



# ORAL COMMUNICATION AND MAVEd

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ORAL COMMUNICATION IN MAVEd AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**Oral communication** is one of MavEd's four core **fundamental skills** and must be intentionally reinforced across the curriculum. Some courses explicitly fulfill the **oral communication requirement** (3 credits), while others integrate oral communication to support learning in other disciplines.

**In MavEd, oral communication is both:**

1. A **foundational academic skill** critical to all students' success
2. A means to help students express ideas clearly, engage diverse audiences, and participate meaningfully in academic, professional, and civic life.

Courses that reinforce this skill must incorporate structured speaking activities (e.g., presentations, debates, discussions, performances) and provide **intentional feedback and reflection**.

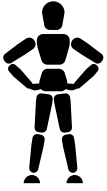
Examples may include:

- A persuasive speech or proposal
- A group presentation or case study report
- A storytelling or performance-based assessment
- A recorded discussion or video explanation

Courses that reinforce **oral communication** in MavEd must:

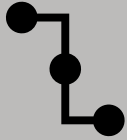
- Include **at least two structured speaking assignments** (e.g., presentations, debates, panels, performances)
- Provide **instruction and feedback** on speaking performance
- Require **significant student effort and grade weight** for oral tasks
- Incorporate opportunities for **reflection on the speaking process**

## WHY DOES ORAL COMMUNICATION MATTER



### **Builds Confidence and Clarity**

Oral communication skills empower students to **speak effectively in academic and professional settings**, building confidence in how they express ideas, ask questions, and lead conversations.



### **Supports Transferable Learning**

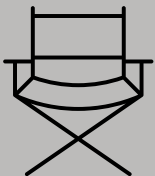
- **Critical thinking** – as students must organize, justify, and deliver arguments coherently
- **Intercultural awareness** – through dialogue, listening, and responding across differences

**Integrative learning** – by articulating connections between content, experience, and reflection



### **Strengthens Democratic and Civic Participation**

Oral communication enables students to **advocate, deliberate, and engage respectfully** in dialogue—skills essential to civic life and leadership.

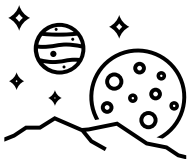


### **Meets Workforce Expectations**

Employers across industries consistently rank oral communication as one of the **top skills** they seek in college graduates. This includes:

- Presenting ideas persuasively
- Explaining complex information

Collaborating in teams and across disciplines



### **Enhances Learning and Retention**

Speaking reinforces learning through **active processing**. When students discuss, explain, or teach others, they deepen their own understanding

Oral communication is essential not only for success in college and careers but also for **building confident, connected, and civically engaged graduates**. MavEd places oral communication at the heart of the general education experience to ensure all students can speak with clarity, purpose, and impact.

**Additional Resources at [MavEd.unomaha.edu](https://www.unomaha.edu/maved)**