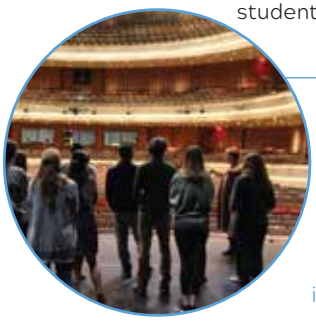
PATHWAYS MINORS

COMMUNICATING AND ENGAGING WITH SCIENCE

What is it?

The Communicating and Engaging with Science minor exposes STEM-based students to concepts and practices of effective communication, and it gives students in non-STEM majors a comprehensive group of quantitative courses in the context of science communication. Students in this minor will benefit from programs hosted by the VT Center for Communicating Science that until now had been reserved for graduate students.



Why do it?

For STEM majors, these skills are valuable for the workplace or graduate school. For all students, they are essential for navigating life. To make informed decisions about health, politics, finances, and more, VT students must critically interpret the scientific information they encounter daily. This includes identifying and avoiding misinformation or misinterpretations of scientific findings.

Who is it for?

This minor is intended for all students, regardless of discipline. Upon completion of this minor, students will be well equipped to engage in communication and thought about scientific topics, regardless of their primary discipline. They will be able to critically evaluate scientific information, ask thoughtful questions, identify and debunk misinformation or misinterpretation of scientific findings, and apply science to their daily lives.

Pathways Core Concepts*

1a - Advanced Discourse
2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities
3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences
5f & 5a - Foundational and Advanced/Applied Quantitative and Computational Thinking
6d & 6a - Critique and Practice in Design and in the Arts

Pathways Integrative Concepts

Ethical Reasoning
Intercultural and Global Awareness

*Students are guaranteed to meet at least three of the core concepts listed

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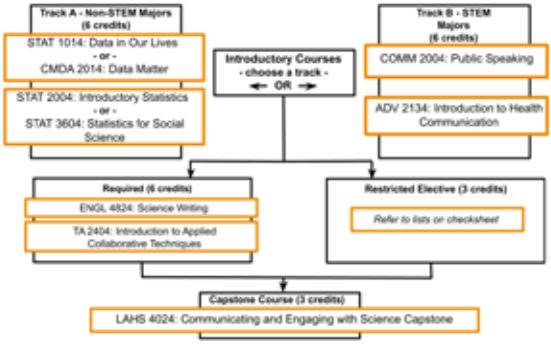
Requirements

The 18-hour minor in Communicating and Engaging with Science includes two foundational tracks. Track A is intended for Non-STEM majors and Track B is intended for STEM majors. Each track includes two introductory 3-hour courses. All students in the minor will then take a similar path of 6 hours of required mid-level Pathways courses and 3 hours of restricted electives, and 3 advanced hours of a capstone course.



Required courses

ENGL 4824: Science Writing

TA 2404: Introduction to Applied Collaborative Techniques

LAHS 4024: Communicating and Engaging with Science Capstone

Elective courses

Students can take one elective in English; Philosophy; Statistics; or Science, Technology, and Society to enhance their understanding of science in society based on their major. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet found at https://catalog.vt.edu/undergraduate/minors/

-Access programs from the VT Center for Communicating Science, previously limited to graduate students.

-Develop skills to:

- *-Critically evaluate scientific information.*
- *-Ask thoughtful questions.*
- *-Identify and address misinformation or misinterpretation of science.*
- *-Apply scientific principles to everyday life.*

-Gain the ability to engage in meaningful communication and discussion on scientific topics, regardless of academic discipline.

Photos courtesy of Carolyn Kroehler

www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors

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VIRGINIA TECH™

PATHWAYS TO GENERAL EDUCATION