Communication

What is a closed academic program?
A closed academic program is an academic program that is not immediately accessible to Bridge students because of enrollment restrictions. Students interested in one of these academic programs must request a change-of-academic-program application from the appropriate department after enrolling at Clemson. The opportunity to change to one of these academic programs upon enrollment at Clemson cannot be guaranteed.

How competitive is it to change to communication?
The department accepts a maximum of 30 change-of-academic-program requests per academic year. The selection process is very competitive. Meeting the minimum criteria to apply to the program is no guarantee of admission.

What are the requirements for changing to communication?
The typical student who successfully changes to communication has a Clemson GPA of approximately 3.0 or higher (with annual averages of 3.5 to 3.7), submits a superior writing sample and personal statement, and supplies an overall application that demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to a career in communication. To be eligible to apply for the change-of-academic-program process in communication, students must have a 2.5 or higher Clemson GPA. Additionally, applicants must have completed 15 Clemson credit hours, including ENGL 1030, COMM 1010 and COMM 2010 (with a grade of C or better). However, as noted above, a GPA in the 2.5 range is typically not competitive in the application process.

How does the change-of-academic-program process work for communication?
A faculty committee reviews applications twice a year according to the schedule below. Late applications will not be considered.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Decision Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall: September 15</td>
<td>October 1</td>
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<td>Spring: February 15</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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In order to have a student's application considered by the departmental committee, the student must apply online and include a statement of purpose, an up-to-date résumé and a scholarly writing sample (such as a completed paper from COMM 2010).

Are there any courses Bridge students must take during their Bridge year to change to communication?
Coursework completed during the Bridge program usually meets general education requirements for communication (such as ENGL 1030). COMM 2010 is a course offered only at Clemson that must be taken prior to application. Therefore, it is suggested that students plan to follow an alternative academic program until they 1) enroll at Clemson, 2) successfully complete COMM 2010 and 3) submit their application to change to communication. Students who successfully complete their Bridge requirements by the end of the spring semester may enroll in the online section of COMM 2010 at Clemson in the summer before their sophomore year. Students interested in this option must contact a Bridge staff member to make arrangements to enroll in COMM 2010. All Bridge students interested in communication should enroll in COMM 1010 the first semester they attend courses at Clemson University.

What courses should Bridge students take during their Bridge year?
It would be best if students take courses that work for both the communication and the alternative academic program.

What are some alternative academic programs for students who are not successful in changing to communication?
Many students interested in communication also have interests in marketing, English (especially the writing and publication studies emphasis area), sociology, psychology, and parks, recreation and tourism management. Students who are not approved to change to communication are encouraged to research these alternatives and discuss them or any other potential academic programs with their assigned adviser.

What academic program should Bridge students be in when they complete the Bridge program and get to Clemson?
Any of the alternative academic programs listed above would be fine.

How long will it take for Bridge students approved to change to communication to earn their degree from Clemson?
If students successfully complete COMM 2010 within the first three semesters after they bridge to Clemson.
(summer, fall or spring), they will be on track to graduate with a degree in communication within four years. Given the difficulty of getting a seat in COMM 2010 during the fall and spring semesters, Bridge students are encouraged to enroll in COMM 2010 in the summer immediately following their Bridge year so they can apply to change to communication the following spring (or as soon as they complete 15 Clemson credit hours). Following this timeline allows students to learn whether or not they have been accepted into the degree program as soon as possible.

**What can Bridge students do during their Bridge year to make the application process easier?**

Bridge students are encouraged to meet with an adviser in the Department of Communication to get their questions about the application process answered as soon as possible.

**Contact information**

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