

ADVERTISING, BA

Advertising is the creative expression of strategic persuasive communication. As a marketing function, advertising focuses on the promotion of products, services, companies, organizations and ideas through paid media space or time. Examples of advertising media include magazines, newspapers, television, radio, online, outdoor/transit and alternative.

Students of advertising will develop and hone critical and creative thinking skills. Students will develop an understanding of the intended audience and use that understanding to create relevant messages, using powerful verbal and visual imagery capable of communicating the intended message(s) in order to capitalize on organizational opportunities and solve communication problems. The skills necessary for creating persuasive messages and developing the means to expose those messages to the intended audience will be learned in this program. These skills include the ability to conduct research to measure program needs, develop program quantifiable objectives and focused strategies, implement state-of-the-art tactics and develop the tools to measure a program's return on investment.

Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements.

Students seeking to major in advertising may pursue one of the following options:

- *Advertising major (37 hours)*: prepares students for account management and media buying
- *Advertising creative concentration (40-42 hours)*: prepares students for careers in *art direction (42 hours)* or *copywriting (40 hours)*; students are competitively selected for this concentration based on an application process
- *Brand management concentration (37 hours)*: prepares students for careers in consumer research/insight development, brand value, etc.
- *Integrated channel planning (37 hours)*: prepares students for careers in media relations, media strategy, etc.

Core Curriculum and General Education Requirements for All Advertising Majors

Code and Title	Hours
First-Year Compass Courses	
UA 101 Legends	1
UA College Compass Course ⁵	2
Written Composition	
EN 103 or EN 104 Advanced English Composition Honors English Composition	3
Or EN 101 and EN 102	
Humanities, Literature, Fine Arts and World Languages	
Literature	3
Humanities, Literature, Fine Arts, or World Languages ¹	6
Natural and Mathematical Sciences	
Natural Science	8
MATH 110 or higher	3-4
History and Social/Behavioral Sciences	
History	3

History or Social/Behavioral Sciences ²	6
U.S. and Global Citizenship³	3
Writing⁴	6
Total Hours	44-45

Footnotes

- ¹ a) COM 123 Public Speaking (or COM 124 Honors Public Speaking) is an ancillary course in the advertising major; you can use this HU core course to satisfy 3 hours of these 6 hours. b) You must met the World Language proficiency requirement and can do so in a variety of ways. For those who must meet this proficiency requirement by taking the second part of an introductory language sequence course (102) or by taking both parts of an introductory language sequence (101 and 102), you do not have an option of taking a HU, L, or FA course for 3-6 of these hours.
- ² This 6-hour requirement can be satisfied by the following SB core courses: EC 110 Principles of Microeconomics (or EC 112 Honors Prin of Microeconomics), which is an ancillary course in the advertising major; and MC 101 Intro To Mass Communic or APR 241 Intro to Ad and PR, both of which are required courses in the advertising major. You must earn at least a C- in these courses.
- ³ Can be satisfied by APR 426 International Public Relations; must earn at least a C-.
- ⁴ Must earn at least a C- in Writing core courses; the following courses in the advertising major can satisfy the 6-hour W core requirement. *Writing core for advertising majors without a concentration*: APR 302 Advertising Strategy and APR 423 A+PR Management; *writing core for advertising creative concentration*: APR 302 Advertising Strategy, APR 322 Copywriting Seminar (only for copywriting students) and/or APR 310 Concepting; *writing core for the brand management concentration*: APR 302 Advertising Strategy and APR 423 A+PR Management; *writing core for integrated channel planning concentration*: APR 423 A+PR Management and MC 400-level course with the "W" designation or a course in the student's minor with the "W" designation.
- ⁵ This requirements can be satisfied by CIS 100 Freshman Compass CIS.

Advertising Major

All courses in the advertising major and their prerequisites, including ancillary courses, require at least a C-. Be sure to check course prerequisites to ensure a timely progression through the advertising major coursework. [Click here for the comprehensive advertising major handout, which contains a degree checklist, detailed coursework and four-year plans for the advertising major and concentrations, and other resources.](#)

Code and Title	Hours
Foundation Courses:	
MC 101 Intro To Mass Communic	3
JCM 103 Mechanics of Media Writing	1
APR 241 Intro to Ad and PR	3
APR 280 Intro to Audience Analysis	3
APR 290 Intro to Channels and Msg	3
APR 302 Advertising Strategy	3
Intermediate Courses:	

APR 300 or APR 325	Basic Principles of Design Social and Digital Media	3
APR 422	Channel Planning	3
APR 423	A+PR Management	3
Two APR 400-level or MC 400-level electives		6
Capstone Courses:		
One course chosen from MC 401, APR 451, APR 452 or APR 453 ¹		3
APR 424	Advertising Campaigns	3
Total Hours		37

Footnotes

¹ Students in the integrated channel planning concentration, which requires APR 453 Investigation and Insights, must choose another of the courses listed for this capstone course.

Ancillary Courses

		Hours
CIS 250	Intro to Design Software ¹	3
CIS 260	Intro to Research ¹	3
COM 123 or COM 124	Public Speaking ² Honors Public Speaking	3
EC 110 or EC 112	Principles of Microeconomics ³ Honors Prin of Microeconomics	3

Footnotes

¹ CIS 260 Intro to Research is a prerequisite to APR 280 Intro to Audience Analysis. CIS 250 Intro to Design Software is a prerequisite to APR 300 Basic Principles of Design and APR 325 Social and Digital Media. Both CIS 250 and CIS 260 will count as general electives in the degree program.

² COM 123 Public Speaking (or COM 124 Honors Public Speaking) can count as an HU core course or as a general elective.

³ EC 110 Principles of Microeconomics (or EC 112 Honors Prin of Microeconomics) is a prerequisite to APR 424 Advertising Campaigns. It is recommended that you take EC 110 or EC 112 at least two semesters before taking APR 424.

Minors for Students Majoring in Advertising

The A+PR department requires each of its students to complete a minor. C&IS students may choose to select any minor outside of the College. Within the College, no overlap of major and minor classes is permitted. Advertising students minor in such diverse areas as communication studies, general business, political science, art, psychology, history, mathematics, cultural studies, and languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. A minor is not required if the student pursues a second major.

Residence in the College and in the Major and Minor

While enrolled in the College of Communication and Information Sciences, students must earn a minimum of 30 hours on this campus. A minimum of 12 hours in each major and six hours in each minor must be earned at the 300- or 400-level *in residence*.

A+PR Department Requirements

Students are asked to make special note of the following Department of Advertising and Public Relations requirements.

Student Responsibility

As an A+PR student, you are here to become a leader — to shape the future of global advertising and public relations in a socially conscious manner. You are here to do the extraordinary, not just what is expected. The faculty expects you to be passionate about your work, fluent in your discipline and engaged as a learner. We are your partners in these endeavors.

It is the student's responsibility to understand the requirements for the advertising major or minor and to seek the advice of their assigned adviser when choosing coursework. Advertising students receive advisor assignments from Tisch Student Services and Engagement soon after they declare the advertising major via MyBama.ua.edu, or they may go to 190 Phifer or email tischstudentserv@ua.edu to request one.

Prerequisites

A number of courses within and outside the department require other courses as prerequisites. A student who registers for any course without satisfying the proper prerequisites will be required to drop the course. Before registering, students are advised to review course descriptions for prerequisites and other requirements.

Minimum Grade Requirement

A grade of C- or higher is required in all courses counted in the advertising major or minor. In addition, grades of C- or higher must be earned in all required external courses, including those established as prerequisites for courses in the advertising major or minor and those required directly in the major or minor. In keeping with University policy, when a course is taken more than one time, each enrollment will be counted in the cumulative hours attempted and used in computation of the grade point average, but only the final enrollment may count as credit toward the degree.

Minimum Grade Point Average

A 2.0 or higher overall grade point average is required of all students who have earned 45 hours or more of college credit and wish to transfer into the college.

Advertising Creative Concentration Requirements**Application**

Admission to the advertising creative concentration will be selective, and based upon a faculty panel's evaluation of applications used to assess students' unique qualifications for entry. The application requires students to submit two samples of creative work as evidence of their capabilities: one that demonstrates facility to solve a specific problem creatively and another that permits a longitudinal examination of their creative thinking ability.

Creative/Artistic Standards

Advertising students admitted to the advertising creative concentration will be required to produce work that meets creative/artistic standards (as evaluated by qualified faculty) in order to continue taking courses in the concentration, consistent with common practice in fine and performing arts programs.

The instructor in each concentration course will evaluate each student at the end of every semester and determine whether or not a student's work meets these standards. Students whose work falls short will discontinue coursework in the concentration and have the option to pursue the general advertising major, provided that they qualify academically.

Advertising Creative Concentration

The 18-to-20-hour advertising creative concentration prepares students for careers in art direction (42 hours) or copywriting (40 hours); students are competitively selected for this specialization based on an application process initiated after the first phase of coursework in the major. **All courses in the advertising creative concentration and advertising major and their prerequisites require at least a C-.** Be sure to check course prerequisites to ensure timely progress through the advertising creative concentration and advertising major; see also the ancillary courses required for the advertising major. Click here for the comprehensive advertising major handout, which contains a degree checklist, detailed coursework and four-year plans for the advertising major and concentrations, and other resources.

Advertising Creative Concentration Courses		Hours
APR 300	Basic Principles of Design	3
APR 310	Concepting	4
APR 410	Portfolio I	4
Choose one:		3 or 5
APR 323	Art Direction Seminar	
& APR 301	and Software Applications II	
& APR 401	and Software Applications III	
or		
APR 322	Copywriting Seminar	
APR 411	Portfolio II	4
Total Hours		18-20

Advertising Major Core Courses		Hours
MC 101	Intro To Mass Communic	3
JCM 103	Mechanics of Media Writing	1
APR 241	Intro to Ad and PR	3
APR 280	Intro to Audience Analysis	3
APR 290	Intro to Channels and Msg	3
APR 302	Advertising Strategy	3
Two capstone courses:		
One course chosen from MC 401, APR 451, APR 452 or APR 453		3
APR 424	Advertising Campaigns	3
Total Hours		22

Brand Management Concentration

The 15-hour brand management concentration prepares students for careers in consumer research/insight development and other brand management careers. Be sure to check course prerequisites to ensure timely progress through the brand management concentration and advertising major; see also the ancillary courses required for the advertising major. **All courses in the brand management concentration and advertising major and their prerequisites require at least a C-.** Click here for the comprehensive advertising major handout, which contains a degree checklist, detailed coursework and four-year plans for the advertising major and concentrations, and other resources.

Brand Management Concentration Courses		Hours
APR 421	Account Planning	3
APR 422	Channel Planning	3
APR 423	A+PR Management	3
APR 453	Investigation and Insights	3

APR 454	Consumer Psychology	3
Total Hours		15

Advertising Major Core Courses		Hours
MC 101	Intro To Mass Communic	3
JCM 103	Mechanics of Media Writing	1
APR 241	Intro to Ad and PR	3
APR 280	Intro to Audience Analysis	3
APR 290	Intro to Channels and Msg	3
APR 302	Advertising Strategy	3
Two capstone courses:		
One course chosen from MC 401, APR 451 or APR 452		3
APR 424	Advertising Campaigns	3
Total Hours		22

Integrated Channel Planning Concentration

The 15-hour integrated channel planning concentration will teach students how to strategically integrate media channels from the perspective of both advertising and public relations disciplines in order to enhance client campaign outcomes and to better prepare them to become entry-level professionals in advertising and/or public relations. Be sure to check course prerequisites to ensure timely progress through the integrated channel planning concentration and advertising major; see also the ancillary courses required for the advertising major. **All courses in the integrated channel planning concentration and advertising major and their prerequisites require at least a C-.** Click here for the comprehensive advertising major handout, which contains a degree checklist, detailed coursework and four-year plans for the advertising major and concentrations, and other resources.

Integrated Channel Planning Courses		Hours
APR 325	Social and Digital Media	3
APR 422	Channel Planning	3
APR 455	Advanced Media Strategy	3
APR 456	Media Relations	3
One APR 400-level or MC 400-level elective		3
Total Hours		15

Advertising Major Core Classes		Hours
MC 101	Intro To Mass Communic	3
JCM 103	Mechanics of Media Writing	1
APR 241	Intro to Ad and PR	3
APR 280	Intro to Audience Analysis	3
APR 290	Intro to Channels and Msg	3
APR 302	Advertising Strategy	3
Two capstone courses:		
One course chosen from MC 401, APR 451, APR 452 or APR 453		3
APR 424	Advertising Campaigns	3
Total Hours		22

Graduates find employment at advertising or public relations agencies, advertising, public relations, or promotional departments of businesses, industries and government agencies and with traditional and nontraditional media outlets.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Our graduates work as copywriters, art directors, account executive assistants, media sales representatives, photographers, researchers, production specialists, media consultants, management advisers, public opinion surveyors and marketing researchers.

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

Owners, presidents & CEOs of advertising agencies, vice president—corporate communication, professors, art directors, account executives, etc.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center