**The Significance of Oral Communication Skills**

**Overview:**

Oral communication is an important part of intellectual and professional preparation.

There are “5” points that we want to emphasize as a part of this discussion:

Note: Details and evidence supporting these points can be found at:

<https://comm.cci.fsu.edu/university-oral-communication-competency-requirement/>

1. The oral communication competency requirement and courses at Florida State University encompass a valuable set of skills, opportunities and learning objectives. These include:
* the ability to critically research, analyze and organize a topic, and formulate ideas to be discussed,
* techniques to assess audiences for effective communication,
* strategies to communicate effectively, using appropriate evidence, visual support materials and non-technical language, and
* practical applications where students make oral presentations and receive constructive evaluations and feedback.

**It is also noteworthy that student (SPCI) perceptions of OCCR classes and follow-up e-mails to FSU faculty highlight the value that students place on oral communication skills and their experiences in OCCR classes.**

1. **Oral communication is centrally connected to the goals and outcomes of Liberal Studies. In particular, o**ral communication helps students develop skills in critical thinking, research, organization and presentation of ideas and arguments.
2. **Oral communication is** a foundational skill for success in most disciplines and professions, as well as in entrepreneurship.
3. **The importance of oral communication and oral communication competency is featured at many peer and aspirational universities, cf.:**
* **Georgia Tech,**
* **University of Florida,**
* **University of Georgia,**
* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
* University of Virginia, and
* Indiana University, Bloomington,

1. Numerous workforce surveys demonstrate the high priority placed group work, team building and leadership skills. In particular, surveys of employers and career advisors demonstrate the high priority placed on effective oral communication skills.

**A rigorous and ongoing discussion of graduation requirements is an important part of faculty governance. Some of the major concerns about OCCR at FSU relate to advising, course planning, funding, and oversight procedures. These concerns can be addressed while maintaining the OCCR graduation requirement.**

Additional examples and supporting documentation are posted at:

<https://comm.cci.fsu.edu/university-oral-communication-competency-requirement/>