



Speech

Claremont McKenna College participates in a joint intercollegiate debate program with the other undergraduate Claremont Colleges. The Debate Union prepares students for enriching professional careers, engaging graduate study, and effective leadership. Students develop sophisticated public speaking, listening, argumentation and refutation skills. The Debate Union is the largest college debate society and among the most successful. There are four major program elements – national and international intercollegiate competition, public debate and discussion, professional communication experience, and educational outreach.

Students in the program have won major national and international tournaments, three national championships, and placed in the top ten in the nation for 15 years. The Debate Union schedules more than 100 public events annually, including live and broadcast debates, panel discussions, and town hall meetings. In professional programs, students have received training and financial support for participation in academic conferences throughout Europe, China, Korea, and the United States. Among its outreach programs, including higher education debate promotion and international cultural exchange projects, the Debate Union manages the nation's fastest growing educational enrichment

community service endeavor – the Middle School Public Debate Program (MSPDP). More than 10,000 students and teachers participate in MSPDP leagues and classroom activities – members of the Debate Union provide curricular and administrative support. All students are invited to participate in one or more major No prior experience is necessary to participate in these programs.

Although Claremont McKenna College does not offer a major in speech, there is a course in debate and argumentation in the public sphere. A number of courses, which are often part of or related to a speech program, are listed under other disciplines, such as government, philosophy (logic), and psychology.

Staff

Director of Forensics: Meany

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Course

61. Debate and Public Argument. *Meany*

A study of reasoned discourses, including argumentation theory and practice, argument anticipation and opposition research, position briefing, evidence evaluation, fallacies, stratagems, and persuasion, applied to current political, social, and economic issues. Students participate in intercollegiate tournaments and campus and public speaking events, including debates and roundtable discussions. This course carries one-half course credit. Students may, with permission of the instructor, take the course up to four times for credit toward graduation (up to two course credits). Offered every semester.