber.edu](mailto:robinhaislett@weber.edu)

The office is open Monday-Thursday 8-5 and Friday 8-1. You can also call us at 801-626-6426 or email [communication@weber.edu](mailto:communication@weber.edu) Feel free to email [Anne Bialowas](#) (Department Chair) or [book](#) an advising appointment.

## Student Accomplishments



**Studio 76** (co-curricular with majors and non-majors) had their film *Withered* accepted to be screened on October 24th at Demonchaser Film Festival. While at the festival, the film won the audience award and best scream hero.



**McKenna Pace**, current MPC student, got a competitive research paper accepted at the National Communication Association: Change My Mind: Selective Exposure and User Engagement with Belief-Challenging Online Content



**Alexandrea Bonilla**, the managing editor of The Signpost, went to Mediafest22, a joint conference of the Society of Professional Journalists, College Media Association and the Association of Collegiate Press Oct. 26-30. It was her first time in Washington, D.C. She helped **Jean Norman**, Communication faculty, present "The Feedback Loop," a session on The Signpost's rubrics and end-of-semester performance evaluation.

**KWCR** (radio station) student leaders **Chelsea Ann Baxa**, **Ivonne Camas**, **Stella Ferro**, **Jessica Krok**, and **Emily Delgado Salceda** attended the National Student



Electronic Media Convention held by College Broadcasters, Inc., in Baltimore. They participated in roundtable discussions with students from dozens of universities across the nation, and learned more about the industry from professionals who work for outlets ranging from ABC and The Washington Post to TuneIn and NPR.

**Ogden Peak Communications** (student public relations firm) is a finalist for a Utah PRSA Golden Spike Award for its work with UTA. The [Golden Spike Awards](#) recognize outstanding public relations campaigns, programs and tactics, and the dedication and contributions of public relations and communications professionals.



**Jenna Gordon**, is a finalist for the Utah PRSA Public Relations Student of the Year Award. Winners will be announced at the Golden Spike Awards Gala on Nov. 17.

**Weber State Debate: Max Johnston** was awarded 7th speaker at the 2022 Weber Round Robin. At the Gonzaga Jesuit debate tournament, Weber was 8 students strong in Spokane Washington, where **Loane Rwirangira** took home 1st place in the community award category in PNW debate, and **Lency Umwiza** and **Lauria Rubona** placed 1st and 2nd in overall speaker categories. October was a good month to be a Weber Debate Wildcat!

**Weber State Speech Team** were the tournament champions at the Whitworth Invitation (October 22-23, 2022). Individual awards:



*Left to right: Whitworth Debater, Morgan Allen (WSU), Krystianna Davis (WSU), Saxony Ruckman (WSU), Utah State Debater, Savannah Mason (WSU), Keely Brinn (WSU), Lower Columbia Debater*

**Keely Brinn:** 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Pentathlon; 1<sup>st</sup> place in Novice Prose, 1<sup>st</sup> place Novice IPDA Speaker, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Novice IPDA Debate, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Poetry, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Novice Info Speaking, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Duo Interpretation.

**Akir Rowe:** 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall; 1<sup>st</sup> place in Duo Interpretation, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Broadcast Journalism, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Open IPDA Debate, 5<sup>th</sup> place in Open Extemp Speaking, 5<sup>th</sup> place in Open Prose.

**Jazmyne Olson:** 5<sup>th</sup> place overall; 1<sup>st</sup> place in Comm Analysis, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Duo Interp, 5<sup>th</sup> place in Info Speaking, 5<sup>th</sup> place in Dramatic Interpretation, & 6<sup>th</sup> place in Prose

**Sophie Beck:** 1<sup>st</sup> place in Open Poetry, Semi-finalist in Open IPDA Debate, 5<sup>th</sup> Speaker in Open IPDA Debate, and 5<sup>th</sup> place in Open Persuasive Speaking.

**Kyle Housley:** 1<sup>st</sup> place in Duo Interpretation, and 1<sup>st</sup> place in Broadcast Journalism

**Morgan Allen:** 1<sup>st</sup> in Novice Extemp Speaking, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Novice Impromptu Speaking, 4<sup>th</sup> in Open Dramatic Interpretation, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Novice IPDA Speaker, Semi-Finalist in Novice IPDA Debate.

**Saxony Ruckman:** 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Duo Interpretation, 4<sup>th</sup> place in After Dinner Speaking, Quarter-Finalist in Novice IPDA Debate, and 6<sup>th</sup> place in Open Informative Speaking

**Savannah Mason:** 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Duo Interpretation, and Quarter-Finalist in Novice IPDA Debate

**Krystianna Davis:** 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Open Prose, 4<sup>th</sup> place in Open Program of Oral Interpretation, 4<sup>th</sup> place Novice IPDA Debate Speaker, and a Quarter-Finalist in Novice IPDA Debate.

## **Alumni News**

**Niki Tonks**, MPC alumni, accepted a new position as the Associate Director of Marketing at the University of Utah, Department of Surgery

## **Faculty Accomplishments**

Many faculty will be presenting at the National Communication Association November. Below are the presentations:

**Michael Ault** — Anticipatory Socialization of Full-Life Volunteers

**Sarah Steimel, Hailey Gillen-Hoke, and Anne Bialowas** — Course Design and Accessibility: COVID-19 Lessons and Possibilities for Inclusive Classroom Policies

**Nicole Defenbaugh** — Using Creative and Arts-Based Research Approaches to Expand Equity, Advocacy, and Impact of Health and Disability Communication Research

**Leslie Howerton and Hailey Gillen-Hoke** — We Don't Talk About War: Parent-Child Discussions of the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine;

**Hailey Gillen-Hoke**—Honoring PLACE and Creating Space for Mentorship and Community-Building in the International and Intercultural Communication Division