STC 501. Principles and Theories of Public Relations. 3 Credits.
Students are introduced to the growing body of knowledge in the
discipline and gain expertise that contributes to professional competence
in public relations. Students examine the function of public relations in
organizations and society, review contemporary and historical roles of
public relations professionals and explore the practice of public relations
in various public and private settings. Students also learn the latest
theoretical approaches to public relations and apply these approaches to
temporary public relations management practices.
Offered: Every year, Fall

STC 502. Public Relations Research Methods. 3 Credits.
This course examines the applied use of research in public relations
program development. Students learn methodologies appropriate for
conducting secondary analyses and primary research. Both quantitative
and qualitative methods are addressed, such as secondary analysis,
content analysis, survey research, focus groups, participant observation,
case study and experimentation.
Offered: Every year, Fall

STC 504. Law and Ethics in Public Relations. 3 Credits.
Students become familiar with legal and industry standards for legally
and ethically practicing public relations. The course aims to instill an
appreciation for freedom of expression and the First Amendment; to
impart a functional understanding of legal rules and principles relevant
to public relations practice in the U.S.; to enhance students’ ability to
identify the moral and ethical dimensions of issues that arise in public
relations practice; and to develop analytical and critical thinking skills
that encourage students to make and justify ethical decisions.
Offered: Every year, Fall

STC 505. Public Relations Writing. 3 Credits.
This course helps students develop professional-quality public relations
writing skills. Students prepare a variety of public relations materials,
such as news releases and other media materials; copy for internal
magazines, reports, newsletters, brochures, institutional/advocacy
advertising; video/audio scripts; web site copy; and speeches. Upon
completion of this course, students have a professional portfolio of public
relations writing samples.
Offered: Every year, Spring

STC 506. Public Relations Management. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the business management aspects of
public relations, such as policy formation, project direction, resource
management, client relations, budgeting and counseling. Special
emphasis is placed on public relations’ contribution to an institution’s
mission and effectiveness.
Offered: Every year, Spring

STC 507. Strategic Planning in Public Relations. 3 Credits.
This course familiarizes students with the public relations strategic
planning process. Students examine contemporary case studies that
demonstrate the public relations planning process and apply what they
have learned to the development and presentation of a public relations
campaign plan for a client.
Prerequisites: Take STC 501.
Offered: As needed

STC 510. Crisis Management. 3 Credits.
This course examines institutional crisis communication from a
management perspective with an emphasis on crisis prevention, planning
and response. Students are required to read and discuss selected
articles from the crisis management literature, research and develop
case studies of contemporary crises, and participate in simulations
designed to develop professional expertise and practical skills in crisis
management, including the management of information, management
of public communication, strategic planning, problem solving, message
production and issues management.
Offered: As needed

STC 511. Global Strategy. 3 Credits.
This course examines concepts, issues and practices in international
public relations across the borders and focuses on the challenges,
opportunities, and the worldwide development of public relations. The
course aims to inform you about the variables that affect public relations
practice in the international realm and assist you in understanding of
other countries’ domestic public relations given the various cultures,
geopolitical and socio-economic systems. Participants look closely at
how governments, corporations, multinationals and nongovernmental
organizations employ international public relations strategies around the
world. Students also examine similarities between international public
relations and public diplomacy and the effects of international public
relations on images of nations.
Offered: As needed

STC 512. Investor Relations. 3 Credits.
Students study the function of investor relations in corporations
and examine the role of investor relations specialists charged with
communicating financial information about companies to the financial
media, SEC, financial analysts, shareholders and others in the financial
community. Students learn how to integrate finance, communication,
marketing and securities law compliance in efforts to maximize
shareholder wealth.
Offered: As needed

STC 513. Health and Strategic Communications. 3 Credits.
In this course, students are exposed to the field of strategic health
communications, with particular attention to analysis and practice
of health communication relationships and messages. Issues to
be discussed include, but are not limited to: history and current
challenges of the health communication field; health campaign creation,
implementation and evaluation; cultural issues related to health behavior
change campaigns; translational research; traditional and social media
training for health care professionals; and perspectives of media
influence on health attitudes, norms and behaviors.
Offered: As needed

STC 514. Social and Mobile Media. 3 Credits.
This course addresses the impact of social and mobile media on public
relations. It focuses on conducting public relations campaigns online and
responding to public relations issues via such tools as social networking
and bookmarking sites, blogs, podcasts/vodcasts, discussion boards and
conferences, wikis, mobile and location-based applications.
Offered: As needed
**STC 515. Special Topics in Public Relations.** 3 Credits.
This course examines a specific topic or issue in public relations theory and practice. Topics might focus on specific practice areas such as sports public relations, employee relations, political public relations, public diplomacy, nonprofit public relations, or on industry issues and trends, such as the uses and impact of new technologies, professional ethics and corporate social responsibility or the integration of communication practices.

Offered: As needed

**STC 516. Branding Strategies.** 3 Credits.
This course explores strategies used by planners, communicators, managers and consultants to create, develop, nurture, maintain and reenergize brands. This course helps students understand the main idea of branding: developing, defending and growing brands for companies, agencies or nonprofits. It explores the essential elements of branding, including target audiences and segmentation, brand benefits, brand personality, differentiation and key brand equities. It also surveys conceptual approaches for the diagnosis of brand growth opportunities and for planning integrated brand communications.

Offered: As needed

**STC 517. Strategic Communication for Health Professionals.** 3 Credits.
In this course, graduate students are exposed to the field of strategic health communication. In particular, students are asked to consider the role of health communication messages in internal, organizational settings, as well as outward-facing messages. Unique to this graduate-level strategic communication course, the students are expected to have minimal to no experience in the field of strategic communication. Instead, the overview of the field provided through this course seeks to encourage understanding of how the theories, practices and evaluations of health communication should be incorporated within their areas of health expertise.

Offered: As needed

**STC 518. Measurement and Evaluation.** 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the development of knowledge and skills to ensure that students are able to use data to make business decisions. Students consider key concerns of measurement to determine if measurement tools are effective and appropriate for a project’s goals, as well as how to make sense of data to measure success of a project and how to display findings for various audiences. The course is focused on the principles and process of utilizing research to best serve your client’s or organization’s goals. Main topics for the course include measurement development and refinement, online data analytics, audience segmentation, data interpretation and data visualization.

Offered: Every year, Fall and Spring

**STC 519. Strategic Public Relations and Reputation Management.** 3 Credits.
The focus of this course is reputation management and its importance to business success. Students analyze the function of corporate communications and examine a range of topics including organizational identity, image and reputation; issues and crisis management; institutional ethics and corporate social responsibility; strategic public relations planning; integrated marketing communication; public relations theories and best practices; and global public engagement. The class also explores specialty public relations practice areas such as media relations, investor relations, employee relations and government relations. Class discussions, case studies, in-class exercises, team projects and essay exams help students improve their critical thinking and reasoning skills, develop research and strategic planning skills and increase diversity awareness and sensitivities that are important to professional and business success.

Offered: As needed

**STC 520. Sports Public Relations.** 3 Credits.
This class is a comprehensive review of sports event planning and management. Students examine such topics as strategic planning, budgeting and time management.

Offered: As needed

**STC 521. Corporate Public Relations.** 3 Credits.
This course provides students with the knowledge and skills required for positions in the corporate sector. Topics include media relations, employee communication, community relations, investor relations, and crisis communication. Students hone their written communication and critical thinking skills in this class.

Offered: As needed

**STC 522. Nonprofit Public Relations.** 3 Credits.
This course is appropriate for students who want to learn how to develop and implement comprehensive public relations campaigns for nonprofit organizations. It highlights the structures and nuances of the various types of NPOs and examines case studies and present-day scenarios. The course requires the development of a public relations campaign, and culminates in crafting a case study assessing the effectiveness of an assigned NPO’s public relations campaign.

Offered: As needed

**STC 523. Media Systems and Planning.** 3 Credits.
In this course, students learn about traditional as well as new and emerging technologies, with particular emphasis on their strengths and weaknesses as message carriers. Discussions include an overview of commonly used metrics and sources of data in the advertising and communications industries. Students then use this knowledge to plan and budget for integrated communication plans that capitalize on paid, earned and owned outlets.

Offered: As needed

**STC 525. Financial Communications and Business.** 3 Credits.
This course provides students with a holistic view of public relations and corporate communications management, as well as strategic planning for organizational change and growth. It covers various styles and functions of management and leadership theory and introduces key principles of marketing, branding, risk management, ethics, and finance. Throughout the course, students develop the ability to work between crucial agency organizational departments.

Offered: As needed
STC 531. Graduate Internship in Public Relations.  3 Credits.
Students complete a minimum of 90 hours of professional fieldwork supervised by the program director and a qualified field supervisor. Approval of the program director is required.
Offered: Every year, All

STC 540. Strategic Communications Abroad.  3 Credits.
This multi-section course introduces students to the worldwide development of communications, including communication practices, infrastructure, environments, and specializations. Students conduct primary and secondary research on communications in a particular country or cross-cultural context. The topics can range from international strategic communication through storytelling, global branding, and design, depending on the specialty of the instructor. This course includes a short-term study-abroad component directly related to the topic of the course, where students will be able to expand their skills and knowledge in a new environment. A strategic communication graduate-level final project is required.
Offered: As needed

STC 547. Entertainment Public Relations.  3 Credits.
This course reviews and applies the established RPIE (Research, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation) process to the field of entertainment public relations in the context of such industries as music, movies, TV, theater, gaming, and sports. The distinctions between and among advertising, publicity, public relations, marketing, and promotion, in addition to how they can work together to support a specific goal, are highlighted.
Offered: As needed

STC 549. Media Relations.  3 Credits.
Course Description: This course gives students an understanding of the priorities and expectations of various types of contemporary media and how to successfully engage them through research-based strategies and tactics designed to reach key audiences. At the conclusion of the course, students should be well-practiced in various forms of working with journalists and the public via multiple media.
Offered: As needed

STC 605. Public Relations Graduate Capstone.  3 Credits.
Students develop a professional research project under the direction of program faculty. The project work should exhibit KSAs and/or serve as PRSA Readiness Review preparation. The capstone project is a personally designed, independently conducted activity, enabling students to further their knowledge/skill in one or more of the course topics that students have found especially interesting or beneficial. Permission of instructor required.
Offered: Every year, Spring and Summer

STC 606. Independent Study.  3 Credits.
Students develop and implement individual research projects that advance understanding of particular theoretical or practical aspects of public relations. Approval of the program director is required.
Offered: As needed