

LIFE SCIENCES COMMUNICATION, DOCTORAL MINOR

The Department of Life Sciences Communication is a world leader in science communication research, education, and practice. The doctoral minor in Life Sciences Communication allows students enrolled in doctoral programs from the biological and physical sciences, as well as interested students from other social science and humanities departments, to supplement their existing doctoral coursework with a transcriptable minor in Life Sciences Communication.

A doctoral minor in Life Sciences Communication is particularly valuable for graduate students in the natural and physical sciences who are interested in the ethical, legal, and social implications of emerging technologies, or who want to build an intellectual foundation for a future career in policy or various mission agencies (e.g., AAAS policy fellowships) dealing with public understanding and communication of science. Many students from these fields routinely take classes in our department, and a doctoral minor allows them to get formal recognition for their doctoral-level work in this area.

More information may be found on the department website (<https://lsc.wisc.edu/>).

ADMISSIONS

This doctoral minor is open to any UW-Madison student enrolled in a doctoral program outside of LSC. Students can declare their intent to pursue the minor by completing the Add/Change/Discontinue application process through the Graduate Student Portal (found in MyUW) and selecting the Life Sciences Communication doctoral minor. Students are strongly encouraged to contact LSC's academic advising manager or Director of Graduate Studies (see Contact Information box on this page for emails) to discuss course planning.

Students are not allowed to earn both the doctoral minor in life sciences communication and science communication graduate/professional certificate.

REQUIREMENTS

The doctoral minor in Life Sciences Communication is a course-based minor (10 credits) for students enrolled in other Ph.D. programs who would like to supplement their existing Ph.D. coursework with a minor in science communication.

Courses must be at the 300 level or above and should have the graduate attribute to count toward the minimum graduate coursework (50%) rule.

A minimum cumulative GPA of a 3.5 in LSC Doctoral Minor coursework is required.

Contact the academic advising manager to discuss course selection for the minor.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
LSC 700	Colloquium in Life Sciences Communication	1
LSC 720	Introduction to Communication Theory and Research	3
or LSC 902	Public Opinion of Life Science Issues	
or LSC 625	Risk Communication	
or LSC/ENVIR ST/ JOURN 823	Science and Environment Communication	
Approved Electives		6
LSC 340	Misinformation, Fake News, and Correcting False Beliefs about Science	
LSC 350	Visualizing Science and Technology	
LSC 430	Communicating Science with Narrative	
LSC 432	Social Media for the Life Sciences	
LSC 435	Brand Strategy for the Sciences	
LSC 440	Digital Media and Science Communication	
LSC 450	Documentary Photography for the Sciences	
LSC 460	Social Media Analytics	
LSC 532	Web Design for the Sciences	
LSC 560	Scientific Writing	
LSC 561	Writing Science for the Public	
LSC/COM ARTS/ JOURN 617	Health Communication in the Information Age	
LSC 625	Risk Communication	
LSC 660	Data Analysis in Communications Research	
LSC/JOURN 811	Conceptualization and Design of Mass Communication Research	
LSC/ENVIR ST/ JOURN 823	Science and Environment Communication	
LSC 875	Special Topics	
LSC 902	Public Opinion of Life Science Issues	
Total Credits		10

PEOPLE

PROFESSORS & INSTRUCTORS ([HTTPS://LSC.WISC.EDU/PEOPLE/FACULTY-RESEARCH-STAFF/](https://lsc.wisc.edu/people/faculty-research-staff/))

Brossard, Dominique (chair)
 Chen, Kaiping
 Chinn, Sedona
 Fisher, Madeline
 Li, Nan
 Newman, Todd
 Patterson, Dexter
 Scheufele, Dietram (director of graduate studies)
 Shaw, Bret

Stanley, Don
Xenos, Michael