

Business Communications

Primary Career Cluster:	Business Management & Administration
Consultant:	Tara Campbell, (615) 253-7442, Tara.Campbell@tn.gov
Course Code(s):	5888
Prerequisite(s):	<i>Introduction to Business & Marketing</i> (5905)
Credit:	1
Grade Level:	10 - 11
Graduation Requirements:	This course satisfies one of three credits required for an elective focus when taken in conjunction with other Business courses.
Programs of Study and Sequence:	This is the second course in the <i>Business Management</i> and <i>Office Management</i> programs of study.
Aligned Student Organization(s):	DECA: http://www.decatn.org FBLA: http://www.fbla.org Steven Mitchell, (615) 532-2829, Steven.Mitchell@tn.gov
Coordinating Work-Based Learning:	Teachers are encouraged to use embedded WBL activities such as informational interviewing, job shadowing, and career mentoring. For information, visit https://tn.gov/education/topic/work-based-learning .
Available Student Industry Certifications:	None
Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Opportunities:	There are no known dual credit/dual enrollment opportunities for this course. If interested in developing, reach out to a local postsecondary institution to establish an articulation agreement.
Teacher Endorsement(s):	030, 031, 032, 034, 037, 039, 041, 052, 054, 055, 056, 057, 152, 153, 158, 201, 202, 203, 204, 311, 430, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 471, 472, 474, 475, 476
Required Teacher Certifications/Training:	None
Teacher Resources:	https://tn.gov/education/article/cte-cluster-business-management-administration

Course Description

Business Communications is a course designed to develop students' effective oral and electronic business communications skills. This course develops skills in multiple methods of communications, including social media, as well as electronic publishing, design, layout, composition, and video conferencing. Upon completion of this course, proficient students will be able to demonstrate successful styles and methods for professional business communications using the proper tools to deliver effective publications and presentations.

Program of Study Application

This is the second course in the *Business Management* and *Office Management* programs of study. For more information on the benefits and requirements of implementing these programs in full, please visit the Business Management and Administration website at <https://tn.gov/education/article/cte-cluster-business-management-administration>.

Course Standards

Communication Components

- 1) Demonstrate compliance with the school's ethics policy regarding copyrighted materials, plagiarism, authenticity, proper citations, privacy, and proper use of technology resources.
- 2) Identify, analyze, and critique the basic components of communications, such as the message, the sender, the receiver, the mode, the noise, and the response. This includes conducting responsible research when necessary, developing effective arguments, composing meaningful and coherent messages appropriate to the intended audience, and polishing one's delivery skills to deliver an effective and credible message, followed by listening.
- 3) Differentiate between verbal and nonverbal communications when interacting with peers, subordinates, superiors, and customers. List specific techniques for effective communications and evaluate how different cultures and generations attach different meanings to various gestures, intonations, and other communications techniques.
- 4) Practice and implement proven communication techniques to foster positive interpersonal relationships in the business atmosphere, such as:
 - a. Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with coworkers and customers (e.g., being fair, helpful, tactful, gracious, and appreciative).
 - b. Recognize manifestations of tension, and employ recommended strategies to resolve the situation in the most favorable ways (e.g., collaborating, compromising, accommodating).
 - c. Practice various interactions and conflict resolution strategies by participating in role-play exercises and structured controversies, allowing students to model positive/supportive behaviors that respect varying perspectives and viewpoints of others and yield consensus decision-making.

Digital Citizenship

- 5) Create a rubric for evaluating and selecting the best electronic communication tool for a given task or situation. Using scenarios from business and industry, identify appropriate tools for various situations and defend selections through a persuasive narrative, based on the application of the rubric.
- 6) Research and analyze various aspects of good digital citizenship. In groups, discuss the effects of technology on day-to-day and business communications. Select one topic (such as hacking of a customer database, social media, etc.) for further exploration and develop an

electronic presentation employing to demonstrate the implications of the topic on society, as well as business and industry.

- 7) Compile significant points regarding courtesy and propriety in a digital business world (“netiquette”) and prepare a presentation or web page that includes the topics of
 - a. Message priority (urgent, normal, or low)
 - b. Consent to share (property rights)
 - c. Confidential or sensitive information (privacy)
 - d. Message formatting (fonts, color, case, informal abbreviations, emoticons)

Business Writing

- 8) Evaluate, create, and revise business correspondence, short contracts and reports, electronic forms, and small legal documents for a business in standard English using the following:
 - a. Employing word processing and simple spreadsheet programs
 - b. Using proper grammar essentials, including parts of speech, vocabulary, punctuation, sentence structure
 - c. Applying accepted business styles, including fonts, margins, layout, color, formats for dates, times, currencies, proper names
 - d. Using acceptable business language, vocabulary, acronyms
 - e. Writing for social media
 - f. Writing for the internet
- 9) Analyze examples of writing for evolving digital platforms such as social media applications. Compare and contrast writing conventions required for commonly used applications and construct an event announcement for a local business in formats appropriate for at least three different social media/networking tools.
- 10) Locate a website used by a business to sell a product or service. Evaluate the website’s design, content, text, images, layout, and color. Discern the site’s effectiveness and ease of navigation, including the use of hyperlinks. Using persuasive writing, produce a critique addressing the pros and cons of the site, and offer recommended revisions.

Desktop Publishing

- 11) Create, adjust, and publish business document projects to typographic standards:
 - a. Using word processing or desktop-publishing software
 - b. Planning layouts based on estimation and calculations to achieve accepted balance of text, art, photos, and white space
 - c. Applying consistent style standards, including fonts, margins, layout, color scheme, and image and text formats
 - d. Inserting and formatting merged graphic elements, such as charts, photos and artwork, and text embellishments
 - e. Incorporating editing and revision markings to incorporate desired changes by the author/editor

- 12) Configure and send typographic output for designing camera ready documents on destination printer, color model (RGB, CMYK, etc.), preprint color requirement, and process color separations.
- 13) Manipulate, enhance and produce digital photographs, graphics, or other art elements utilizing photographic and / or graphic editing software.

Oral Communications

- 14) Draft and edit two speeches: (1) to persuade, and (2) to inform. Incorporate planning and preparation to deliver speeches that adhere to the following expectations:
 - a. Appropriate for various audiences and purposes
 - b. Delivered with enthusiasm and appropriate body language
 - c. Structured to guide the listener to the desired objective or response
 - d. Includes facts and research, in addition to original claim(s) and counterclaim(s) supported by evidence
 - e. Revised based on peer feedback
- 15) Critique the purpose of various speaking assignments to identify the design and goal, such as to inform, educate, convince, persuade, or lead to action.
- 16) Plan, prepare, and conduct a short business meeting, including following-up after the meeting. Write an agenda, develop and produce necessary materials, facilitate the meeting effectively, and prepare a follow-up email thanking the attendees for their participation and summarizing key takeaways and action items.
- 17) Promote, organize, and practice creative problem-solving using the brainstorming approach, incorporating common techniques such as predefined time limits, short breaks, goals, visual aids, and record-keeping.

Virtual Meetings

- 18) Plan, organize, schedule, and deliver a webinar to one or more distant parties using computer conferencing tools (e.g., telephone or voice over IP, online conferencing system).
 - a. Prepare an invitation, agenda, and overall script for the webinar, outlining the planned verbiage and business-related flow of information. Include guidelines, minutes and follow-up.
 - b. Single-handedly or as a team, conduct the webinar or simulated webinar according to the agenda.
 - c. Leverage the video, audio, and meeting enhancement tools available through the selected webinar software, such as highlighting, chat, polling, and question features to maximize audience interaction.
 - d. Save, and edit, if needed, a short audio/video recording of the webinar for later publication.

- 19) Plan, organize, schedule, and conduct a web videoconference or simulation with one or more distant parties using computer conferencing tools (e.g., webcams, high-speed Internet, computer)
- a. Prepare an overall agenda for the web conference, outlining the planned exchanges of information, positioning and appearance of people, and switching between video sources (e.g., webcams, document cams, and other imagery).
 - b. Follow the agenda to complete the web-meeting exchange, either single-handedly or as part of a team.
 - c. Use effective communication and engagement strategies (such as effective meetings facilitation) to encourage active participation by all parties connected to the meeting.
 - d. Save, and edit if needed, a short audio/video recording of the web meeting for later publication.

Career Activities

- 20) Prepare an electronic portfolio
- a. Including work products demonstrating career preparation skills, using an assortment of media (text, photos, video, hyper-linked pages).
 - b. Including a professionally formatted résumé and other supporting documents such as cover letter and application.
 - c. Packaged on a suitable media (e.g., CD, DVD, memory stick, web site).
- 21) Conduct a job search of positions in one or more career areas of interest using tools such as <https://www.jobs4tn.gov> and other online employment resources; complete a job application; participate in mock interviews with partner businesses and/or through participation in a student organization event.
- 22) Address the appropriate use of and ethics related to social media in personal and professional situations and its impact on career search processes, as well as its impact on the professional reputation of a person.

Standards Alignment Notes

*References to other standards include:

- P21: Partnership for 21st Century Skills [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#)
 - Note: While not all standards are specifically aligned, teachers will find the framework helpful for setting expectations for student behavior in their classroom and practicing specific career readiness skills.