Although communication studies handles all types of communication, it tends to more focus on oral communication. Students usually well understand this aspect of their major. They think that they are good at speaking or, at least, should become good oral communicators with their major. Therefore, they are not reluctant to learn and practice oral communication in classes. They are required to take public speaking, small group communication, and business communication in which they can practice various types of oral public presentation.

In the public speaking class, they learn and practice basic elements of a good speech, how to organize their messages, how to effectively transmit information, and how to persuade audience in a speech, how to perform an impromptu speech, and speaking in ceremonial situations.

Students can elaborate these public speaking skills further by taking an advanced public speaking course. Students experience several public debates in small group communication. They can practice interviews and other possible oral communication in business setting. The comprehensive oral communication skills practiced in the speech communication classes are checked again in a capstone course. Speech communication students enjoy the incomparable opportunities for gaining good oral public communication skills, which will be applied to any kind of oral communication situation in their future careers.

The basics of speaking are, for the most part, consistent across disciplines. Knowing the expectations of a discipline is an important part of adapting to your audience, however. The papers in the “Speaking, in my opinion…” series do not represent an official statement from the department. They do, however, give you an introduction to different faculty opinions on effective speaking.