

Outside Field Members

College of Communications

Doctoral students in the College of Communications are guided by a committee of four or more active members of the Graduate Faculty, according to University Policy (<http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/policies/faculty/ctaadc.html>). One regular member of the doctoral committee “must represent a field outside the candidate’s major field of study in order to provide a broader range of disciplinary perspectives and expertise.” The Outside Field Member’s expertise should enhance, complement and broaden the student’s area of inquiry.

Doctoral students should choose an Outside Field Member in close consultation with their adviser and must justify, in writing at the time the name is submitted to the Graduate Dean, the choice as one that fulfills the role of the Outside Field Member described in University Policy. The rationale can use one or more of the following factors:

The outside member has a terminal degree in another field. (J.D., an MFA, or a doctorate outside of mass communications)

The outside member has an established record of scholarly work in a field outside the students’ major field of study (example: published in law and policy journals)

The outside member’s demonstrated approach to scholarly inquiry is in contrast to that of other members on the committee (e.g., humanistic v. social science, for example).

The outside member is a member of the faculty of another graduate program.

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