



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE

2025-2026

Associate in Arts to
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for an Associate in Arts (AA) at a Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) institution and leads to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Communication Studies at Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

Applying to the KCTCS2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at their KCTCS institution, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at their KCTCS institution.

Degree Requirements for KCTCS

1) completion of minimum 60 credit hours, 2) minimum cumulative GPA 2.0, 3) minimum of 15 credit hours earned at the institution awarding the degree, 4) demonstration of digital literacy, and 5) college success requirement.

Admission Requirements to NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU.

This major can be completed face-to-face or online. If completed fully online, courses are offered in seven-week formats. Tuition for online accelerated programs differs from face-to-face tuition. Scholarship pricing is available to KCTCS students who choose to enroll in the fully online program. Visit our website for more information about the [Communication Studies Accelerated Online program](#).

Degree Requirements for NKU

To earn a bachelor's degree at NKU, students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours with at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 and above. In addition, at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree and the last 30 credit hours must be completed at NKU. Students must have an overall GPA of 2.0, earn a C- or better in all major and minor courses, and meet all prerequisites for courses and requirements for the major. Students must complete a focus or minor as indicated on the pathway.

General Transfer Information

Students must complete the online application to NKU. There is no application fee for students who are transferring from a KCTCS institution.

KCTCS Scholars Award: Students who are KY residents transferring directly from a KCTCS institution with at least 36 hours from that institution and minimum GPA of 3.0, were never enrolled as a degree-seeking student at NKU, and will be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours both fall and spring semester are eligible for a limited number of \$2,500 annual scholarships (\$1,250 per fall and spring). Students must gain admission to NKU by June 15 for fall and November 1 for spring to be eligible for a possible scholarship. Online accelerated programs are not eligible for the KCTCS Scholars Award.

KCTCS AA TO NKU BA IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES CHECKLIST

Kentucky Community and Technical College System Institution

Category 1: KCTCS General Education Core Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	Writing I (WC)	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	Writing II (WC)	3	ENG 102	
COM 181	Basic Public Speaking (OC)	3	CMST 101	
TBS XXX	Quantitative Reasoning Course (QR)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Natural Science Course with Lab (SL)	4	TBD XXX	
COM 254	Introduction to Intercultural Communication (SB)	3	CMST 355	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB) Suggested: COM 249 Mass Media Communication	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB) (not COM)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Heritage	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Humanities	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Quantitative Reasoning (QR) or Natural Sciences (NS) Course	3	TBD XXX	
	Subtotal General Education Core Courses	34		

TBS XXX means to be selected by KCTCS student.

TBD XXX means to be determined by NKU based on course selected.

For Social and Behavioral Sciences courses, two disciplines must be represented and different from those in the Arts and Humanities category.

Category 2: KCTCS AA Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
COM 252	Intro to Interpersonal Communication (OC)	3	CMST 220	
COM 281	Communication in Small Group (OC)	3	CMST 230	
	Subtotal AA Requirement Courses	6		

Category 3: KCTCS Electives

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
	Digital Literacy	0-3		
	First-Year Experience	0-3		
COM 287	Persuasive Speaking	3	CMST 340	
TBS XXX	Choose one professional skills elective (See Category 5)	3	TBD XXX	

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
TBS XXX	Choose one professional skills elective (See Category 5)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Elective	6-12	TBD XXX	
	Subtotal Elective Courses	21		
	Total Associate Degree Hours	61		

Students in the Gateway2NKU, MCTC2NKU, and Jefferson2NKU programs may choose to use their electives to take NKU courses toward the major. Students should work with their NKU advisor before enrolling in these courses.

Northern Kentucky University

Category 4: NKU Major Requirements for Communication Studies

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
INF 100	Orientation to College of Informatics	1		
CMST 101 OR CMST 110	Public Speaking OR Introduction to Communication Studies	3	COM 181	x
CMST 220	Interpersonal Communication	3	COM 252	x
CMST 230	Small Group Communication	3	COM 281	x
CMST 300	Research Methods in Communication Studies	3		
CMST 303	Organizational Communication	3		
CMST 305 or CMST 440	Business and Professional Communication or Communication Training and Development	3		
CMST 310 or CMST 340	Argumentation or Strategies of Persuasion	3	COM 287	x
CMST 355	Culture and Communication	3	COM 254	x
CMST 370	Advanced Public Speaking	3		
CMST 430	Communication Theories	3		
CMST XXX	Select 6 credit hours of 200/300/400-level CMST courses	6		
TBS XXX	Select 3 credit hours of CMST, DFX, EMB, HCOM, JOU, POP, PRE, or COM course not used as a general education course	3		
TBS XXX	Professional Skills Course	3	TBD XXX	x
TBS XXX	Professional Skills Course	3	TBD XXX	x
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at NKU	25		
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at KCTCS	21		
	Total Major Credit Hours	46		

Below is the list of courses you may choose from for professional skills courses.

Category 5: NKU Professional Skills Course Options

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
ENG 340	Business Writing	3	ENG 103	
ENG 347	Technical Writing	3	ENG 204	
ENG 349	Web Writing for the Professions	3		
JOU 220	News Writing	3	JOU 204	
ISBA 101	Fundamentals of Business Computing	3	CIT 105	
INF 286	Intro to Web Development	3	CIT 155	
MGT 205	Business Management Principles	3	MGT 283	
MKT 205	Principles of Marketing	3	MKT 282	
CMST 396	Internship: Communication	3		
JOU 305	Science in the Media	3		
LDR 300	Foundations in Leadership	3		

Depending on students' areas of interest, they are encouraged to select a minor that will complement this major and strengthen their skill set. For example, if a student has an interest in video production related to health communication, a minor in Electronic Media and Broadcasting would be appropriate. Students are encouraged to work with their advisor to choose a minor.

Category 6: Additional Requirements at NKU

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
	Subtotal Minor/Focus Hours Taken at NKU	12-24		
	Subtotal Elective (300/400 level) Hours	10-22		
	Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hours	120		

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