Mass Communications, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in mass communications requires 72 s.h. of graduate credit. The program provides training in research methods, communication theory, and teaching skills.

The program emphasizes interdisciplinary studies, with coursework and research tailored to each student's interests under the guidance of faculty members. The school offers several areas of strength to support graduate student research in both traditional and digital media:

- critical and cultural studies,
- sports and media,
- international/development studies,
- health and science communication,
- journalism studies, and
- history of media and media institutions.

Students in the Ph.D. program in mass communications must complete the following curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JMC:6100</td>
<td>M.A./Ph.D. Seminar (must register for a total of 8 s.h.; should enroll every semester for entire program of study)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMC:6200</td>
<td>Humanistic Approaches to Media Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMC:6300</td>
<td>Social Scientific Approaches to Media Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMC:6920</td>
<td>Ph.D. Research Practicum (for guided reading)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMC:6999</td>
<td>Dissertation (must register for at least 4 s.h.)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:5100</td>
<td>Practicum: College Teaching and Professional Development for Teaching Assistants</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

Additional Professionalization Courses 2
Methods Area Courses 3
Theory Area Courses 3
Concentration Courses 6
Electives 6
Credit from master's degree and/or additional Ph.D. courses 30

Total Hours 72

For a more detailed description of the Ph.D. program, contact the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Admission to the program is for fall entry.

Financial Support

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication offers research and teaching assistantships for graduate students; preference is given to Ph.D. students. Students have been successful in winning competitive fellowships open to all graduate students; applicants must be nominated by the graduate committee.

Career Advancement

Students in this program prepare for careers as teachers and industry researchers.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Career</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Semester</td>
<td>Social Scientific Approaches to Media Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Methods, Theory, Concentration, or Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Practicum: College Teaching and Professional Development for Teaching Assistants</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.A./Ph.D. Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Humanistic Approaches to Media Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methods, Theory, Concentration, or Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methods, Theory, Concentration, or Elective course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qualifying Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Second Year

**Fall**
- Methods, Theory, Concentration, or Elective course 3
  - Methods, Theory, Concentration, or Elective course 3
  - Additional Professionalization course e 2
  - JMC:6100 M.A./Ph.D. Seminar f 1
  **Hours** 9

**Spring**
- Methods, Theory, Concentration, or Elective course 3
  - JMC:6920 Ph.D. Research Practicum h 3
  - JMC:6100 M.A./Ph.D. Seminar f 1
  **Hours** 7

### Third Year

**Fall**
- Dissertation Prospectus i
  - JMC:6999 Dissertation j 1
  - JMC:6100 M.A./Ph.D. Seminar f 1
  **Comprehensive Exam** k 2
  **Hours** 2

**Spring**
- JMC:6999 Dissertation j 1
  - JMC:6100 M.A./Ph.D. Seminar f 1
  **Hours** 2

### Fourth Year

**Fall**
- JMC:6999 Dissertation j 1
  - JMC:6100 M.A./Ph.D. Seminar f 1
  **Hours** 2

**Spring**
- JMC:6999 Dissertation j 1
  - JMC:6100 M.A./Ph.D. Seminar f 1
  **Final Exam** l 2
  **Total Hours** 42

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a. Students entering with a bachelor's degree must work with their faculty advisor to complete 30 s.h. of appropriate graduate coursework. Students entering with fewer than 30 s.h. of coursework from the master's degree must work with their faculty advisor to complete the needed appropriate graduate coursework.
b. Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
c. Students are required to complete 3 s.h. of methods area, 3 s.h. of theory area, 6 s.h. of concentration area, and 6 s.h. of elective coursework. Note: at least two courses must be taken in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.
d. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate coursework; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics.
e. Students are required to take a total of 3 s.h. of professionalization courses including RHET:5100; consult with faculty advisor to determine which courses best align with career goals.
f. Registration required every semester.
g. Completed at the end of first year to directly assess understanding of content from two approaches courses.
h. Prior to comprehensive exam, work with faculty advisor and committee to build the proposals literature review; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics.
i. Dissertation proposal must be presented first to the Ph.D. Seminar and then to the dissertation committee.
j. Minimum total of 4 s.h. of thesis credit required.
k. Written and oral exam in the following areas: methods, theory, primary area of study, outside area of study, and area of choice; typically taken during third year fall semester or after coursework is completed.
l. Dissertation defense.