

CERTIFIED PUBLIC COMMUNICATOR® PROGRAM at TCU

The Certified Public Communicator® Program at TCU offers leadership training and rigorous post-baccalaureate education for public information managers and communication professionals working for cities, counties, school districts, and other public and public-private agencies and organizations. With the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers as a founding partner, the program encompasses the complexities, challenges, and importance of public communication to citizens and stakeholders. Three other professional organizations have joined TAMIO as partners in the program: the National Association of County Information Officers, the Texas School Public Relations Association, and the City-County Communication and Marketing Association.

The cost for the 95-hour program—including tuition, housing, most meals, and course materials for two summers—is \$4,250.

What You'll Learn

The certified public communicator program builds successful and ethical leaders through experiential learning, strategic communication plan-building, theoretical instruction, case studies, and other interactive instruction led by strategic communication faculty members from TCU, as well as proven and engaging leaders from the public-service sector.

Students graduate from the program with three-year communication plans and policies for their organizations, which are put into action during the year with time for testing and revisions before graduation. In addition, students work with their professional cohort of colleagues, attend keynote presentations with other communication professionals, and engage in a year-long process of professional growth and goal-setting. Organizations that send their managers and communicators to the program receive tested communication plans including social media policies, research-based strategies, crisis communication plans, and more.

Contact Us

Members of the Certified Public Communicator® Program's Advisory Board are TCU Bob Schieffer College of Communication faculty member Jacqueline Lambiase, Ph.D. (chair); Tom Bryson, CPC (TAMIO rep); David Grebel, director of TCU Extended Education; Connie Odom, CPC (NACIO rep); Megan Overman, CPC (TSPRA rep); Greg Sowell, CPC (TAMIO rep), Belinda Willis, CPC (TAMIO rep); and Karen Zitomer, CPC (3CMA rep). For more information, please visit www.certifiedpubliccommunicator.org, or email j.lambiase@tcu.edu.



Course Content

Subject areas for the first summer are theory-focused, with the second summer's focus on application. Both summers present an integrated communication approach that is infused with ethics, public affairs, and management perspectives.

Summer 1: Three approaches to public communication are presented: Public relations, advertising, and marketing theory. Public relations instruction will include reputation management, media relations, crisis communication, and internal communication tracks. Advertising instruction will include tracks in creative, channels, metrics, and digital media. Marketing instruction will focus on branding, audiences, and customer relations. Tying these areas together will be discussion of the strategic communication plan, which will be assigned to participants. Students submit a schedule for enacting discussion, approval, and use of the plan before summer 2.

Winter 1: Students submit and discuss final drafts of strategic communication plans, based on timetables of students' employers and approval processes.

Summer 2: Enactment strategies, revisions to plans, and testing serve as the focus during the first day of this week. Further instruction will cover practice and application on these topics: digital, media training, research, standards and policies for communication, writing and design for varied communication forms, team building, management and influence.