



Dear COMM Students,

Welcome to the upcoming fall semester! It's sure to be different and—let's face it—strange for all of us. Your Communication Program faculty members want you to know that we are committed to providing great instruction, efficient service, and strong support for your academic and social well-being.

First, we have been working hard to adapt courses for the remote environment. Rather than on-line courses that emphasize asynchronous work, we will be offering courses that allow you to interact with faculty members and other students in real time. At the same time, we are sensitive to time zone differences, so class sessions will be recorded for later viewing. Additionally, it can be hard to focus on a screen for long periods of time. Therefore, many of your classes will likely have some asynchronous dimensions that might allow for shorter class meetings at the scheduled times. As you know, the content of courses and the instruction styles of faculty members vary greatly, so adjustments are being made on a course-by-course basis. This environment will require all of us to be flexible and patient with one another. Let's all commit to bringing our positive energy to our classes.

Second, the services that you rely on are continuing. The Comm major advisor is Dr. Cheryl Wood, and she is available for advising regarding communication major questions. There are three convenient ways to reach her. You can send an email to cwwood@gwu.edu with a specific question, request a phone call at a mutually agreeable time, or even schedule a video chat to see her directly. For Comm minor questions, please email the Communication Program Director, Dr. Clay Warren at claywar@gwu.edu. In addition, you can visit the following link and click on the transfer credit button to have Communication courses evaluated for transfer credit: <https://orgsciandcomm.columbian.gwu.edu/ba-communication>. You also can send questions about transfer credit (or anything else!) to Dr. Jean Miller at jcmiller@gwu.edu.

Finally, we hope you will reach out for support or simply to stay in touch any time. Here are links to university resources that might be helpful. For academic support programs, check out <https://academiccommons.gwu.edu/>. The Office for Student Success offers resources for academic support and health and wellness initiatives here: <https://studentsuccess.gwu.edu/>. In addition, your Communication faculty will all be holding individual office hours every week, and we hope to offer some virtual events with alumni. We would also welcome your suggestions for support services or programming.

Clearly, the study of communication has never been more relevant. The rhetoric of the pandemic response, current social justice movements, and the 2020 campaign; the transformation of family and personal relationships in recent months; and new ways of working and interacting within organizations mean that those who understand communication processes and are skilled in effective communication techniques are poised for success. We are dedicated to supporting your efforts as you continue your journey as Communication majors and minors. (As a resonant example of the relevance of the discipline of communication during this "era," we are attaching an entry from the last *This Columbian Life*. Please see below for the video link.)

The Communication Faculty

2 August 2020

This Columbian Life (Vol.4, 7/28-31/20)

Communication Professor Clay Warren's Spring 2020 graduate-level Persuasion class (COMM 6150) put together an excellent persuasive video project entitled "[The Power of YOU!](#)" as a last course goal. Its topic is - yes - COVID 19. The video was based on a 33-page plan. Of the five students who participated in this project, two are from the U.S. (and one drove down from her job at Princeton University each week until Spring Break); the others represent China, Nigeria, and Nepal. (Their names are identified at the end of the video.) The grade earned was a bolded "A," and they accomplished most of it while quarantined. Check out their hard-hitting project [here!](#)