Illinois State University:

- The Basic Communication Course at Illinois State University is entitled, Communication as Critical Inquiry (COM 110). This course is an integral part of the general education program at ISU. It is one of two courses that all ISU students must take in their first-year experience.

- The overall purpose of COM 110 is to improve students' abilities to express themselves and to listen to others in a variety of communication settings. The course emphasizes participation in a variety of communication processes in order to develop, reinforce, and evaluate communication skills appropriate for public, small group, and interpersonal settings. The course content and experiences enable students to assume their responsibilities as speaker-listener-critic in a culturally diverse world. In short, the course is designed to make students competent, ethical, critical, confident, and information literate communicators—all in an effort the make them better citizens in a democracy.

Texas State University:

- The basic communication course must be completed in order to obtain an undergraduate degree for all students at Texas State. As the course provides instruction to many non-majors, the primary function is to offer a holistic education of the principles of human communication promoted in the class.

- Entitled Fundamentals of Human Communication (COMM 1310) the basic communication course is a hybrid course that provides instruction in the intercultural, interpersonal, small group, and public speaking contexts. It is designed in a lecture-lab format such that students attend lectures to receive course content while attending lab sessions for experiential learning and skill building. The basic course serves the following functions: 1) to support the university’s focus on providing students a multicultural education, 2) to impart the value of communication skills in our changing world.

University of Nebraska, Omaha:

- At UNO all students are required to fulfill a general education oral communication course requirement for graduation. UNO's Basic Course - Public Speaking Fundamentals Program provides two courses, Public Speaking Fundamentals and
Argumentation & Debate. The overarching goals of the Basic Course program focus on helping students become critical evaluators of public communication and develop excellent presentational skills that create an oral communication foundation for success in college and their careers.

Public Speaking Fundamentals (Speech 1110)

- Public Speaking Fundamentals is the primary course students choose to satisfy UNO’s general education oral communication requirement. All use a standard syllabus and the same textbook and student workbook, but instructors are given flexibility in choosing teaching methods and instructional activities. Students are required to deliver at least four formal speeches (i.e., two informative and two persuasive), engage in classroom activities, and take two exams. The specific goals of the course are to increase understanding of the steps in the speech making process, to practice techniques to manage communication anxiety, to design communication objectives to fit the setting, time, and audience, to adapt messages and language to the needs and expectations of various audiences, to develop information literacy skills, to develop skills to speak ethically, confidently, and competently, to develop extemporaneous and conversational delivery styles, and to develop skills to critically listen to and evaluate the public communication they enter in daily life. The Basic Course offers special sections of Public Speaking and students can self-select a section that meets their needs and interests.

Argumentation & Debate (Speech 2120)

- The second course that satisfies UNO’s general education oral communication requirement is Argumentation & Debate. Since much of human communication has as its underlying motive the goal of influencing belief or behavior, the study of argumentation at UNO is important. Arguers seek to convince others to accept their point of view. Students learn the fundamental principles of argument, how to prepare written argumentative briefs, and present oral arguments to hone oral argumentation skills. One of the main objectives of the course is to demonstrate specific skills in the areas of public speaking, reasoning, organization of ideas and materials, researching a topic in depth, and selecting evidence that “proves” their arguments.

University of Nevada-Las Vegas:

- The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Communication Studies has a unique and robust basic course program. Rather than attempting to incorporate the entire communication field into one hybrid course, the department offers two courses that address issues related to the fields represented within the department: public communication and interpersonal communication. Furthermore, in the past year the department has revitalized a third course in its basic course program that now serves as the centerpiece course in the college’s learning community program.
• COM 101: Oral Communication: UNLV’s introduction to public speaking course. Each pupil is responsible for four speeches, a midterm, a final and a series of quizzes. Of the four speeches, two must be persuasive and two must be informative, and each requires a student to use a different organizational pattern. The speeches each increase in time, with the first and shortest speech required to be between four and six minutes, and the last and longest speech required to be between seven and nine minutes.

• COM 102: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication. Students take four sectional examinations, a series of quizzes, and have a contract grading system for the final exam component of their grade. Students are given the choice after their first exam whether to take a cumulative 100 question final examination, or write a 6-8 page research paper designed by the instructor. If they do not submit a contract they automatically default into the exam option.

• COM 100: Education, Career and Personal Development. The only basic course not required of Communication majors, but still an integral part in the college’s Freshman Learning Community Program (FLCP). This course serves as the “fulcrum” course in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, and is designed to help incoming freshmen with the transition to college life. Students who take COM 100 are all freshmen and also take COM 101 concurrently. There are linked assignments for both courses within the FLCP.

Virginia Tech:

• At Virginia Tech, the Basic Communication Course Program (VT-BCC) has evolved to include three branches, which have many common features, goals, and staff:

• Public Speaking (Comm 2004): All transfers into COMM and students in select majors take Public Speaking. Because Public Speaking is a requirement in some disciplines (although not general education) and is often transferred to VT from community colleges, it necessarily has fairly standard content. The course uses a traditional public speaking text, students study informative and persuasive message preparation and delivery, and they give speeches to their classmates.

• Communication Skills I and II (CommSkills - COMM 10154016), a sequence of two courses. All freshman COMM majors take CommSkills. This hybrid course sequence is designed for first-year students to satisfy requirements for the major and for Virginia Tech’s general education program. The goal of the courses is to develop practical discourse skills necessary for success in college and career, such as interacting with teams, making in-class presentations, and communicating with peers, professors, and the public in person and in writing. Such skills include various types of communication required in the discourse community: interpersonal communication, group discussion, public speaking, listening, problem-solving, and audience-centered writing. Through varied, practical experiences, students in Communication Skills explore the transactional
nature of communication through which people mutually and simultaneously cooperate to create shared meanings.

- CommLab, a resource for student speakers, staffed by undergraduate and graduate students. CommLab was designed to support student speakers as they prepare and rehearse speeches.