Sports 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 sports communication?
It is expected that 10 or fewer high-quality applicants will be approved to change to the sports communication program this academic year. The expectation is that the change-of-academic-program process will be very competitive and that a large number of people will apply to change to sports communication.

What are the requirements for changing to sports communication?
At minimum, students must have a 3.0 Clemson GPA and must have completed 15 Clemson credit hours, including ENGL 1030, COMM 1010 or COMM 2010 with a grade of B or higher. Students should have strong writing skills, as demonstrated through a writing sample and résumé. In addition, students must express a focused reason for pursuing the sports communication program, as demonstrated in the résumé and through their response to a required statement of purpose.

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

<table>
<thead>
<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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<tr>
<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 include all of the items required for the application.

Are there any courses Bridge students must take during their Bridge year to change to sports 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 sports 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 sports 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 sports communication and the alternative academic program.

What are some alternative academic programs for students who are not successful in changing to sports communication?
Many students interested in sports 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 sports 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 alternative academic programs listed above would be fine.
How long will it take for Bridge students approved to change to sports 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 sports 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 sports 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.

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