**Communication in the Major Application Template**

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| **Name of the Major\*:** |  |
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| **Department/Unit:** |  |
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| **Contact Person:** |  |
|  |  |
| **Report of Dept. Vote:** |  | Approve |  | Oppose |  | Abstain | Date: |  |
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\*Note: Each major must have Communication in the Major. Majors with multiple concentrations or options may need to have distinct Communication in the Major plans (and hence applications) if the relevant courses are not shared by the different options. Conversely, one application may suffice for multiple majors in a department/unit that share the Communication in the Major portion of the curriculum.

**Communication in the Major Learning Outcomes (Step 4)**

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| Communication in the Major courses provide students with systematic opportunities to develop oral and written communication skills in the context of their chosen fields, beginning the process of learning to communicate effectively in discipline-specific formats and styles. *Upon completing this requirement, students will be able to:* * Apply discipline-specific standards of oral and written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized presentation/piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience.
* Critique their own and others’ writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.
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**Communication in the Major Course/Instructor Criteria (Step 5)**

1. The Communication in the Major requirement addresses discipline-specific communication that builds on the Written and Oral Communication learning outcomes of the Foundation level.
2. Departments or units will designate a minimum of six credits at the 200-level or above within each major to meet the Communication in the Major requirement. Departments may distribute this requirement over any number of courses. These courses may, when appropriate, come from other departments but must be included as part of the major. List the course(s) designated as the Communication in the Major component for this major:

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1. These courses must include a plan for how student achievement of the approved Communication in the Major learning outcomes will be assessed. Please describe the overall plan for how Communication in the Major will be assessed within your major:

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1. All instructors teaching Communication in the Major courses must complete a workshop coordinated by the Center for Academic Excellence and Student Engagement.

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| 1. The General Education Committee will work with Bill Lawlor (current WE coordinator) and a representative from the Division of Communication to develop a Communication in the Major training (combining both written and oral communication skills). This will be handled similarly to how WE is handled now. **We will rely on departments to comply with the requirement to ensure that those who teach Communication in the Major components have the required training.**
2. Anyone who is currently WE certified will be asked to complete an abbreviated training (focusing on the oral communication aspect of the new Communication in the Major requirement). This will allow existing WE instructors to migrate into the new GEP fairly easily.
3. New instructors completing the new Communication in the Major training will be “reverse grandfathered” and be granted WE certification. (WE classes will need to be offered beyond 2013 for those students who are completing their degrees under the GDR system.)
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1. Communication in the Major courses should have sufficiently small enrollments so that students will receive adequate personal feedback, from both instructors and their peers, on their communication skills. Please describe the approximate enrollments in the various courses that will be included in your Communication in the Major requirement:

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1. Assignments should be based on the kinds of communication typical of the relevant discipline or profession. Describe the oral and written work that students will do in your Communication in the Major courses and explain how these reflect what is typical in your discipline. Attach a representative syllabus and assignment for at least one course.

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1. Both writing and speaking instruction should be integrated into course discussions and activities and include grading criteria, revision experiences, and opportunities for student peer review. Writing and speaking instruction can be taught together in a single course or divided among courses. Describe (or attach) the grading criteria for the oral and written assignments in your Communication in the Major courses and describe the way that peer review and revision will be incorporated into these courses.

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**Unresolved questions**

1. Should we ask the Department to provide a copy of their WE guidelines? (No—any relevant parts of the WE guidelines will be incorporated in responses to the questions on the form. Yes—it is a good idea to have “one place” for Depts./Majors to collect relevant material to complete a portfolio; i.e. learning outcomes, WE guidelines, Comm. In the Major application, and other materials the subcommittees are constructing.)
2. Should we suggest that the Department modify their WE guidelines to address the learning outcomes for the Communication in the Major?
3. Should we ask the Department to create a new document that describes their overall PLAN for the Communication in the Major? (What courses will be required, how each learning outcome will be addressed (step 4), how each additional criteria will be met (step 5), and how they will assess the effort.)
4. Should we develop some examples (Natural Resources, English, Mathematics, etc.) to share?
5. Should this form (or some other document) include something about how to report assessment results? These will probably be (or could be) part of department’s Program Assessment Reports. Should GEC just get a copy of that report, perhaps with a cover memo stating where the Comm assessment results are? Or have the assessment results lifted out for us?