



**Ph.D. Minor in
Life Sciences Communication**

INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST

(Last updated: January, 2015)

The Ph.D. minor in Life Sciences Communication allows students enrolled in Ph.D. programs from the biological and physical sciences, as well as interested students from other social science and humanities departments, to supplement their existing Ph.D. course work with a transcriptable minor in Life Sciences Communication (Please note: This excludes students in units who offer joint programs with LSC).

A Ph.D. 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 (ELSI) 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 Ph.D. minor allows them to get formal recognition for their doctoral-level work in this area.

Curriculum

The coursework for the LSC Ph.D. Minor requires 10 graduate credits.

Core Requirements (4 graduate credits):

- LSC 700: Colloquium in Life Sciences Communication (1 cr)
- LSC 720: Introduction to Communication Theory and Research (3 cr) *or* LSC 902: Public Opinion of Life Science Issues (3 cr) *or* LSC 860 Science and Environment Communication

Approved Elective(s) (6 graduate credits):

- LSC 350: Visualizing Science and Technology
- LSC 432: Social Media for the Life Sciences
- LSC 440: Contemporary Communication Technologies and their Social Effects
- LSC 532: Web Design for the Sciences
- LSC 560: Scientific Writing
- LSC 617: Health Communication in the Information Age
- LSC 625: Risk Communication
- LSC 660: Data Analysis Communication Research
- LSC 806: Conceptualization and Design of Mass Communication Research
- LSC 860: Science and Environment Communication

- LSC 875: Special Topics: Qualitative Research Methods in Science Communication
- LSC 875: Special Topics: Quantitative Research Methods in Science Communication
- LSC 875: Special Topics: Science and Social Media
- LSC 902: Public Opinion of Life Science Issues

Important reminders:

- Any course from this list or any course offered by LSC graduate faculty at or above the 800 level can be counted toward the six-credit elective requirement. This excludes independent study, independent research and thesis credit. It includes special topics courses approved by the LSC graduate committee and indicated by the course number 875.
- Only courses completed with a final grade of B or higher can be counted toward the 10 credit requirement.
- For courses crosslisted between LSC and other departments, students need to enroll in the LSC section in order to count these courses toward the LSC Ph.D. minor.

Administrative Oversight

The LSC Ph.D. minor is administered by the graduate program of the Department of Life Sciences Communication. In order to complete the minor, students are required to complete the following steps:

While taking courses:

- Complete relevant coursework as outlined above.
- Fill out LSC Minor Course Form.
- Obtain signatures from LSC Director of Graduate Studies on completed LSC Minor Course Form and submit form to LSC Student Services Coordinator.

Before taking prelims:

- Obtain signature from LSC Director of Graduate Studies for preliminary warrant.

Shortly after the prelim warrant is submitted the Ph.D. minor appears on the student's record.

**Ph.D. Minor in
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College of Agricultural & Life Sciences**

LSC MINOR COURSE FORM

Course number	Course name	Instructor	Credits	Semester / Year	Grade
LSC 700	Colloquium in Life Sciences Communication		1		
LSC 720*	Introduction to Communication Theory and Research		3		
Total Credits				* If LSC 720 is not offered, LSC 902 or LSC 860 can be substituted for this requirement.	

LSC Ph.D. Minor requirements completed:

Signature, Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Life Sciences Communication

Date completed