Introduction to Communications is a course that specializes in identifying and using modern communication to exchange messages and information. This course explores the application of the tools, materials, and techniques used to design, produce, use, and assess systems of communication. Students will produce graphic and electronic media as they apply communication technologies. This course will also explore the various technical processes used to link ideas and people through the use of electronic and graphic media. Major goals of this course include an overview of communication technology; the way it has evolved, how messages are designed and produced, and how people may profit from creating information services and products. Students will explore mass media communication processes including radio and television broadcasting, publishing and printing activities, telecommunication networks, recording services, computer and data processing networks, and other related systems. Students will use the design process to solve design projects in each communication area.

- DOE Code: 4790
- Recommended Grade Level: Grade 9-12
- Recommended Prerequisites: None
- Credits: 1 credit per semester, maximum of 2 credits
- Counts as a Directed Elective or Elective for the General, Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors diplomas

Application of Content and Multiple Hour Offerings
Intensive laboratory applications are a component of this course and may be either school based or work based or a combination of the two. Work-based learning experiences should be in a closely related industry setting. Instructors shall have a standards-based training plan for students participating in work-based learning experiences.

Content Standards

Domain – Design Concepts of Communication Fundamentals
Core Standard 1 Students integrate design concepts within project solutions.

Standards
ICOM-1.1 Relate a communication model to any communication systems
ICOM-1.2 Assess and understand the impacts of a communication product on individuals, society, and the environment
ICOM-1.3 Design media following common rules for “good” visual layout
ICOM-1.4 Describe the design principles and processes used to generate graphic media
ICOM-1.5 Utilize design elements in projects

Domain – Systems Model
Core Standard 2 Students analyze the communication systems model and evaluate the need of a system or product.

Standards
ICOM-2.1 Define and describe communication systems
ICOM-2.2 Describe and define sending messages in the communication processes
ICOM-2.3 Describe the major technological actions (developing, producing, using, and assessing) that people participate in as related to communication systems
ICOM-2.4 Explain familiar electronic communication devices or networks using a systems model
ICOM-2.5 Discuss the common techniques in transmission of messages
ICOM-2.6 Describe the nature of messages and information signals

Domain – Problem Solving Approach
Core Standard 3 Students select the problem solving process to develop the solution to a given project.

Standards
ICOM-3.1 List the steps in the problem solving approach
ICOM-3.2 Develop a statement that defines a problem or opportunity that could be addressed by a communication product
ICOM-3.3 Develop and refine solutions to a communication problem or opportunity
ICOM-3.4 Select and produce a communication product that meets a problem or opportunity

Domain – Historical Impacts/Achievements of Communication Fundamentals
Core Standard 4 Students analyze the historical impacts of the past, has formed how communication technology is utilized today.

Standards
ICOM-4.1 List several stages in the development of the computer and explain their significance
ICOM-4.2 Analyze the historical development of the computer and it’s peripheral components
ICOM-4.3 List and describe the important events in the evolution of communications technologies
ICOM-4.4 Describe the importance of design in the development of the evolution of communication media and systems
ICOM-4.5 Define communication and communication technology here today and in the past

Domain – Careers in Communications
Core Standard 5 Students connect communication careers and future job outlook research.

Standards
ICOM-5.1 Identify and describe careers in communications
ICOM-5.2 Research college/technical schools for class requirements for a communications career major
ICOM-5.3 Find communication career income information
ICOM-5.4 Research current future job outlook

Domain – Utilization of Technical Graphics
Core Standard 6 Students create technical drawings using appropriate technology.

Standards
ICOM-6.1 Describe technical graphics and their use in communications
ICOM-6.2 Identify and describe the major types of technical drawing
ICOM-6.3 Prepare pictorial drawings of simple objects
ICOM-6.4 Sketch and draw multiview drawings of simple objects
ICOM-6.5 Describe and prepare simple oblique, isometric, perspective, and multiview drawings
ICOM-6.6  Use CAD or graphics software to prepare a simple drawing

Domain – Producing Printed and Photographic Media
Core Standard 7 Students create printed and photographic media using the design principles.

Standards
ICOM-7.1  Briefly describe the various graphic, photographic, and printing processes
ICOM-7.2  Generate, prepare, and print images for various printing processes
ICOM-7.3  Develop sufficient proficiency to enter, manipulate, save, recall, and print a file using word processing, spread sheet, and technical graphic software
ICOM-7.4  Given the target audience, the student will be able to show the importance of assessment in the advertising media industry
ICOM-7.5  Explain the elements of visual design unique to the photographic system
ICOM-7.6  Plan and present a photographic communication message
ICOM-7.7  Describe and develop an assessment for photographic messages
ICOM-7.8  Describe the steps of photographic systems
ICOM-7.9  Describe the essential parts and functions of cameras and scanners
ICOM-7.10 Utilize software for print correction, proofing, and output of digital media

Domain – Developing and Using Electronic Media
Core Standard 8 Students apply concepts of the design process utilizing various forms of electronic media applications.

Standards
ICOM-8.1  Identify how electronic media is regulated at the local, federal, and international levels
ICOM-8.2  Describe various classifications of electronic media
ICOM-8.3  Describe the application of electronics in modern communication
ICOM-8.4  Create a storyboard to produce a script for an electronic media production
ICOM-8.5  List and explain the major steps in producing both print and electronic messages
ICOM-8.6  Describe the action required to produce and communicate an electronic media message
ICOM-8.7  Describe the types of products that are produced by the graphic and electronic communications industry
ICOM-8.8  Explain how audible messages are converted into signals for transmission of information and data
ICOM-8.9  Describe communications systems and relate a model of the communication process various graphic and electronic media
ICOM-8.10 Record and store an electronic media message in different file formats (i.e. vector, raster, bmp, & PDF)
ICOM-8.11 Using desktop publishing software, prepare a layout for a newsletter or other publication
ICOM-8.12 List and describe the steps used to prepare for a video production
ICOM-8.13 Evaluate a given message and determine the materials and props needed for production
ICOM-8.14 Discuss the criteria used for talent and script selection
ICOM-8.15 Discuss the impacts of electronic communication systems on individuals, communities, and the environment
ICOM-8.16 Describe the difference between audio media and other forms of communication technology
ICOM-8.17 Describe the importance of proper direction in electronic communication production activities
ICOM-8.18 Plan and produce a radio commercial or podcast
ICOM-8.19 List and describe examples of audio devices, systems, and technologies
ICOM-8.20 Record, edit, save, and publish audio files
ICOM-8.21 Identify and describe various computer input and output devices
ICOM-8.22 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of global information networks
ICOM-8.23 Utilization of government, public, and educational websites
ICOM-8.24 Identify the steps in establishing a website