

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Faculty of Social Sciences

Bachelor's programme Communication Science

Academic year 2024-2025

Note: All specifications in this TER concern the English track Communication Science. The specifications for the Dutch track Communicatiewetenschap can be found in the Dutch OER.

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Section A: Faculty section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.
2. These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2024.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations is only permitted to concern an academic year already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations (*in alphabetical order*):

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| a. academic year: | the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year; |
| b. EC (European Credit): | a course credit with a workload of 28 hours of study; |
| c. CvB | the Executive Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; |
| d. examination: | an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a unit of education. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original examination. An examination can be completed in writing, orally or in another way; |
| e. final examination: | A Bachelor's programme consists of a propaedeutic examination and a Bachelor's examination; |
| f. fGV: | faculty joint assembly – assembly of the faculty student council and faculty staff council; |
| g. internship: | period spent working in professional practice as part of a study programme; |
| h. minor: | a set of thematically related units of education totalling 30 credits. Students choose a minor in order to broaden and/or deepen their studies (within the scope for electives) during the Bachelor's programme; |
| i. OLC | programme committee; |
| j. period: | a part of a semester; |
| k. practical exercise: | participation in a practical training activity or other educational learning activity, aimed at acquiring certain (academic) skills. Examples of practical exercises are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ researching and writing a thesis or dissertation○ carrying out a research assignment○ taking part in fieldwork or an excursion○ taking part in educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills, or○ participating in and completing a work placement; |
| l. programme: | the totality and cohesion of the units of education, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature; |
| m. SAP/SLM: | the student information system (<i>Student Lifecycle Management</i>); |
| n. semester: | the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year; |
| o. specialisation: | optional route of study within a degree programme indicating a deepening of the context of the programme (e.g. interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary); |

p. student statute:	sets out the rights and responsibilities of students on the one hand, and of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on the other hand, including those derived from the law and those derived from university regulations. The Executive Board (CvB) officially confirms the student statute once its completeness has been approved by the University Student Council (USC);
q. student:	person studying;
r. study guide:	the guide for the study programme that provides further details of the courses, provisions and other information specific to that programme. The study guide is available online at https://www.vu.nl/studiegids ;
s. study monitor:	dashboard for students and academic advisers containing data pertaining to the student, including the student's study progress;
t. subject:	see w. 'unit of education';
u. thesis:	a unit comprising research into the literature and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
v. track:	a study pathway within a broader Bachelor's or Master's degree; programme, such as a fully English-language study pathway within a Dutch-language Bachelor's or Master's programme;
w. unit of education:	a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
x. university:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
y. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (WHW)).
z. workload:	the workload of the unit of education to which an examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC credits (ECTS = European Credit and Transfer Accumulation System). The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits.

The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them by the WHW.

2. Study programme structure

Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and units of education

1. The study programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods. The first two periods each consist of eight weeks, and the final period consists of four weeks.
3. A unit of education comprises 6 ECs or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, the Executive Board may in special cases and on request of the Faculty Board, stipulate that a unit of education comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof.

Article 2.2 Setup of programme

1. All Bachelor's programmes consist of at least the following components:
 - a. An academic core of at least 24 ECs
 - b. Major/compulsory components of at least 90 ECs
 - c. Elective components of study of at least 30 ECs
2. In the first year of the programme, the programme will offer at least fourteen contact hours a week.
3. In the second and third years of the programme, the programme will offer at least twelve contact hours a week.
4. Internationalisation is included as part of the Bachelor's programme and reflected in one or more units of education.

3. Assessment and examination

Article 3.1 Signing up for education and examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the units of education of the programme, the examinations and resits. The procedure for signing up is described in an annex to the student statute.
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.

Article 3.2 Type of examination

At the examiner's request, the Examination Board may permit a different form of examination than is stipulated in the study guide.

Article 3.3 Oral examinations

1. No more than one student will be examined orally at a time, unless specified otherwise in part B for the relevant unit of education.
2. A second examiner is present when an oral examination is being held, unless the Examination Board has determined otherwise. The oral examination takes place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner within the regular timetable, on campus or online. At the request of the student, and with the approval of the examiners, an audio recording can be made. Should the second examiner not be available unexpectedly, an audio recording of the oral exam can be made. This audio recording is retained by the university for the retention period applicable for examinations.

Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result of a written examination within ten working days. The marking deadline for the first submission opportunity for the Bachelor's project or Bachelor's thesis is also ten working days. The marking deadline for the second submission opportunity for the Bachelor's project or Bachelor's thesis is no longer than twenty working days. The examiner will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is immediately notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within two working days after the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The fourth clause of the first paragraph applies.
3. In the case of assessments other than oral or written examinations, the Examination Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.

Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations will be offered for each unit of education.
b. By way of exception to a., the options for retaking practical exercises, internships and theses are detailed in the relevant internship manual, course manual or teaching regulations.
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A resit is allowed for both passed and failed units of education. A resit for the bachelor thesis, internship and practical exercise is allowed only if that unit of education is failed.
3. The resit for an examination may not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the results for the original examination. Exceptions are only possible in period 6.
4. The Examination Board may allow a student an extra opportunity to sit an examination if that student:
 - a) lacks only those credits to qualify for their degree; and
 - b) has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons.

The extra opportunity can only be offered if it concerns a written examination, a paper or a take home examination. This provision excludes the practical exercises and the Bachelor's project or thesis. Requests for an additional examination opportunity for courses from periods 1 to 4 must be submitted to the examination board no later than 10 June. Requests for an additional examination opportunity for courses

in periods 5 and 6 must be submitted to the examination board by 10 July at the latest. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.

5. If a unit of education is no longer offered, at least one additional opportunity will subsequently be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in Section B.

Article 3.6 Marks

1. Grades are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one figure after the decimal point.
2. A final mark between 5 and 6 will be rounded to the nearest whole number: final marks below 5.5, rounded down; final marks of 5.5 or higher, rounded up. All other final marks will be expressed in whole or half marks.
3. To pass a given course or unit, a final mark of 6 or higher is required.
4. The Examination Board can allow the use of symbols rather than numbers, for example: s(atisfactory), g(ood), u(n)s(at)is(factory), etc.

Article 3.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examination Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if they:
have either passed a unit of education at a university of applied sciences (HBO) or research university (WO) that is equivalent in terms of content and level;
or have demonstrated through their work and/or professional experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant unit of education.
2. The Bachelor's project or thesis is excluded from the possibility of exemption.

Article 3.8 Validity period for results

The validity period of examinations passed and exemption from examinations is unlimited, unless otherwise specified in Section B1.

Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion

1. Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, but at least ten working days before the resit opportunity for that examination, the student has the right to review their graded examination. See appendix II for more information about making online multiple-choice examinations available for inspection.
2. Students can view the questions and assignments set in the written examination, and the standards applied when assessing the examination, within the period specified in 3.9.1.
3. The examiner determines whether the inspection takes place collectively or individually. In all cases, the time and place of the inspection is announced in the course manual or learning environment.
4. Students are entitled to feedback on their academic performance. The manner in which this is provided in each unit of education is described in the course manual. Feedback is provided at a time and location to be determined by the examiner within the regular timetable, on campus or online.

4. Honours programme

Article 4.1 Honours programme

1. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers an honours programme for students who meet the admission requirements. The honours programme consists of units of education taken in addition to the standard curriculum.
2. The honours programme comprises 30 EC, a minimum of 12 EC of which consist of faculty or programme honours components and a minimum of another 12 EC consist of interfaculty honours components. The choices available to the student will be published on the website (www.vu.nl).

3. For admission to the honours programme, the student must have secured all credits from the first year by no later than 31 August of the relevant year, and have been awarded a weighted average mark of at least a 7.5.
4. Students who have met the requirements of the regular Bachelor's programme within the nominal duration of study, who have achieved a weighted average of at least 7.5 for all components of the Bachelor's programme (excluding the honours components) and who have also met the requirements of the honours programme will receive a Bachelor diploma with a transcript indicating that they have successfully completed the honours programme.
5. First-year Bachelor's students can participate in honours components during the second semester, on the condition that they have earned 30 EC during the first semester with a weighted average of at least a 7.5. First-year students can only participate in honours components that are open for first-year students.

5. Academic student counselling, recommendation on continuation of studies and study progress

Article 5.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

1. The faculty board is responsible for the correct registration of the students' study results. After the assessment of a unit of education has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component and also has a list of the results achieved at their disposal in VU.nl Dashboard.
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student counselling is provided by
 - a. The Student Counsellor
 - b. Student psychologists
 - c. Faculty academic advisers

Article 5.2 Recommendation on continuation of studies

1. The faculty board will issue every student on a full-time Bachelor's programme with a recommendation on continuation of their studies, at the end of the first year of study. The recommendation on continuation of studies is issued on behalf of the faculty board by the faculty BSA committee.
2. Prior to 1 February, the student will receive an overview of their results.
3. Students who have not completed enough credits, will receive a warning stating that if insufficient improvement in their performance is forthcoming by the end of the academic year, they will receive a negative advice regarding the continuation of their studies. These students will also be advised to plan a meeting with an academic adviser.
4. If the recommendation at the end of the academic year is negative, the provisions of Article 5.3 apply.
5. A recommendation will not be issued if the student terminates their enrolment before 1 February of their first academic year.

Article 5.3 Binding (negative) recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)

1. The recommendation issued at the end of the academic year will contain a binding rejection if the student has not achieved the standard required for a positive recommendation on continuation of studies. A recommendation on continuation of studies will not be issued if the student demonstrates that they have not been able to meet the standard due to personal circumstances as described in Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act (Uitvoeringsbesluit WHW). The standard is defined in Section B.
2. As soon as possible after the last resits of the second semester of the first year, a student who has not met the standard will be informed that the faculty board intends to issue them with negative binding recommendation on continuation of studies. The same procedure applies in the next year of enrolment if the student was permitted to continue with their study programme as a result of personal circumstances and has still not successfully met all of the requirements of the first year of study by that time. No recommendation will be issued to students if they demonstrate that they once again did not meet the standard as a consequence of personal circumstances.

3. Along with the information referred to in the previous paragraph, students will also be informed of the possibility of being heard by the BSA committee and of how they can apply for such a hearing.
4. As soon as possible (no more than ten working days) after the end of the hearing and after the BSA committee has issued its advice, the faculty board will issue the definitive recommendation on continuation of studies.
5. Students may lodge an appeal against a decision on a binding negative recommendation on continuation of studies with the Examination Appeals Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam within six weeks of the day of the decision's announcement.
6. Students who receive a binding negative recommendation on continuation of studies may therefore not enrol in the same Bachelor's programme or Bachelor's programme(s) with the same first year as defined in Article 14.1.2 of section B for a period of three years.

Article 5.4 Personal circumstances

1. The faculty board will not include a rejection in the binding recommendation on the continuation of studies in the case of personal circumstances, as described in Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act, as a result of which the student concerned cannot have been reasonably expected to have met the BSA standard.
2. If a circumstance, as described in Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act, should occur, students must notify the academic adviser office as soon as possible, providing details of:
 - a. the period in which the circumstance occurs or occurred;
 - b. a description of the circumstance and its seriousness;
 - c. the extent to which they cannot or could not participate in instruction/classes or an examination.It is students' responsibility to submit documentary evidence to substantiate their report.
3. If required, the academic adviser may advise the BSA committee on the extent to which personal circumstances have influenced the student's study progress.

Article 5.5 Facilities for students with a disability or impairment

1. Students with a disability or impairment, can submit a request via VU.nl Dashboard to qualify for one or more special facilities with regard to education, practical exercises and examinations. These facilities will accommodate the student's individual disability or impairment as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of education or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the study programme.
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor or psychologist. If possible, an estimate should be given of the potential impact on the student's study progress. In case of a chronic disability a single (one time) request suffices.
3. Students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia must provide a statement from a BIG-, NIP- or NVO-registered professional who is qualified to conduct a psychological evaluation.
4. The faculty board, or the responsible person on behalf of the faculty board, decides on teaching facilities and facilities regarding logistics. The Examination Board will decide on requests for facilities with regard to examinations.
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student can make an appointment with the academic adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
6. A request for one or more facilities can be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld. Any such refusal will be substantiated.
7. If the disability or impairment justifies an extension of the examination time, the responsible person on behalf of the Examination Board will register in SAP this entitlement to an extension. If a disability or impairment justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures. The student can consult the study monitor (personal dashboard) to check which facilities have been granted to them.

8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the facilities granted.

6. Hardship clause

Article 6.1 Hardship clause

In instances not regulated by the Teaching and Examination Regulations or in the event of demonstrable extreme unreasonableness or unfairness, the faculty board responsible for the study programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examination Board.

Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

7. General programme information and characteristics

Article 7.1 Study programme information

1. The programme Communicatiewetenschap, CROHO number 56615, is offered on a full-time basis.

Article 7.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The degree programme uses predominantly the following teaching formats:
 - lectures;
 - working groups;
 - practical exercises;
 - formative assessments;
 - privatissimum.
2. The degree programme uses predominantly the following modes of assessment:
 - written examination
 - reports;
 - portfolio;
 - presentations;
 - thesis.

Article 7.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the following counselling in addition to the student counselling mentioned in Section A. The programme offers a mentoring programme for the bachelor students. This includes individual and group sessions with student mentors in the first year, as well as individual meetings with teaching mentors in the second and third years. The aim of the mentoring program is to help student familiarize with the faculty and the department, as well as help students find the support they need, and facilitate self-reflection and personal growth.

8. Further admission requirements

Article 8.1 Additional previous education requirements

1. Students who meet the previous education requirements as stipulated in the current 'Regulations on Registrations and Admissions in Higher Education' (*'Regeling Aanmelding en Toelating Hoger Onderwijs'* (RATHO, OCW)) will gain access to the programme.
2. Students who do not meet the previous education requirements as stipulated in 'Regulations on Registrations and Admissions in Higher Education' currently in force may still be admitted to the programme by successfully completing one or more of the following interim exams at final pre-university examination level:
 - English;
 - Mathematics A or B or C.
3. Sufficient command of the English language can be evidenced by successful completion of one of the following exams, no later than two years prior to starting the study programme, of:
 - a. IELTS (academic) 6.5;
 - b. TOEFL paper-based test 580; TOEFL internet-based test 92;
 - c. VU English Language Proficiency Test: TOEFL ITP 580;
 - d. Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): grade A, B or C;
 - e. Secondary education state exam: VWO English language and literature;

- f. A VWO diploma or equivalent diploma in which English of a comparable level is required.

Those who have completed English-language education in Canada, the USA, the UK, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia and those who already hold an English-language Bachelor's degree are exempted from the language requirement.

4. Anyone who does not meet the requirements for previous education but who has passed the propaedeutic examination of a higher professional education programme will be admitted to the programme.

Article 8.2 Entrance examination

1. Persons aged 21 years and older who do not meet the requirements for previous education can submit a request to the Executive Board to take an entrance examination, as stipulated in Article 7.29 of the WHW. The entrance examination concerns the following subjects at final pre-university examination level:
 - Mathematics;
 - English.
2. The proof that the entrance examination has been passed, only provides entitlement to admission to the intended programme or programmes for the academic year following the examination.

9. Interim examinations and results

Article 9.1 Sequence of interim examinations

The following educational units cannot be participated in until the following sequential requirements are met:

- Bachelorthesis Communication Science after obtaining a passing grade in Quantitative Research Methodology (applicable starting the academic year 2021-2022);
- Bachelorthesis Communication Science after obtaining 90 EC of the first and second year of the programme Communication Science (applicable starting the academic year 2021-2022).

Artikel 9.2 Validity period for results

1. If the knowledge, understanding or skills as evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a unit of education for which an examination was passed more than 10 years ago.
2. The validity period of a partial examination is limited to the academic year in which it was sat or until the end of the unit of education concerned. In exceptional circumstances, an examiner may deviate from this; this must be stated on Canvas at the start of the unit of education.

10. Regulation right of inspection

Article 10.1 Regulation of inspection

See the inspection rules of Communication Science on the programme page on Canvas for more information on the inspection of assessed work.

Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

11. Programme objectives, tracks, exit qualifications and language

Article 11.1 Programme objective

The Bachelor's programme in Communicatiewetenschap is a broad social scientific programme characterized by a strong focus on research into communication phenomena and their theoretical background, as well as examining communication processes in the private, organizational and public domains. It is anchored strongly in the social scientific tradition, with ample attention for philosophy of science and for methods and techniques of social scientific research. Students accrue a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to recognize and explain communication phenomena using scientifically relevant theories and models. After completing the programme, graduates can progress to a related Master's programme, either a one-year professional master's program or a two-year research program. Alternatively, they are ready to enter the employment market as a junior trainee in communications-related research or practice.

Article 11.2 Tracks

The programme has the following tracks:

- Communication Science (English);
- Communicatiewetenschap (Dutch).

All specifications in this TER concern the English track Communication Science. The specifications for the Dutch track Communicatiewetenschap can be found in the Dutch OER.

Article 11.3 Exit qualifications

1. Exit qualifications

Knowledge and understanding - graduates will have a good knowledge and understanding of:

- a. the basic principles of communication science and its most important theories, in particular those relating to the public, organizational and private domains;
- b. the ongoing scientific debate around communication processes within the public, organizational and private domains, such that they are able to interpret current theoretical developments;
- c. the media landscape and developments within it; the ability to interpret the Dutch media landscape in an international context;
- d. the basic principles of research methods used in communication science, with a particular emphasis on quantitative social scientific approaches, especially on the research methods survey, experiments and content analysis and the related standard analytical techniques; and,
- e. the history and philosophy of science, in particular the basic principles and assumptions providing an insight into the societal function of social scientific research and the researcher's role in it.

Application of knowledge and understanding - a graduate is able:

- a. to apply the most important theories in communication science, including recent developments, to fundamental issues of communication from the public, organizational and private domains;
- b. to apply the most important theories in communication science, including recent developments and in particular those with regard to the public, organizational and private domains, in responding to communication-related issues in society;
- c. to use the most important theories in communication science, including recent developments and in particular those with regard to the public, organizational and private domains, in formulating and substantiating hypotheses related to a set research question;

- d. to use the quantitative social scientific research methods common in communication science, especially survey, experimentation and content analysis, to test methodologically relatively simple research hypotheses; and,
- e. to interpret data generated by methodologically relatively simple research.

Judgement - a graduate is able:

- a. to interpret theoretical argumentation in the field of communication science;
- b. to interpret the relevance of data generated by methodologically relatively simple research, whether collected personally or by others, within a social scientific context;
- c. to assess what literature and data are relevant in formulating answers to theoretically relatively simple questions of fundamental or applied communication; and,
- d. to demonstrate awareness of the social relevance of communication issues, including their ethical and normative aspects.

Communication - a graduate is able:

- a. to present research findings and conclusions orally and in writing, to both expert and lay audiences; and,
- b. to make effective use of their professional skills in individual and collaborative projects, and to reflect on their own performance.

Learning skills - a graduate is able:

- a. to work with some degree of autonomy on communication issues at an academic level, both within and outside the academic setting.
2. Language proficiency may be taken into account in the assessment of (interim) examinations

Article 11.4 Language of instruction and language test

1. The language of instruction is English.
2. The 'Gedragscode vreemde taal' (code of conduct foreign languages) applies.
3. At the start of the first year of study every student must complete a diagnostic language test in the language of instruction of the programme.
4. Any student who does not achieve a pass in the language test must take the 'Refresher Course' organized by the Language Desk (Taalloket).
5. The language test is part of the following educational component Project 1 Mediated Reality. A mark can only be determined if the student has successfully completed the requirements of the educational component, including a pass in the language test or completing the Refresher Course.

12. Curriculum structure

Article 12.1 Academic core

Academic core is part of the study programme. This includes:

- Project 1: Mediated Reality (level 100);
- Social Research Methodology (level 100);
- Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (level 100);
- History of the Social Sciences (level 200);
- Philosophy of Science (level 200).

Article 12.2 Major

1. The major comprises a package of compulsory and possibly optional units of study.
2. In addition, units of study are categorized as introductory (100), in-depth (200) and advanced (300) level.

Article 12.3 Compulsory units of education of the major

A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

Name of educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
First year			
Introduction to Communication Science	S_ICS	6	100
News and Journalism	S_NAJ	6	100
Interpersonal Communication	S_IPC	6	200
Behaviour and Communication in Organizations	S_BCO	6	200
Public Relations and Reputation Management	S_PRRM1	6	200
Project 2: Strategic Communication	S_P2SC	6	200
Second year			
Project 3 Effective Persuasion	S_P3EP	6	300
Project 4: Social Media Analytics	S_P4SMA	6	300
Marketing and Persuasive Communication	S_MPC	6	300
Quantitative Research Methodology	S_QNRM	6	200
Media, Society and Politics	S_MSP	6	300
Risk and Health Communication	S_RHC	6	300
Media Entertainment	S_ME	6	300
SS4S choose one out of three: - Beyond Gender Inequalities; - Confronting Commodity Chains; - Towards Better Care and Welfare.	S_BGI S_CCC S_TBCW	6	300
SS4S choose one out of three: - AI & Society; - Improving Planetary Health; - The human Dimension of Sustainable Development.	S_AIS S_IPH S_HDSD	6	300
Third year			
New Media Challenges	S_NMC	6	300
Multivariate Analysis BSc	S_MVAba	6	300
Bachelor's Thesis Communication Science	S_BTCW	6	300
Mentorship Communication Science Year 3	S_MCS3	0	

Article 12.6 Participation in practical exercises and tutorials

In the case of a practical training course, or tutorials, attendance is compulsory. The rules and consequences of not complying with the obligation of attendance are described in the study guide.

13. Electives

Article 13.1 Elective period

- The first semester of the third year of the curriculum comprises elective educational components of at least 30 EC.
- For this elective period, the student can take:
 - a minor (a coherent package of related educational components)
 - individual choice of at least five educational components at the faculty or elsewhere (in the Netherlands or abroad), of which at least two (12 EC) must be at level 300.
 - an internship
- Prior consent must be obtained from the Examination Board.
- The 'free-choice component' may not contain any educational components of level 100. The Examination Board can make an exception by approving a unit of level 100 (6 EC) if this educational component of

study is explicitly required in the coherent package of educational components as prior knowledge for another educational component from that package.

5. For an internship, prior approval of the internship coordinator of the program is required. For more information, see the Faculty Regulations for Bachelor's Internships at VU.nl Dashboard.
6. A student can choose electives of the Faculty of Social Sciences without prior permission from the Examination Board, see study guide and VU.nl Dashboard.

Article 13.2 Minors

1. The student who meets the admission requirements can take a 'University minor' without prior consent from the Examination Board. The 'University minors' are listed on the VU website.
2. The student can take one of the following minors without prior consent from the Examination Board:
 - Anthropology;
 - Bestuurswetenschap;
 - Organisatiewetenschap;
 - Sociologie¹.

14. Honours programme

Article 14.1 Honours components

The components of the honours programme offered by the faculty or the programme are:

Name of educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
HP Big Data Meets Small Data	S_HPBDMSD	6	400
HP Research Project in Communication Science	S_HPRPCW	6	300

15. Binding recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)

Article 15.1 Binding (negative) recommendation

1. In order to obtain a positive recommendation on continuation of studies, the student must have obtained at least 42 EC by the end of the first year of enrolment.
2. Students who receive a binding negative recommendation on continuation of studies cannot enroll in the following Bachelor's programme(s) offered by the Faculty during the subsequent three academic years:
 - Communicatiewetenschap;
 - Communication Science.
3. Exemptions are taken into account by the BSA committee in determining whether the norm has been met.
4. Students whose enrollment was terminated before 1 February (deregistration request before 1 February) will also not receive a recommendation on continuation of studies.
5. Students to whom the BSA Committee has granted a postponement of the recommendation in the first academic year will receive the recommendation in the second academic year.

16. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 16.1 Evaluation of the education

The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the evaluation plan in Appendix I. The faculty evaluation plan offers the framework.

¹ Please note: for the minor in Sociologie, there is an overlap with a unit of study from the compulsory curriculum of the Bachelor of Communication Science. Please contact the examination board which unit of study should be taken instead.

Article 16.2 Transitional provisions

By way of departure from the Teaching and Examination Regulations currently in force, the transitional provisions in Appendix II apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations.

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 23 March 2024.

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 3 June 2024.

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 11 June 2024.

Appendix I Evaluation Plan Bachelor Communication Science

Introduction

The Quality Assurance Framework FSS describes how the faculty continuously works to improve education. Evaluating education is part of this. This evaluation plan explains which methods of evaluation are used within the programme, with what frequency and how they are followed up.

A. Courses & Teachers

Methods and frequency

Digital course evaluations*

How Questionnaire is sent by mail through Evalytics.

Frequency Each course: once a year

Courses in faculty minors and courses shared with other programmes are evaluated every year unless all involved Programme Directors and Programme Committees agree otherwise.

Panel discussions/focus groups

How: Held by student members of the programme committee.

Frequency: once per semester

Consultation with teachers

How: Teaching Excellence Meetings to discuss the education of the programme

Frequency: every month

Consultation with Programme Committee

How Programme Director (and/or Programme Coordinator) visit the Programme Committee, respond to feedback, and present questions.

Frequency: every month.

Follow-up

Following the course evaluation, the Course Coordinator assesses whether improvements will be implemented. The Course Coordinator provides feedback to the students in Evalytics (if possible) or by other means. They also mention what has been done with the results of the evaluation, for example in the course manual of the following year. The Programme Director monitors whether the adjustments lead to the desired improvements. Following all course evaluations, the Programme Director discusses points for improvement with the Course Coordinators and consults with the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee monitors whether the follow-up results in the desired improvement.

B. Curriculum & Connection Labour Market

Methods and frequency

Digital Curriculum Evaluation²

How Questionnaire is sent by mail through Evalytics once the student has completed all courses in the programme.

Frequency: Once every 3 years. Planning: '24-'25, '27-'28, etc

Panel discussions/focus groups

² The curriculum should be evaluated at least once every three years. This can also be done by other means than a digital questionnaire. The programme is also included in the National Student Survey as described in the Quality Assurance Framework. This need not also be included in the Evaluation Plan.

How: Held by student assistants. Students are recruited through their teachers via courses, via the Honours Program and through the Program Committee.

Frequency: once every two years.

Consultation with Field Advisory Council (VAR)*

How: Invitation for dinner with representatives from the VAR, newsletter and involvement in Alumni events

Frequency: At least once a year

Alumni survey³

How: We reach out to all our alumni on LinkedIn to hear what they do now.

Frequency: Once a year.

Curriculum discussion with teachers

How: Departmental meetings.

Frequency: At least once a year.

Consultation with Programme Committee

How: Programme Director (and/or Programme Coordinator) visit the program committee to discuss broader questions of curriculum, ask questions and gather feedback.

Frequency: Twice a year.

Follow-up

Following all evaluations related to the curriculum and the connection to the labour market, the Programme Director assesses whether improvements will be implemented. The decision and implementation are coordinated in consultation with the instructor(s) and the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee then monitors whether the follow-up leads to the desired improvement.

³ The programme is always included in the National Alumni Survey (recent graduates) and the VU Alumni Monitor (6 and 11 years after graduation). If the programme conducts any other alumni evaluations, they can be included here.

Appendix II Transition Table Bachelor's track in Communication Science

Transition Table (concept) 2022-2023:

Course 2021-2022 (or sooner)	in 2022-2023 replaced by
Minorwerkgroep Communicatiewetenschap	Project 3: Effective Persuasion
Tutorial Minor Communication Science	Project 3: Effective Persuasion
Social Science for Society 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity 1 or • Globalization 1 or • Networks 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond Gender Inequalities OR • Confronting Commodity Chains OR • Towards Better Care and Welfare: let's stick together OR • AI & Society: Fixing Algorithmic Decision Making OR • Improving Planetary Health: A Learning Lab for Social-Entrepreneurship OR • The Human Dimension of Sustainable Development: From Ideal to Reality
Social Science for Society 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity 2 or • Globalization 2 or • Networks 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond Gender Inequalities OR • Confronting Commodity Chains OR • Towards Better Care and Welfare: let's stick together OR • AI & Society: Fixing Algorithmic Decision Making OR • Improving Planetary Health: A Learning Lab for Social-Entrepreneurship OR • The Human Dimension of Sustainable Development: From Ideal to Reality

Transition Table 2021-2022

Course in 2020-2021 (or before)	Replacement course in 2021-2022
HP Students for a Future Society	HP Big Data meets Small Data

Appendix III Making online multiple-choice examinations available for inspection

The Teaching and Examination Regulations (Part A, Article 3.9, paragraph 1) make the following provisions on the student's right to inspect their written examination after assessment: 'Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, but at least ten working days before the resit opportunity, the student can, on request, inspect their assessed work, the questions and assignments set, and the standards applied for marking. The time and location of this inspection is announced at the examination or on Canvas.'

Teachers who use multiple-choice questions in written examinations seek ways to provide an opportunity for inspection (and for discussion of the examination afterwards) without the risk of multiple-choice questions being distributed as screenshots or by similar means. The distribution of questions in this way means that new multiple-choice questions have to be formulated each time. This not only increases the lecturer's workload but also adversely affects the quality of the questions, as constantly varying the questions entails an increasing level of detail.

Online proctoring (or other technologies) do not offer watertight safeguards when written online examinations with multiple choice questions are made available for inspection. Yet there is a pressing need for watertight safeguards: if a single student is able to copy multiple-choice questions, there is nothing to stop them becoming available to everyone.

To prevent written online multiple-choice examinations being made public against the wishes of the examiner, the Faculty Board – in consultation with the Faculty Student Council and the Subcommittee – has drawn up a number of guidelines for making such examinations available for inspection. The Examination Board subscribes to these guidelines, which entail the following:

- In the case of online inspection of multiple-choice examinations, access to the assessed work and the questions set should be limited, and the lecturer should suggest alternative ways to give students feedback on their exam result as effectively as possible without sharing the questions.
- Lecturers should look for alternative ways to give students the best possible feedback, for example by providing insight into marks per theme instead of per question or – where necessary or at a student's request – by giving examples of questions that were answered incorrectly on an individual basis.
- If a lecturer wishes to provide more detailed feedback to several students at once, this can be done in a closed Zoom session for which students have to register.
- The above restrictions do not apply to open questions. For open questions, students retain the right to inspection as regulated in Article 12, paragraphs 2 to 4 of the current Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board.