

*Approved by Undergraduate Council 3/6/03
Approved by Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee 3/27/03
Approved by Senate Council on 4/21/03 for inclusion on the Senate agenda with a
positive recommendation*

MEMORANDUM

November 14, 2002

Revised: December 16, 2002

TO: Members of the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee

FROM: J. David Johnson, Dean
College of Communications & Information Studies

RE: Change in admission standards

The Faculty Council of the College of Communications & Information Studies met on November 12, 2002, and approved the following recommended changes in admissions criteria. I concur with their recommendations.

Included with the proposed admissions changes are corrections to the name of the College (changed in 1994 when it merged with the College of Library Science) and the names of two of the majors (changed in 1996, and listed as such in the UK Bulletins since then).

This revision includes a premajor GPA requirement in the Communication major.

College admission requirements are defined in Senate Rule 4.2.2.13 A.

Current Senate Rule:

4.2.2.13. College of Communication and Information Science

A Admission to the College of Communications and Information Science Degree Programs

In order to be admitted to any of the four undergraduate majors (Communications, Integrated Strategic Communications, Journalism, or Telecommunications) offered by the College of Communications and Information Science, an applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) enrollment in the University of Kentucky (students are considered for acceptance by the College only after acceptance by the University);
- 2) completion of 45 semester hours of course work;
- 3) minimum 2.6 cumulative grade-point average;
- 4) completion of the premajor requirements of the program to which application is made.

- 5) completion of the University Studies Program requirements in Basic Skills (I), at least A and B under Inference and Communicative Skills (II), and at least 12 credits toward completion of the Disciplinary Requirements (III), including 6 credits in Social Sciences;
- 6) submission of an application form.

Proposed Senate Rule:

(Underlined passages below indicate needed updates for the names of the college and proper nomenclature for USP. **Bold underlined** passages indicate proposed changes in admission standards.)

4.2.2.13.A Admission to the College of Communications and Information Studies Degree Programs

In order to be admitted to any of the four undergraduate majors (Communication, Journalism, Integrated Strategic Communication, or Telecommunications) offered by the College of Communications and Information Studies, an applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. enrollment in the University of Kentucky (students are considered for acceptance by the College only after acceptance by the University);
2. completion of 45 semester hours of course work;
3. minimum 2.6 cumulative grade-point average;
4. completion of appropriate premajor requirements as stated below for each major:
 - a. Communication—completion of COM 101; COM 181 or 287; COM 252; ENG 203 or ENG 205 or JOU 204; **STA 200 or above (e.g., STA 200, STA 291) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater in these courses.**
 - b. Journalism—completion of JOU 101, JOU 204 (grade counts double) and **any political science course with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater in these courses.**
 - c. Integrated Strategic Communication—completion of PSY 100, ISC 161, and ISC 261 or JOU 204, and **a statistics course (e.g., STA 200, STA 291) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater in these courses.**
 - d. Telecommunications—completion of CS 101, TEL 101, TEL 201, and **a statistics course (e.g., STA 200, STA 291) with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater in these courses.**
5. completion of the University Studies Program requirements in Math (I), Foreign Language (II), Inference-Logic (III), Written Communication (IV), and Social Sciences (VII), plus 6 more hours from Natural Sciences (VI) and/or Humanities (VIII).

6. submission of an application form

The proposed addition of a statistics course in the premajor requirements of Communications and Telecommunications, as well as the proposed addition of “any Political Science course” to the premajor in Journalism, have been sent as Program Changes to the Undergraduate Council for their approval.

Rationale:

While it receives less than 4% of the general fund budget, the College of Communications and Information Studies includes 6% of the undergraduate student enrollment on the old Lexington Campus, and its graduates in 2001 represented 8% of the Lexington Campus’s graduating class. The College has grown every year since 1998:

Undergraduate Enrollment in the College—Premajors + Majors

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Communication	203	222	263	309	364
Journalism	263	295	306	358	379
Integrated Strategic					
Communication	284	313	317	346	380
Telecommunications	95	118	126	137	143

Undergraduate Enrollment --Majors Only

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Communication	93	110	138	167	177
Journalism	112	100	112	152	150
Integrated Strategic					
Communication	146	170	185	170	185
Telecommunications	56	56	69	82	78

(Data extracted from the Registrar’s Fall Enrollment Reports)

Within the School of Journalism and Telecommunications, units have experienced a steep increase in the number of students admitted as majors. Adding to these difficulties is the continued surge in enrollment in the Agricultural Communications major; the College of Communications and Information Studies provides the bulk of the courses offered in this major. With seven regular faculty members in Journalism and four in Telecommunications, together with a few part-time instructors, only a limited number of sections can be offered every semester and many of them close early in the primary and secondary registration windows. Many of these sections are production classes with necessary caps of 16 students, due to lab configurations and ACEJMC accreditation requirements. The teaching staff and the facilities are straining to meet student demand.

The average ratio of majors per faculty member at UK is 20:1

The ratio in Journalism is 54:1, in Telecommunications, it is 35:7, in ISC it is 95:1.

Journalism proposes a 3.0 GPA on the three premajor courses (JOU 101, any PS course, and JOU 204) with JOU 204 receiving double weight in the calculation. JOU 204 is an intensive news writing course, and there is a correlation between students' performance in that course and their future success in the major. The addition of a political science course to the premajor guarantees that students have some working knowledge of politics and the U. S. system of government before they move into more advanced news courses.

Telecommunications proposes a 3.0 GPA on the four premajor courses (CS 101, TEL 101, TEL 201, and any statistics course). Students' performance in these four courses is a good indicator of their success in the major.

Other criteria for admission to the majors will remain the same: a minimum 2.6 cumulative grade point average; completion of USP Areas I, II, III, IV, and VII, plus 6 more hours from Areas VI and/or VIII; and completion of at least 45 credit hours.