Table of Contents

Introduction ................................................................................................................................. 1
Master of Arts Program in Media Studies .................................................................................. 2
  Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Program in Media Studies ............................................ 4
  Masters-Level Advisory Committee and Evaluation Procedure ............................................. 6
  Summary of Master of Arts Requirements ............................................................................. 9
Ph.D. Program in Mass Communications .................................................................................. 10
  Degree Requirements & Program Plan .................................................................................. 10
  Doctoral Policies and Procedures ......................................................................................... 15
  Advising and Your Faculty Committee ................................................................................. 15
  Advisory Committee ............................................................................................................. 15
  Scheduling Your Committee Meetings .................................................................................. 16
  Candidacy Evaluation and Program Plan Meeting ................................................................. 17
  Residency Requirement ......................................................................................................... 18
  English Proficiency .............................................................................................................. 18
  Comprehensive Examination .................................................................................................. 20
  Dissertation Proposal ............................................................................................................ 23
  Guidelines for ABD Registration ......................................................................................... 23
  Final Oral Examination ......................................................................................................... 23
  Summary of Doctoral Program Requirements ..................................................................... 25
Academic Policies and Information ............................................................................................ 26
  Graduate Student Committee Procedures and Responsibilities ............................................ 26
  Ethics and Professional Responsibility .................................................................................. 27
  Colloquium ............................................................................................................................ 28
  Registration ............................................................................................................................ 28
  Dropping Courses ................................................................................................................ 29
  Normal Academic Progress ................................................................................................... 29
  Resolution of Classroom Problems, Grade Conflicts, and Plagiarism Allegations .................. 29
  Graduate Teaching/Research Assistantships ......................................................................... 29
  Dissertation Fellowships ....................................................................................................... 30
  Important Policies and Resources Online .............................................................................. 31
Administrative Policies ................................................................................................................ 32
  Guidelines for Funding Graduate Student Travel ................................................................. 32
  Office and Key Assignments .................................................................................................. 33
  College of Communications Courses .................................................................................... 35
Graduate Faculty—brief bios ........................................................................................................ 38
Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures .................................................................................. 77
IT Equipment and Support Guidelines ....................................................................................... 82
APPENDIX I Application for Independent Study ................................................................. 84
APPENDIX II Doctoral Student Annual Assessment .............................................................. 85
APPENDIX III Ph.D. Candidacy Examination and Program Meeting ....................................... 87
APPENDIX IV Dissertation Proposal ...................................................................................... 88
APPENDIX V MA Program Proposal ...................................................................................... 89
APPENDIX VI MA Thesis Proposal ......................................................................................... 91
APPENDIX VII MA Oral Exam ................................................................................................. 93
When you enter the realm of graduate study, you enter a world in which the questions you ask are as important as the answers you discover. We welcome you to the realm of graduate education as it is lived and studied in the College of Communications at The Pennsylvania State University. As you review the materials of this handbook, we hope you gain a sense of the wide-ranging interests as well as the spirit of our College.

No handbook will cover everything for you. However, we hope that these guidelines are helpful in answering many of the questions you have about graduate work in the College of Communications. Your advisor, the Associate Dean, or the Coordinator of Graduate Education can help you secure answers to questions you might have. In addition, the College has a graduate student organization (GSIC) that can provide additional information.

The graduate catalog, *Graduate Degree Programs Bulletin* (the so-called "White Book"), is your best source of information on the procedures and regulations of the Graduate School. It is available on the web at: [http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/whitebook/](http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/whitebook/).
Master of Arts in Media Studies

Master of Arts in Media Studies is an academic program that involves students in the systematic study of mass media. The objective of the program is to enable students to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the systems, processes, networks, cultures and information associated with mass media. The program prepares students for doctoral study in mass communications and for positions in business and government requiring a comprehensive understanding of the historical, social and political implications of the media.

Students graduating from this program will be especially well qualified to organize research projects, to critically evaluate research reports and to directly influence mass media practices by the application of research findings.

Course Requirements

Candidates must complete COMM 515 (MA proseminar), two semesters of COMM 590 (Colloquium), and at least 3 credits of research methods by taking either COMM 506 or COMM 511. The remaining credits are selected from the graduate courses listed in this guide. Students are expected to consult with their advisor in making course choices. Candidates must complete a minimum of 36 credits, including 6 for the thesis (COMM 600) but not counting Colloquium. At least 18 credits must be at the 500-600 level. Coursework offered by departments outside the College may be scheduled as part of the student’s program with approval of the student's academic committee. In some cases, students may be required to take additional credits in order to make up deficiencies in undergraduate coursework. Students are required to schedule three separate, formal meetings with their advisors and academic committees for: (1) discussion and approval of the general program plan, (2) the thesis proposal and (3) the defense of the thesis. In most cases satisfactory completion of coursework and thesis requires two years.

Summary of Master of Arts in Media Studies

Degree Requirements

1. Demonstrated understanding of a broad range of theories and issues connected to the study of media
2. A minimum of 36 credits
3. A minimum of 18 credits at the 500-600 level
4. A minimum of 18 credits in communications
5. At least three credits of coursework in communications research methodology
6. Two semesters of COMM 590 (Colloquium), including completion of Responsible Conduct of Research training. Credits earned for Colloquium may not be used to fulfill minimum credit requirements.
7. No more than six credits earned in independent study (596). (Normally 596 should not be used for work directly related to thesis research and writing. 600-level credits should be used for that purpose.)
8. A total of six credits of COMM 600 (Thesis Research) within the minimum 36 credit hours
9. An oral examination in defense of the thesis

.
MA in Media Studies Program Outline

Core

COMM 515     MA Proseminar in Mass Communications
COMM 590     Colloquium (2 credits—do not count to fulfill minimum credit requirements)

Research Methods

COMM 506     Introduction to Mass Communications Research (emphasis on quantitative approaches)
and/or
COMM 511     Mass Communications Research Methods (emphasis on qualitative approaches)

Ethics and Professional Responsibility

Responsible Conduct of Research certification

5 additional hours of research ethics education (This requirement is met in COMM courses)

Supporting Courses in Communications (minimum of 12 credits)

Choose in consultation with your advisor/committee.

Courses Outside the College

Related courses from other academic areas may be included at the discretion of the student's committee. These courses may be subject to space availability, the permission of the instructor and prerequisites or their equivalent.

Thesis Credits   (6 credits maximum)

COMM 600
Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Degree Program
Guidelines for Application Process and Advising

The College of Communications offers academically qualified students enrolled in one of our BA programs the opportunity to earn both the BA and MA in five years of study. The IUG program in Media Studies facilitates the advanced study of communications research and thesis development through a carefully organized selection of undergraduate courses, graduate seminars and directed research projects. The program accelerates and enhances undergraduate students' appreciation of graduate-level scholarship by involving them in seminars, research activities and the scholarly discourse of the College's community of MA and Ph.D. level scholars.

Students interested in the IUG program need to meet the following requirements:
- Undergraduate major in the College of Communications
- At least a 3.5 GPA
- At least one COMM course at the 400 level
- Students should apply when they have between 80-100 credits

Applications will be accepted with all other graduate applications for Fall admission. Application process and requirements:
- Apply on-line through the Graduate School: http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/portal
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required
- Narrative Statement
- 3 letters of recommendation (at least one from a College of Communications faculty member)
- Writing sample

Applicants also need to submit a proposed program plan (see degree requirements on next page)

Graduate faculty IUG advisors:
- Martin Halstuk, 23 Carnegie, halstuk@psu.edu, 863-7990
- Frank Dardis, 212 Carnegie, fed3@psu.edu, 863-7993
IUG Degree Requirements

120 credits are required for the BA

36 credits are required for the MA (Includes COMM 600)
18 credits at the 500-600 level
   - COMM 515 MA Proseminar 3 credits required
   - COMM 506 or 511 Research Methods 3 credits required
   - COMM 5xx 3-6 credits
Supporting and related courses
   - COMM 600 Thesis credits 6 credits required

12 graduate credits may apply to both the MA and BA
6 credits must be at the 500 level
12 credits of coursework beyond the required proseminar and research course (not including COMM 600) must be in Communications

Written Thesis (6 credits of COMM 600)
   Thesis proposal meeting with a three-member graduate faculty committee (at least two in the College of Communications)

   Formal oral defense of thesis

Possible 500-level courses that can be double counted (with advisor's approval)
   - COMM 504 Seminar in the History of Mass Communications
   - COMM 505 International Communications Problems
   - COMM 506 Introduction to Mass Communications Research
   - COMM 507 News Media & Public Opinion
   - COMM 510 Comparative Theories of Press Systems
   - COMM 511 Mass Communications Research Methods II
   - COMM 512 Government and Mass Communications
   - COMM 513 Constitutional Problems of the News Media
   - COMM 514 Political Economy of Communications
   - COMM 516 Introduction to Data Analysis in Communications
   - COMM 517 Psychological Aspects of Communication Technology
   - COMM 518 Media Effects
   - COMM 520 Seminar in Advertising Problems
   - COMM 521 Advertising Perspectives
   - COMM 550 Film Theory and Criticism
   - COMM 553 Special Problems in Film and TV
   - COMM 580 Seminar in Telecommunications
   - COMM 585 Media and Telecommunications Industries
   - COMM 597X Special Topics

400 level courses may also be double counted with the approval IUG committee.
Masters-Level Advisory Committee and Evaluation Procedure

Maintaining Satisfactory Scholarship

Every semester your progress within the program will be evaluated by at least one of the following: your advisor, the associate dean, the professors supervising your assistantship, and all professors in the College of Communications whose courses you took.

All master's students at Penn State must maintain a 3.00 or B average to remain eligible for a degree. Grades are reviewed at the end of each grading period. The maximum time for completion of degree requirements is six (6) years from first enrollment, but experience amply demonstrates that those who do not meet the requirements while in residence often do not complete the degree. You are urged, therefore, to fulfill all the requirements while you are in residence.

Graduate Faculty Advisory Committee

You will meet initially with the College’s Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at a formal orientation workshop. You will also meet with your temporary advisor and begin a plan of study that satisfies requirements for the degree program to which you have been admitted. By the end of the second week of the second semester or the completion of 10 credits (whichever comes first), you should select a permanent academic advisor from among the graduate faculty. You should approach the faculty member and discuss your reasons for wanting him or her to work with you. The usual reason is the faculty member’s background and research and teaching interests. Until you have chosen a permanent advisor, you will be assigned a temporary advisor—who may, if you wish, become your permanent advisor. The main role of the advisor will be to assist you in planning your progress through the requirements and electives. To the extent possible, he or she will help you select courses and possible thesis ideas that fit with your specific needs, interests and goals. The responsibility for keeping in touch is yours.

Your permanent advisor will help you schedule and prepare for your first committee meeting in your second semester of study. The purpose of this meeting is to review your plan of study in terms of its logic, availability of courses, and usefulness for your objectives. It is the advisor’s responsibility to ensure that work does not begin until the committee’s recommendations are incorporated into the plan of study.

When you near the end of your coursework, a second meeting of the committee is convened to discuss and approve your thesis proposal. Your advisor can help you with an outline of your proposal. Once you have written it and have had it approved tentatively by your advisor, it is time to set the meeting for your committee. Generally, you should give your committee members at least two weeks to read your proposal. It is your responsibility to contact individual members of the committee to set up the meeting. Once you have set up the meeting with your committee members, contact the Coordinator of Graduate Education for formal notification of the meeting and reservation of a room.

Guidelines for Organizing and Managing Graduate Faculty Committee

One of the most important dimensions of your graduate program is the recruitment and management of your graduate faculty committee. Your skills as interpersonal communicator, time manager and diplomat are all required in this endeavor. Your reputation as a responsible student and the college’s reputation among the university community of faculty will be influenced by your ability to manage and deal responsibly with your faculty committee. Your faculty advisor will help guide you in selecting and organizing this committee. The structure and functions of the committee are outlined in the College’s Graduate Handbook. However, it is largely up to you to be sure that you are following expected protocol when working with your committee. Your graduate program’s success depends on how carefully you select your faculty committee and how you manage your schedule so that your committee can, in turn, be given ample time to effectively share its expertise with you.

Recruiting the Committee

Here are key points to guide the selection and management of your graduate faculty committee:
After you decide who will be your permanent advisor, you should immediately begin to recruit graduate faculty for your committee. Your advisor can and should assist you in this process by sharing his/her knowledge of the faculty at this university. MA students should select a permanent advisor in the second semester of residency. Notify the Coordinator of Graduate Education about your choice of permanent advisor.

Only faculty who have been approved by the Graduate School as Graduate Faculty can serve on your committee. The list of College of Communications Graduate Faculty can be found in the Graduate School Bulletin. The updated list is available thorough the Coordinator of Graduate Education.

Your committee should be in place in time for your first formal meeting; for the MA, that's the Program Review Meeting during your second semester.

Changes to Faculty Committee

While it is sometimes necessary to change the composition of your committee because of faculty leaves or a major shift in the direction of your scholarly program, changes should be made with great care and with the full advice and consent of your advisor. Contact the Coordinator of Graduate Education with any changes in your committee.

Required Committee Meetings

Program Proposal meeting, to be held immediately after completion of 9-12 credits or in the student’s second semester, whichever comes first

Thesis Proposal meeting

Final oral defense of master’s thesis. (The Graduate School has deadlines for intent to graduate, thesis format review, last date to defend, and last date to submit final thesis. Contact the Coordinator of Graduate Education early in the semester before you intend to graduate for these dates.)

Students are responsible for assuring that all required paperwork relating to their graduate program from permanent advisors, supervisors of assistantships and instructors of courses enrolled in by graduate students are promptly submitted to the Associate Dean.

Scheduling Committee Meetings

Every committee meeting is scheduled through the Coordinator of Graduate Education, who will provide you and your chair with the appropriate paperwork. Each meeting must be formally recorded and, where appropriate, approved by the Graduate School. Therefore, the Coordinator of Graduate Education must be fully consulted during the planning stages of your proposed committee meetings.

Documentation and other Paperwork Associated with Committee Meetings

Written documents, proposals, forms and other paperwork may be required for each of your committee meetings. The Coordinator of Graduate Education will help orient you to the administrative paperwork required by the College and the Graduate School. Your advisor will instruct you in preparing the scholarly materials including your academic program proposal, your candidacy packet, thesis and dissertation proposals and the final theses and dissertations.

Allow your committee adequate time to review the written materials you prepare for meeting of your committee. This means two weeks lead-time at a minimum.

Plan each phase of your program carefully. Schedule your work so that your committee is not put in a position of rushing to judgment on incomplete or poor-quality proposals, dissertations and thesis drafts. Don’t shift the burden of poor planning or unexpected changes in your program to your committee. If you have fallen
behind schedule in your academic program it is not fair to shift pressures to meet a graduation
deadline to your committee. Doing so will not only unfairly burden your committee but will also have long-
term consequences for our ability to recruit faculty to serve on graduate committees.

Final Oral Examination

Upon completion of a thesis, you will make an oral presentation and defense of your work at a separate formal
meeting of the committee. Committee members will have evaluated the work carefully prior to the meeting. **It is your responsibility to schedule this meeting and to make the work available to the committee at least two weeks in advance of the meeting so committee members have time to evaluate it thoroughly.** The longer you wait, the less likely you will be able to schedule your meeting for the time you desire. The chair of your committee will verify that the recommendations and changes suggested by the committee are made before the thesis or project is finally approved. In cases where the work is deemed unacceptable to the committee, the advisor will inform you of the appropriate procedures to follow. With the advice of the committee chair, you will be responsible for seeing that the thesis or paper conforms to the guidelines of the College of Communications and the Graduate School and that all deadlines are met. Please notify the Coordinator of Graduate Education of your scheduled examination and to confirm the reservation of a meeting room.
# Summary of Master of Arts Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Suggested Completion Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assign faculty member to serve as temporary faculty advisor</td>
<td>Associate Dean</td>
<td>Orientation Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose permanent advisor and notify Coordinator of Graduate Education</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>2nd week of 2nd semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose program committee members and notify Coordinator of Graduate Education</td>
<td>STUDENT, under direction of faculty advisor</td>
<td>Early in 2nd semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule Program Proposal Meeting</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Immediately after completion of 9-12 credits, or early in the second semester, whichever comes first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit paperwork for Program Proposal Meeting to Coordinator of Graduate Education</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td>Immediately following meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule Thesis Proposal Meeting</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Beginning of 3rd semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit paperwork for Thesis Proposal Meeting</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td>Immediately following meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activate intent to graduate through Eilion</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Beginning of semester you intend to graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request copy of Graduate Programs/Thesis Office Calendar</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Beginning of semester you intend to graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit draft of thesis/paper to committee chair or faculty advisor</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Early in last semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit copies of thesis/paper to committee members</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>After draft has been approved by committee chair or faculty advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Oral Examination</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>As soon as thesis/paper is approved by committee and recommends Final Oral Examination. Early enough to meet published Graduate School deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit paperwork verifying Final Oral examination</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean office area (if you are a Graduate Assistant)</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Prior to end of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return all keys to Assistant to Facilities Manager</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Prior to end of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit electronic thesis to Graduate School</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Upon completion of program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The College of Communications offers advanced study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in mass communications. The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates for entry into college and university teaching and research and for a variety of communications-related professions. The program integrates preparation in teaching and research as complementary endeavors. Doctoral students begin the program in the fall semester and, during the first year, complete two semesters of the doctoral proseminar, colloquium, and typically at least one course in communications research methodology. By the end of the first year, doctoral students must form a committee of faculty members to guide their subsequent course of study. The remainder of the Ph.D. program is determined, in close consultation with the student, by his/her doctoral committee, which is responsible for the formal approval of the proposed program.

The College's graduate program emphasizes the following six areas of academic strength around which doctoral students and their committees may wish to organize the selection of courses and program plans:

- Critical and cultural studies
- International communications
- Law, government and politics
- Media effects
- Strategic communications
- Telecommunications, technology, and information policy

These are not formal options and do not have required courses or dedicated faculty. Rather they represent areas of scholarly expertise of the College's graduate faculty. Doctoral students may--and are strongly encouraged to--integrate coursework across more than one of these areas.

**Degree Requirements and Program Plan**

Doctoral education in the College of Communications is committee-driven and highly flexible. Each program plan is tailor-made to meet the individual needs of the doctoral candidate while maintaining the high standards and expectations of the College and the Graduate School.

The number of credits that a committee might require for a Ph.D. in Mass Communications varies, depending primarily on the prior academic preparation of the doctoral candidate. For someone with a masters degree in communications, a Ph.D. program plan normally will require:

- At least 36 credits of coursework in communications and related areas combined (but not including Colloquium or credits earned at other universities).
- In addition to the above, fulfillment of the language/research skill requirement. (Normally an intermediate knowledge of a foreign language or 12 credits of research methods or a cognate area. See page 12 for policy statement.)
- Normally a minimum of 24 credits (of the 36 credits above) in communications coursework.
- No more than six credits of independent study (596). (Normally 596 should not be used for work directly related to thesis research and writing. 600-level credits should be used for that purpose.)

Therefore, for those with a masters degree in communications, a typical doctoral program will be 36 to 48 credits depending on how the language/research requirement is fulfilled. This is the equivalent to two years of full-time study, including summers, before the comprehensive examination.

A minimum course load for a half-time Graduate Assistant is 9 credits per semester. Six to 9 credits during the first two summers is recommended.

Other specific requirements for the doctoral degree are:
Both semesters (fall and spring) of the Mass Communications Proseminar COMM 501.1 and 501.2

Two semesters of COMM 590 Colloquium (usually taken the first year)

Complete Responsible Conduct of Research education (see page 27 for policy statement and details)

A minimum of two research methods courses, at least one of which must be COMM 506 or 511

The seminar in Pedagogy in Communications (COMM 502) or another approved pedagogy course

A candidacy evaluation and program plan within the first year after entry into the program

Completion of the Graduate School residency requirement: two semesters (not including summer) of full-time study at the University Park campus

A written and oral comprehensive examination after the completion of coursework

A written dissertation proposal presented at a meeting of the candidate’s committee

A Ph.D. dissertation

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation

Although there are few specific requirements, all doctoral program plans should strive to include the following important elements while leaving the specific categorization of coursework to the discretion of individual committees:

**INTRODUCTION:** A broad introduction to the field. Summative survey of the various ideological, theoretical and methodological traditions in mass communication scholarship, especially as represented in the proseminars and methods seminars. **Goal:** Mastery of basic ideas, concepts and values underlying the work of College faculty.

**Core:**

COMM 501.1

COMM 501.2

COMM 590 (Colloquium)

COMM 590

**Communications Research Methods:** A minimum of two research methods courses, at least one of which must be COMM 506 or COMM 511. This requirement should be fulfilled in relationship to the Language/Research Skill Requirement below to ensure both depth and breadth of research skills learned.

COMM 506

and/or

COMM 511

**Ethics and Professional Responsibility:** Develop good academic citizenship. Learn the core values of the discipline and the codes of ethical scholarship.

Human Subjects Research certification (online IRB training)

Responsible Conduct of Research certification (Collaborative Instructional Training Initiative)—social/behavioral or humanities online training

5 additional hours of Responsible Conduct of Research education (see policy statement for details)
IMMERSION: Define an area of concentration and develop a focus. This is where the candidate moves from a breadth experience to a depth experience and attempts an advanced understanding of specific, rather than general, sets of theories and methods. **Goal:** Comprehensive knowledge of a specialized area of communication.

List Communications coursework in area of specialization:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

EXPLORATION AND INTEGRATION: Look beyond one’s area of specialization to find courses and influences that hold intellectual appeal for the candidate, being always mindful of their implications for one’s primary research focus. To this end, candidates should take communications coursework outside their specialization to ensure, as appropriate, a breadth of understanding of mass communications. Further, some of these courses should be from outside the College. Develop the ability to integrate knowledge across disciplines and subfields and to explore the social consequences of discovery and research. **Goal:** Drawing meaningful connections between ideas and concepts in other disciplines and subfields and understanding how one’s subfield fits into a larger framework of knowing.

List Communications coursework outside specialization:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

LANGUAGE/RESEARCH SKILL REQUIREMENT: Proficiency in applying an appropriate set of tools for studying mass communications and familiarity with other methodologies used in the field. **Goal:** Obtain a superior capability of inquiry and advancement of knowledge.

Intermediate knowledge of a foreign language, an equivalent research skill, or cluster of related courses outside the major. Twelve credits are normally required, and most—if not all—should be from outside the college. The means of fulfilling the language/research requirement should be reasonable related to the candidate’s program plan and area of research.

List courses:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

CONTRIBUTION: Specialized expertise is brought to bear on a particular issue, the investigation of which will lead to advancement of knowledge in that area, as also hold theoretical and methodological implications. Should be an original inquiry with the clear goal of adding to the existing literature. **Goal:** Candidate’s dissertation makes a significant contribution to advancement of knowledge in the field.

Dissertation:
COMM 600/610
COMM 601/611

PEDAGOGY: Conceptual knowledge of and practical preparation in pedagogy in communications along with supervised experience in college teaching. Goal: Becoming an effective teacher. (See “Supervised Experience in College Teaching”)

COMM 502 (or other appropriate coursework in pedagogy approved by the committee)

Required of Graduate Assistants and Fellows:

COMM 602
COMM 602

List undergraduate course or courses in the College that the candidate should be prepared to teach by the end of his/her doctoral program:

________________________________________
________________________________________

(The coursework in this program plan should prepare the candidate to teach said courses.)

Committee Members

A doctoral committee will consist of four or more members of the graduate faculty, the majority of whom must be members from the College of Communications faculty. The committee chair often, but not always, serves as advisor. Committee members are appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School upon recommendation of the College Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

Chair:

Advisor:

Members:

Outside Members:

Required Meetings

For any of the required meetings of a student's doctoral committee to be official, all members must be present and participate. The only exception to this requirement is the candidacy meeting which may preclude the inclusion of an outside member because it takes places so early in the student's program. Consequently, at the candidacy meeting, all members except the outside member must be in attendance. See provisions for electronic attendance. Important note: The comprehensive oral and final oral examinations are authorized by the Graduate School and, therefore, must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.

Enter the actual or expected dates for these required meetings:

Candidacy Evaluation

Comprehensive Oral Exam:
Areas for Comprehensive Examination

Purpose of the Comprehensive Examination:

- To demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the field of mass communications and an area of specialization as defined by the committee.

- To evaluate the ability to integrate knowledge across subfields, understand how one's subfield fits into a larger framework of knowing, and to explore the social consequences of discovery and research.

- To determine whether the graduate student is ready for dissertation research.

At the candidacy examination, the committee, in conversation with the candidate, should decide on the general areas in which the candidate will be examined at the time of comprehensive examination and assign each member of the committee an area of responsibility. It is important that the coursework in this program plan adequately prepare the doctoral candidate to successfully answer comp questions drawn from these areas. If this is not the case, the program plan should be appropriately revised. Please list the areas of examination and responsible faculty:
DOCTORAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Advising and Faculty Committee

- Graduate students should have a permanent advisor designated no later than the second week of the second semester in residence or the completion of 10 credits, whichever comes first. Permanent advisors are responsible for monitoring student progress in the program.

- The chair (usually the same person who is serving as your permanent advisor) of the student’s committee is responsible for conducting the meetings appropriate to the degree. These are:
  - Candidacy Examination, to be completed early in the student’s third semester;
  - Comprehensive Examinations, to be taken after the completion of the student’s coursework;
  - Dissertation Proposal Meeting, to be completed after comprehensives and completion of written dissertation proposal;
  - Final Oral Examination.

- Permanent advisors, supervisors of assistantships and instructors of courses taken by graduate students are responsible for returning completed reports of students’ work to the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies promptly each year.

- In cases where the candidate has partly or provisionally passed the final oral exam, the permanent advisor is responsible for promptly and explicitly reporting in writing the requirements for successful completion of the examination to the Coordinator of Graduate Education in the College, who will immediately forward them to the Graduate School.

Advisory Committee

Your advisory committee is an important and integral component of your doctoral program. When you enter the program, your temporary advisor will be the chair of your Doctoral Program Committee. You should begin at once to interview faculty members in your own area of special interest with a view to selecting a permanent advisor and committee chair. Candidates select their own committees, within these general requirements:

- A committee shall have at least four members, all of whom must be member of the Graduate Faculty; normally, the committee chair and the advisor are the same person.

- One member of the committee must be an “outside” member. (See Graduate School policy on outside members.)

- An advisor should be chosen no later than the first two weeks of the second semester of study.

Guidelines for Organizing and Managing Graduate Faculty Committee

One of the most important dimensions of your graduate program is the recruitment and management of your graduate faculty committee. Your skills as interpersonal communicator, time manager and diplomat are all required in this endeavor. Your reputation as a responsible student and the college’s reputation among the university community of faculty will be influenced by your ability to manage and deal responsibly with your faculty committee. Your faculty advisor will help guide you in selecting and organizing this committee. The structure and functions of the committee are outlined in the College’s Graduate Handbook. However, it is largely up to you to be sure that you are following expected protocol when working with your committee. Your graduate program’s success depends on how carefully you select your faculty committee and how you manage your schedule so that your committee can, in turn, be given ample time to effectively share their expertise with you.

Here are key points to guide the selection and management of your graduate faculty committee.
Recruiting the Committee

- When you decide who will be your permanent advisor, you should immediately begin to recruit graduate faculty for your committee. Your advisor can and should assist you in this process by sharing his/her knowledge of the faculty at this university. Ph.D. students will have their permanent advisor named by the time the Candidacy exam is scheduled. Notify the Coordinator of Graduate Education about your choice of permanent advisor.

- Only faculty who have been approved by the Graduate School as Graduate Faculty can serve on your committee. The list of College of Communications Graduate Faculty can be found in the Graduate School Bulletin and herein. The updated list is available through the Coordinator of Graduate Education.

- You must provide a rationale for your choice of outside committee member. Faculty outside your area of study must be approved by the Associate Dean.

- Your committee, with the possible exception of the member outside your area of study, should be in place in time for your candidacy meeting which normally occurs no later than the beginning of the third semester of Ph.D. coursework.

Changes to the Faculty Committee

- While it is sometimes necessary to change the composition of your committee, changes should be made with great care and with the full advice and consent of your advisor. Please notify the Coordinator of Graduate Education with any changes in your committee.

- Please note that the comprehensive and final oral examinations are authorized by the Graduate School and, therefore, must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance.

Scheduling the Committee Meetings

- Every committee meeting is scheduled through the Coordinator of Graduate Education, who will provide you and your chair with the appropriate paperwork. Each meeting must be formally recorded and, where appropriate, approved by the Graduate School. Therefore, the Coordinator of Graduate Education must be fully consulted during the planning stages of your proposed committee meetings.

Documentation and other Paperwork Associated with Committee Meetings

- Written documents, proposals, forms and a host of other paperwork are required for each of your committee meetings. The Coordinator of Graduate Education will help orient you to the administrative paperwork required by the College and the Graduate School. Your advisor will instruct you in preparing the scholarly materials including your academic program proposal, your candidacy packet, thesis and dissertation proposals and the final theses and dissertations.

- Allow your committee adequate time to review the written materials you prepare for each formal meeting of your committee. This means at least two weeks in advance of your meeting.

- Plan each phase of your program carefully. Schedule your work so that your committee is not put in a position of rushing to judgment on incomplete or poor quality proposals, dissertations and thesis drafts. Don’t shift the burden of poor planning or unexpected changes in your program to your committee. If you have fallen behind schedule in your academic program, it is not fair to shift pressures to meet a graduation deadline to your committee. Doing so will not only unfairly burden your committee but will also have long-term consequences for our ability to recruit faculty to serve on graduate committees.
Admission into the Mass Communications Ph.D. Program without a Masters Degree

In most cases, a completed masters degree is required for admission into the doctoral program in Mass Communications. However, in exceptional cases, the graduate committee may admit an applicant with a bachelors degree but without a masters degree or substantial graduate work. In such circumstances, the following guidelines shall apply:

- Those admitted into the program under these circumstances should be placed in the doctoral pro-seminar during their first semester of coursework. If an applicant is not academically prepared to succeed in the doctoral pro-seminar, he or she may be admitted into the MA program and (depending on success there) later re-apply to the Ph.D. program.

- The candidacy exam must be taken after completing at least 18 credits of coursework but before the end of the third semester of full-time enrollment (not counting summer).

- The College normally commits to two years of assistantship/fellowship funding (with the usual caveats and conditions) for such students. Upon successful completion of their candidacy exam, the students are eligible for two more years of funding and an additional year if they are academically eligible and funding is available. If they do not successfully complete candidacy, they may complete the requirements of the MA degree.

- Because of the efficiencies of merging master-level and doctoral-level work into one program, the total number of credits and time-to-degree could be less than the minimum for the two degrees separately.

- These students need not write a MA thesis or otherwise meet the requirements for a MA degree in order to continue in the doctoral program. However, they may do so with the approval of their doctoral committees.

- All other requirements, policies and guidelines regarding the Mass Communications doctoral degree apply.

Candidacy Evaluation and Program Plan Meeting

The candidacy evaluation and program planning meeting are very important and closely interrelated steps in the path toward a doctoral degree. They are conducted by your committee chair/advisor and at least two other committee members from the Communications graduate faculty. The outside member of the committee should participate if he or she has been appointed at this stage. The oral portion of the candidacy evaluation and the program plan meeting are usually held simultaneously and should take place prior to the beginning of the third semester of full-time enrollment (not counting summer). The purpose of the combined candidacy and program meeting is to:

- determine whether you should be admitted formally into the doctoral program. The basis for the determination is whether you have the critical thinking skills and broad knowledge of the field to successfully complete doctoral work. If you do not have the necessary skills and knowledge base to succeed, it is in your best interests that this be identified early in the program (instead of at the comprehensive examination or dissertation stage) and that you not be admitted into doctoral candidacy,

- assess your academic strengths and weaknesses and determine an appropriate program of study that will enable you to pass comprehensive examinations and complete a doctoral dissertation. This diagnostic component of the candidacy evaluation is especially important and should result in a plan of coursework leading to a high-quality doctoral education, (See the Mass Communications Ph.D. Program Plan).

- decide on the general areas in which you will be examined at the time of comprehensive examinations and assign each member of the committee to an area of responsibility.

- and evaluate English language and other basic skills needed to complete the degree. If any shortcoming are identified, a plan for remediation must be drafted and implemented.
Guidelines for the Candidacy Evaluation and Program Plan Meeting

The candidacy evaluation in Mass Communications consists of a written and oral portion and should be scheduled prior to beginning of the third semester of full-time enrollment (not counting summer).

In preparation for the oral portion of the candidacy evaluation the program plan meeting, you (in consultation with your chair/advisor) shall prepare a written portfolio that demonstrates your broad and preliminary understanding of the field of mass communications and typically contains the following:

- a completed copy of the Mass Communication Ph.D. Program Plan, listing all courses taken and proposed in order to fulfill program requirements and complete the degree;
- curriculum vita including earlier degrees, academic work, and relevant graduate coursework taken at other universities;
- short statement describing your background, academic goals, and developing area of interest in communications;
- and a sample of your best written academic work completed since beginning the doctoral program.

The portfolio should be distributed to all committee members at least two weeks prior to the oral portion (a copy should also be submitted to the Coordinator of Graduate Education for your file). You and your chair/advisor must work closely with the Coordinator of Graduate Education to set the date for the examination and prepare the paperwork required by the College and the Graduate School to formally schedule and record the meeting.

Committees typically agree to a student's admission into doctoral candidacy and his/her program plan by consensus. If problems occur, the chair/advisor should consult with the Associate Dean. Students may retake the candidacy exam once.

It is understood that, because of scheduling considerations or changing academic interests and needs of the doctoral student, minor changes within the spirit of the program plan may be authorized by the advisor/chair. If significant changes are required, the committee should reconvene to discuss and approve the changes and a new program plan should be submitted.

For those MA candidates in the College who also have been admitted into its doctoral program, the final oral thesis defense may serve as their candidacy examination if understood by the student and approved by the Associate Dean.

For those admitted into the Ph.D. program without a masters degree, see the relevant policy statement regarding candidacy exams.

Variations within the spirit of this policy are acceptable at the advisor/chair’s discretion and with prior knowledge of the doctoral student.

Residency Requirement

There is no required minimum of credits or semesters of study, but over some twelve-month period during the interval between admission to the Ph.D. program and completion of the Ph.D. program you must spend at least two semesters (not including summers) after the candidacy exam as a registered full-time student engaged in academic work at University Park. Full-time University employees must be certified by the department as devoting half-time or more to graduate studies and/or thesis research to meet the degree requirements.

English Proficiency

A high level of competency in both spoken and written English is essential for successful participation in the Doctoral Program in Mass Communication. English competency is assessed at four critical points: (1) admission, (2) annual evaluations, (3) candidacy, and (4) comprehensive exam.
English Proficiency: Admission Evaluation

A vital component of pre-admission screening is assessment of every applicant’s ability to communicate correctly and effectively in English. The admissions procedure requires submission of several indices to measure this.

- Performance on the verbal component of the Graduate Record Examination.

- For non-native applicants for whom English is a second language, performance on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A minimum score of 24 is required by the College.

- A statement (in English) written by the applicant describing the applicant’s background and goals in seeking the doctoral degree in mass communications.

- Three letters of recommendation from individuals in a position to comment on the applicant’s training and abilities. These most frequently are former teachers familiar, among other things, with the applicant’s ability in speaking and writing English.

- A sample of the applicant’s writing in English, done in connection with an academic program, such as a term paper or part of a master’s thesis.

English Proficiency: Evaluations, Candidacy and Comprehensive Exam

Students will be evaluated for their English proficiency at three key junctures during their Ph.D. studies. Each year, students are required to meet with their advisors for an annual assessment; part of the written form (see appendix II) requires an evaluation of the student’s “written and oral English language skills.” At the student’s candidacy examination, the committee also provides an assessment of English competence; failure to demonstrate “high-level English language competence” can result in not being admitted into candidacy. Finally, the student’s English proficiency is assessed at the comprehensive exam; the Graduate School requires that the candidate have demonstrated English competence in order to take the exam.

Language (Research Skill) Requirements

The language (research skill) requirement may be satisfied by study of a foreign language to the intermediate level (12 credits), or by study of a research skill or subject matter outside the major approved by the candidate’s committee. If the candidate passes this requirement by examination, the expectation of at least 36 credits of graduate coursework beyond the MA degree at Penn State remains, with the additional expectation that at least 12 credits of coursework will be from outside the College. The means of fulfilling the language/research skill requirement should be reasonably related to the candidate’s program plan and area of research. For example, if students enter the program already with facility in a second language but intend to write a dissertation on a topic not directly related to that language, they normally would be required by their committees to take at least 12 additional credits of coursework to prepare them to conduct research in their area of concentration.

In practice, what counts as a “research skill” to satisfy the language (research skill) requirement may be highly individualized to meet the student’s research needs, and might include, for example, statistics and research design; computer science; research methods; ethnographic research methods; textual analysis; and so on.

Supervised Experience in College Teaching

The Graduate Faculty of the College of Communications is committed to the scholarship of teaching and learning and believes that it is an integral component of a doctoral education. Excellence in teaching requires more than mastery of the theory and literature of the discipline. It also requires knowledge about and practice in pedagogy. As such, all graduates of the Mass Communications Ph.D. Program should be well prepared in the theory and practice of pedagogy in communication through coursework, supervised teaching experience, workshops, and mentorship.
All doctoral committees should design program plans for their graduate students that prepare them to be effective teachers and periodically evaluate how well they are achieving that goal. In other words, doctoral committee chairs accept the responsibility of ensuring that their advisees make good progress in teaching in addition to research.

- All Mass Communications doctoral candidates are required to successfully complete either COMM 502 (Pedagogy in Communications), or other appropriate coursework in pedagogy determined by their committees.
- Consistent with the undergraduate teaching mission, doctoral students should have supervised experience in college teaching before completing their degrees. Faculty supervisors have the responsibility to mentor their teaching assistants regarding pedagogical approaches to the subject matter and, to the extent possible, offer them opportunities to apply what they have learned under controlled circumstances.
- A typical COMM 602 (Supervised Experience in College Teaching) would be an apprenticeship with standing faculty member in which the doctoral candidate learns the content and teaching methods of a particular course that they are preparing to teach. The apprentice may have some limited opportunity to lecture or carry out other teaching activities under the supervision of the faculty member. Another typical—but more advanced—COMM 602 experience is when the doctoral candidate has an opportunity to teach his/her own course or section or otherwise has significant student contact time in a course taught by a faculty member. In this case, the supervisor or mentor normally would review the doctoral candidate’s teaching materials, visit a class, and generally evaluate his/her progress in developing teaching skills. Such COMM 602 experiences must involve a significant opportunity to learn and practice the pedagogy of communications under the supervision of a standing faculty member.
- Student registered for COMM 602 will receive a quality grade and a short written evaluation from their assistantship supervisor or mentor. The grade will appear on their transcripts but will not be used in calculating their grade point average.
- COMM 602 (typically 1 credit each for two registrations) will count toward the minimum/maximum number of credits to retain one’s assistantship but will not be counted in fulfilling any specific credit requirement for an advanced degree.
- Those registered for COMM 602 are required to attend occasional assessment seminars. In these seminars, COMM 602 students will share perspectives on their teaching experiences, work together to solve tactical problems, integrate what they have learned in COMM 502 (or other such coursework) with actual classroom application.
- Those who complete COMM 502 and develop a Web teaching portfolio in addition to the two COMM 602 experiences will have fulfilled the requirements for the Graduate School Teaching Certificate and are urged to apply for it. Candidates might also be eligible for Teaching with Technology Certificate. Information about both is available on the College website.

**Comprehensive Examination**

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate whether the doctoral candidate has successfully achieved the following core competencies and, therefore, is adequately prepared for dissertation research:

- Broad knowledge of the field of mass communications and appropriate cognate fields and a specialized and comprehensive knowledge of at least one subfield of mass communications as defined by the committee.
- Intellectual and research skills needed to discover and advance knowledge.
- Communication skills to disseminate knowledge effectively.
- Ability to integrate knowledge across subfields, understand how one's subfield fits into a larger framework of knowing, and to explore the social and ethical consequences of discovery and research (Upham).

The comprehensive exam is given and evaluated by the doctoral candidate’s entire committee. The exam consists of written responses to particular questions from each member of the committee and a follow-up oral examination.
session with the full committee. A favorable vote of two-thirds of the committee members is required for passing. The exam may be retaken once.

The administration of the comprehensive exam is under the jurisdiction of the Graduate School. The oral portion of the exam is scheduled and announced officially by the Dean of the Graduate School upon recommendation of the College’s Associate Dean. The Graduate School requires at least two weeks lead time to formally schedule the meeting date and process the necessary paperwork. While the Graduate Program Coordinator of the College will assist in scheduling the exam times and submitting the paperwork to the Graduate School, it is the responsibility of the student and his/her committee chair to initiate this process well in advance of the anticipated date.

The Graduate School requires that, before the exam is given, the candidate must have:

- Completed all (or substantially all) coursework.
- Satisfied the English competence and the communication and foreign language requirement.
- A minimum grade-point average of 3.00 for work done at the university, and no missing or deferred grades.
- Registered as a full-time or part-time student for the semester (including summers) in which the comprehensive exam is taken.

The comprehensive examination should be completed no later than one semester after finishing fulltime coursework. Barring exceptional circumstances, those who have not successfully passed the exam during this time period normally are deemed by the College not to be making expeditious academic progress for purposes of awarding Dissertation Fellowships and other optional financial support.

The doctoral committee chair is responsible for ensuring that the exam achieves the above-stated purpose and follows Graduate School policies (See “Graduate Student Committee Procedures and Responsibilities” in the Academic Policies and Information section). It is also important to note that the Graduate School requires written, formal reports from the chair of the student’s doctoral committee testifying to the date of the exam, the fact that it has taken place and that all committee members were present. That same report will include a summary of the committee’s evaluation of the student’s performance on the written and oral portions of the exam. The College’s Graduate Programs Coordinator processes this paperwork.

**Portfolio**

Doctoral candidates must submit a portfolio that is reviewed as an integral part of the comprehensive examination. The portfolio should be a greatly expanded version of what was submitted for the candidacy evaluation and should include, for example, an updated vitae, publications, conference papers, grant proposals, awards, teaching materials and other content that demonstrates comprehensive and specialized knowledge in the field, readiness to conduct dissertation research, and preparation for a scholarly career.

**Written Portion of the Exam**

The subject areas of the examination should be roughly mapped out at the candidacy evaluation and normally include questions which adequately address theory, methodology, specialization and cognate areas, as appropriate.

The final questions should closely match those previously agreed-upon subject areas.

Questions should be drawn from the content covered in the candidate’s program of study. It is usually not appropriate to expect a doctoral candidate who has completed his/her coursework and fulfilled the requirements of his/her program plan to learn substantial new content areas and be tested on them in his/her comprehensive examination, unless the committee decides that the purposes of the examination can only be fulfilled with additional reading.
Every member of the committee is expected to provide a question or a set of related questions that evaluate the doctoral candidate’s overall understanding of the discipline and/or research component specified as the area of responsibility for that committee member at the earlier candidacy meeting. Questions should go beyond the content covered in a specific course.

The exam may include dissertation-related questions but not to the exclusion of the primary purpose of the exam.

It is the doctoral candidate’s responsibility to contact all committee members well in advance of the exam to discuss the written questions and expectations for answering them. Committee members should brief the candidates on the general nature of the question and may offer suggestions for background reading. Typically, committee members do not provide the specific question to the candidate prior to the examination.

All draft questions should be submitted to the committee chair, who should ensure that the final questions – in the aggregate – adequately gauge whether the doctoral candidate has successfully achieved the core competencies outlined at the beginning of this section. The committee chair should request that committee members revise their questions if necessary to achieve this goal.

The candidate usually will receive all of the questions at the beginning of the examination period. The examination period typically will be one week and usually is open book, at the discretion of the committee.

Each response should be prefaced by a brief abstract that highlights the essence of the answer to the question, with particular emphasis on the unique angle of the response, conveying the originality of the candidate’s synthesis of the topic.

The answers normally are written in the style of a scholarly review essay. The answers should be original concise, and emphasize depth of understanding and critical analysis of the literature within a limit of not less than 10 and not more than 15 pages, not including references (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margin).

Committee chairs have flexibility in the approach used to administer the exam -- consistent with Graduate School regulations, the spirit of this policy, and the high academic standards of the program.

**Oral Portion of the Comprehensive Exam**

The oral examination must be held no earlier than two weeks after the written examination is completed. This allows sufficient time for the committee members to review the written answers prior to the oral examination.

This portion of the comprehensive exam allows for extended discussion and further evaluation of the answers to the written exam and, in most cases, serves as a forum for a discussion of a range of issues associated with the material covered for the written portion of the exam. At the conclusion of the exam, the chair will solicit written evaluations and signatures on the appropriate Graduate School form for that purpose and will give that form to the College Graduate Program Coordinator.

The Graduate School requires that at least three members of the doctoral committee (including the thesis advisor or chair) must be physically present at the comprehensive, final oral examination. The graduate student must also be physically present at the exam. No more than one member may participate via audio or audiovisual telecommunications connection. A request for the use of telecommunications connections for this meeting must be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval at least two weeks prior to the date of the exam. In addition, any special arrangements must be articulated to the student and the committee members well in advance of the examination.

The dissertation proposal presentation (see below) and the oral comprehensive examination normally are separate meeting, although it is possible -- under exceptional circumstances -- to combine them into a single meeting. The decision to combine the oral comprehensive with the formal presentation of the dissertation proposal is at the discretion of the candidate’s chair and committee. If the dissertation proposal meeting is to be held on the same day as the oral exam, copies of the dissertation proposal should have been distributed to the committee at least two weeks in advance to allow sufficient time for the committee’s review and comments. The College Graduate Coordinator should be notified that the dissertation proposal will be reviewed at the oral examination meeting.
Dissertation Proposal

You are expected to work closely with your advisor in the preparation of the dissertation proposal—a formal written document in which a topic for study is clearly identified. The proposal includes a justification for the significance of that topic for doctoral level study, a formal and comprehensive review of the literature associated with the topic, and a detailed description of the research method and procedures to be used. An outline of the dissertation project should be included with the proposal. This document will be delivered to your committee at least two weeks before a meeting that the committee may approve, modify, or reject the proposal.

Guidelines for ABD Registration

According to the Graduate Bulletin, “A candidate for the Ph.D. degree is required to register continuously for each semester from the time the comprehensive exam is passed and the two-semester residence requirement is met until the thesis is accepted by the doctoral committee, regardless of whether work is being done on the thesis during this interval.”

Note: This means you'll also have to be registered as a full or part-time student the semester you take your final exam.

There are two phases to your dissertation work requiring two separate registration numbers. You must register for a minimum of 1 credit for each semester (excluding summers). Phase one (pre comps) is labeled Thesis Research. For that phase you’ll use COMM 600 for on-campus work or COMM 610 for off-campus work. Phase two (post comps) is Dissertation Preparation and requires registration via either COMM 601 (full-time student) or COMM 611 (Part-time student).

As an ABD candidate you need not be registered for the summer, unless you are defending your dissertation.

You and your advisor decide the appropriate number of total credits (beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School), to satisfy your committee’s expectation for total credits in your particular program.

Final Oral Examination

Upon completion of the dissertation, each member of the committee should receive a complete and fully edited copy of the dissertation in final form. The advisor is responsible for ensuring that the dissertation is complete and of sufficient quality to be defended at the meeting. It is appropriate for the chair and/or thesis advisor to contact committee members prior to the meeting to confirm the judgment of each member that the dissertation is of sufficient quality to be formally defended. No earlier than two weeks after delivery of these copies, the student will meet with the committee for what is traditionally a “defense of dissertation.”

The doctoral student must be registered full-time or part-time for the semester (including summers) in which the final dissertation exam is taken.

The final oral examination is governed by the Graduate School and should follow its guidelines abstracted herein: The exam consists of an oral presentation of the dissertation by the candidate and a period of questions and answers. These questions will relate, in large part, to the dissertation but may cover the candidate’s entire program of study, because a major purpose of the examination is also to assess the general scholarly attainment of the candidate. Any formal oral presentation of the dissertation is open to the public. However, attendance at the question-and-answer period is normally restricted to invited members of the College's scholarly community and is at the discretion of the committee.

Normal outcomes of the dissertation defense are:

- Approval of the dissertation as presented;
- Approval pending minor, specified revisions, supervision of which is delegated to the advisor;
- Conditional approval pending revisions which will be circulated to the committee for approval;
- Delayed approval pending revision and another meeting of the committee.
Favorable votes from at least three members of the committee are required in order to pass this final exam. A report of the committee’s decision, bearing the signature of each committee member, must be filed immediately with the Graduate School via the College’s Coordinator of Graduate Education.

**Maintain Satisfactory Scholarship and Annual Assessment**

The Graduate School defines unsatisfactory scholarship as follows: A graduate student who fails to maintain satisfactory scholarship or fails to make acceptable progress in a degree program will be dropped from the University. One or more failing grades or a cumulative grade-point average below 3.0 for any semester or session or combination of semesters and/or sessions may be considered as evidence of failure to maintain satisfactory scholarship. Action may be initiated by the department or committee in charge of the graduate major or by the chair of the student’s doctoral committee.

*Advisors will annually assess their doctoral students and discuss the results with them (see appendix II).*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Suggested Completion Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assign faculty member to serve as temporary faculty advisor</td>
<td>Associate Dean</td>
<td>Orientation Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose permanent advisor and notify Coordinator of Graduate Education</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>By 2nd week of 2nd semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule Candidacy Examination</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Before the end of the first academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit paperwork for completed Candidacy Examination to the Coordinator of Graduate Education</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td>Immediately following meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Residency Requirement (2 consecutive semesters)</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Between Candidacy and Comprehensive Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have complete committee established (paperwork signed by all committee members and submitted to Coordinator of Graduate Education)</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Semester before Comprehensive Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule Comprehensive Exam</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>During the final semester of Coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit paperwork for completed Comprehensive Examination</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td>Immediately following meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule Dissertation Proposal meeting</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>After completion of Comprehensive Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activate intent to graduate Through eLion</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Beginning of semester you intend to graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request copy of Graduate Programs/Thesis Office Calendar</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Beginning of semester you intend to graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit draft of dissertation to committee chair or faculty advisor</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Early in last semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit copies of dissertation to committee members</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>After draft has been approved by committee chair or faculty advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Oral Examination</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>As soon as dissertation is approved by committee and recommends Final Oral Examination. Early enough to meet published Graduate School deadlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit paperwork verifying Final Oral examination</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td>Immediately following exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean office area (if you are a Graduate Assistant)</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Prior to end of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return all keys to Assistant to the Facilities Manager</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>Prior to end of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit electronic dissertation to the Graduate School</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
<td>By Graduate School deadline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate Student Committee Procedures and Responsibilities

The following is a summary of Graduate School policy regarding doctoral committees. (For a complete list of doctoral committee policies, please refer to the Graduate Bulletin or on-line at http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/whitebook/)

Although master’s programs vary widely across the University and differ from doctoral programs, departments and programs are urged to follow the spirit of the Procedures for Doctoral Students (points 1-6 below), when appropriate, for graduate committees of master’s students.

**Justification:** A graduate student’s committee is responsible for approving a student’s program of study; providing constructive input to help guide the student’s research/scholarship; promoting effective communication among the graduate student, committee chair/adviser, and other members of the committee; and more generally, for helping to promote the successful completion of the student’s program. The committee should be appointed as soon as possible in a master’s program, and immediately after the doctoral student’s admission to candidacy. The following **Doctoral Committee Policies and Procedures** are intended to help achieve these goals, to minimize misunderstandings, and help foster a collegial relationship among the graduate student, the committee chair, and the members of the committee throughout the graduate student’s program. **Each doctoral student, chair and committee member should receive a copy of these policies and procedures.**

**Policies and Procedures for Doctoral Students and Committees:**

1. The **doctoral chair** should meet with the student **at least once per year** to (1) provide guidance, (2) finalize and approve the research proposal of the student so that there is a clear understanding of the research goals and objectives, (3) assess the quality and progress of the research, and (4) discuss programmatic issues (e.g., course requirements).

2. Both the **chair** and the **student** are responsible for providing a copy of the final draft of the dissertation to the committee **at least 2 weeks** prior to the scheduled date of the final oral examination. The chair should schedule a date for the examination with the Office of Graduate Enrollment Services **at least two weeks** prior to the examination.

3. Both the **chair** and the **student** are responsible for ensuring the completion of a final draft of the dissertation, and for **adequate consultation** with members of the doctoral committee, well in advance of the final oral examination. Major revisions of the dissertation should be completed before this examination. The dissertation should be complete and in its "final" form, with correct and polished content and style, appropriate notes, bibliography, tables, etc., at the time it is distributed to the committee members. **If committee members find that the draft submitted to them is not in this form, the chair is notified and postponement of the examination is considered.**

4. **If a committee member finds that the “final” draft is not correct and polished with respect to content and style, it is his/her responsibility to notify the committee chair (or adviser) at least one week in advance of the final oral examination date.** The **committee member** should indicate his/her concerns regarding the draft and recommend consideration of postponement of the examination to the committee chair (or adviser). The **committee chair** (or adviser), in consultation with committee members, is responsible for notifying the student and assessing whether the student can make the necessary revisions to the “final” draft before the examination date. If it is determined that revisions cannot be made in time, the examination should be postponed. If differences exist among committee members, the **department head** or **program chair** should be consulted to hear the expressed concerns and determine whether the examination should be postponed.

5. **If the dissertation is deemed unsatisfactory at the time of the examination by at least two-thirds of the committee, the student will fail the examination.** If a candidate fails, it is the responsibility of the committee to determine whether another examination may be taken by the student.
6. The chair or at least one co-chair must be a member of the graduate faculty of the specific doctoral program in which the candidate is enrolled. A retired or emeritus faculty member may chair a doctoral committee if he/she began chairing the committee prior to retirement, and has the continuing approval of the department head or program chair. The primary duties of the chair are: (1) to maintain the academic standards of the doctoral program and the Graduate School and to assure that all procedures are carried out fairly, (2) to ensure that the comprehensive and final examinations are conducted in a timely fashion, (3) to arrange and conduct all meetings, and (4) to ensure that requirements set forth by the committee are implemented in the final version of the thesis.

7. A doctoral committee must consist of four or more active members of the Graduate Faculty, which includes at least two faculty members from the student’s major field. The dissertation adviser must be a member of the doctoral committee. The dissertation adviser usually serves as chair, but this is not required. If the candidate is also pursuing a dual-title field of study, a co-chair representing the dual-title field must be appointed. In most cases, the same individual (e.g., dissertation adviser) is a member of the Graduate Faculty in both the major and dual-title fields, and in such cases may serve as sole chair. At least 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 within the committee. This committee member is referred to as the “Outside Field Member.” In cases where the candidate is also pursuing a dual-title field of study, the dual-title representative to the committee may serve as the Outside Field Member. If the candidate has a minor, that field must be represented on the committee by a “Minor Field Member.” (See also Major Program and Minor Field under D.Ed.—Additional Specific Requirements in the Graduate Bulletin.) A person not affiliated with Penn State who has particular expertise in the candidate’s research area may be added as a “Special Member,” upon recommendation by the head of the program and approval of the graduate dean (via the Office of Graduate Enrollment Services). A Special Member is expected to participate fully in the functions of the doctoral committee.

Ethics and Professional Responsibility

The College of Communications is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards in the scholarly pursuits of all its faculty and graduate students. Since the creation of the College, ethics and professional responsibility have been integral components of all its degree programs and are deeply imbedded in its curriculum and co-curricular activities. The College seeks to instill in all of its doctoral and MA students the core values of scholarly integrity and professional responsibility and to develop good academic citizenship. To this end, students in all graduate degree programs offered by the College must demonstrate a thorough understanding of and grounding in research ethics and professional responsibility.

All graduate students at Penn State are required to complete the Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) program that offers training in the responsible conduct of research and other learning opportunities to further that goal. Consequently, the program plans of all doctoral and master’s candidates in the College must include the follow two requirements from the SARI program:

1) During the first year of enrollment, completion of the Responsible Conduct of Research online training program provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). Communications graduate students may complete either the Social and Behavioral course or the Humanities course. (Although many lessons in both versions of the training program are appropriate for all sub-disciplines in Communications, some are not. Students and their committees, therefore, should select the one that best -- although potentially not perfectly -- matches their research field.) The online training program can be accessed at the SARI Resource Portal on the Office for Research Protections (ORP) website (www.research.psu.edu/orp). CITI training and certification are course requirements for COMM 590 (Colloquium).

2) Prior to degree completion, an additional 5 hours of discussion-based education in Responsible Conduct in Research. This requirement is flexible and may be fulfilled with coursework in the College or in other units, coursework or co-curricular experiences, and universal or discipline-specific material.

In almost all cases, graduate students in the College will satisfy this requirement by successfully completing the core coursework in their respective programs. Graduate committees may assume that students receive at least three hours of discussion-based education in research ethics in COMM 506
(Introduction to Mass Communications Research) and COMM 511 (Mass Communications Research Methods II) and each semester of COMM 590 (Colloquium). The required proseminars also include a substantial amount of ethics-oriented content.

In addition, graduate committees may require or encourage additional coursework and co-curricular experiences in ethics and professional responsibility. Some possibilities follow:

- The vast majority of the 500-level seminars offered by the College have a substantial amount of material regarding professional ethics and social responsibility of the media woven into the course content.
- Extensive co-curricular opportunities in the College are coordinated by Don Davis Program in Ethical Leadership. See the College web site.
- The University’s Scholarship and Research Integrity program offers a variety of workshops, online resources, and individualized consultation that can be tailor-made to fulfill or supplement the RCR requirement. See the University web site

**Colloquium (Communications 590)**

Colloquium is a continuing series of seminars and presentations that introduce entering doctoral and master’s students in the College of Communications to graduate studies and serves as a forum for scholarly exchange among all graduate students and faculty. All entering graduate students in the College are required to complete at least two semesters of Colloquium; however, credits earned for Colloquium (no more than one credit per semester) may not be used to fulfill minimum credit requirements for any degree program. Continuing graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend Colloquium when the topics are appropriate their educational and professional goals.

The objectives of Colloquium are to:
- develop good academic citizenship,
- help build a scholarly community and foster camaraderie among entering graduate classes,
- learn the codes and pathways of graduate education and the specific policies and expectations of the College’s graduate programs,
- introduce new graduate students to the College’s faculty and their research interests,
- stir intellectual ferment in the College,
- and facilitate the flow of information among graduate students and faculty.

In addition to an array of scholarly subjects, Colloquium routinely covers important topics in the realm of academic professionalism, such as:
- importance and meaning of academic freedom,
- professional responsibility and scholarly etiquette,
- research ethics,
- teaching and learning,
- thesis and dissertation research and writing,
- scholarly publishing and conference presentations,
- human subjects protections and approval process,
- performance of assistantship responsibilities,
- applying for grants, fellowships, and scholarships,
- preparing for the academic and professional job markets,
- and the importance and meaning of academic tenure.

**Registration**

Registration as a full-time student is required for each student receiving assistantship support. All assistantships in the College of Communications are classified as half-time assistantships (20 hours of service per week). Therefore, to be enrolled as a full-time student, students must register for 9-11 credits each during the Fall and Spring semester.
All graduate students are required to maintain continuous registration by registering for each Fall and Spring semester until all degree requirements have been met. If, however, all degree requirements, including thesis/submission and/or defense, are completed prior to the first day of classes of the semester in which the student will be graduating, then the student is not required to register for that semester. Upon completion of all coursework, in order to maintain continuous registration, a student should be registered in one of the following classes:

COMM 600 (Thesis Research -- on campus)
COMM 610 (Thesis Research -- off campus)

Ph.D. candidates who have passed the comprehensive exam and met the two-semester residency requirement should register for:

COMM 601 (Thesis Preparation -- full-time)
COMM 611 (Thesis Preparation -- part-time)

Dropping Courses

All requests to drop courses should be approved by your faculty advisor. Students on an assistantship award should realize that if a course is dropped, because of the tuition waiver that is offered as a benefit of your assistantship, the tuition paid cannot be recovered and reduces funds available for continuing support.

Normal Academic Progress

Students in all graduate programs are required to maintain a 3.00 GPA. Students who fall below this standard will be considered to be on academic probation. If a student remains below this standard for two consecutive semesters, the student may be terminated.

Resolution of Classroom Problems, Grade Conflicts and Plagiarism Allegations

There are prescribed University and College procedures for resolving student complaints over classroom conduct by instructors such as: unjustified cancellations of classes, frequent absenteeism or late arrival, absence during designated office hours, early completion of semester, grade disputes and allegations of plagiarism.

Students should first attempt to resolve such problems and conflicts through discussion with the instructor involved. If resolution is unsuccessful at this level, the appropriate channels include: your advisor, a program chair of that program, the Associate Dean in the College, or the Dean of the College. Students will, in an informal manner, be advised of their rights and the procedures open to them to pursue their concerns.

Graduate Teaching/Research Assistantships

There are a limited number of half-time graduate assistantships available each year in the College. Assistantships are awarded after admission decisions have been made in the spring to those the admissions committees judge to be the best qualified. Invariably, there are more deserving applicants than there are available assistantships, so the committee must make difficult decisions. Rejection of an applicant for financial assistance does not imply any judgment of his or her scholarly and professional promise.

Half-time graduate assistants are responsible for 20 hours per week of service. Graduate student TA responsibilities are determined by the Associate Dean.

Graduate School regulations stipulate that the holder of a half-time assistantship may enroll for no more than an average of 11 academic credits per semester.

The holder of an assistantship receives a stipend during the fall and spring semesters plus remission of tuition for those semesters and the following summer session if approved. No stipend is paid during the summer months. If the assistantship holder wishes to take advantage of the summer tuition remission, he or she must apply for it during the preceding spring semester.
If the holder of an assistantship elects to relinquish the assistantship or if the assistantship contract is rescinded, all benefits are relinquished as well. The stipend, tuition remission and benefits are inseparable parts of the assistantship budgetary support package.

The performance of graduate assistants is closely monitored by the faculty member to whom the assistant is assigned and by the Associate Dean. Failure to provide the assistance stipulated in the contract may result in revocation of the assistantship. Deficient scholarship (dropping below the 3.0 grade point average) may also result in revocation.

The maximum number of years of financial support through an assistantship is two years for MA students and three years for doctoral students. However, the duration of each assistantship is clearly identified on the assistantship contract.

Dissertation Fellowships

Those enrolled in the Mass Communications Ph.D. program who have successfully passed their comprehensive examinations and are in residence at University Park during the period of the award are eligible for the fellowship. The number and amount of fellowship awards are dependent on available resources and are determined by the Associate Dean. The awards may be for either one or two semesters.

Fellowships are awarded based on:

- the applicant’s academic excellence in the Mass Communications Ph.D. program,
- promise of excellence in dissertation research,
- expeditious progress toward the degree (doctoral candidates who have been in the program fulltime for more than four years are typically not funded),
- and need.
Important Policies and Resources Online

Academic Integrity
For College guidelines regarding academic integrity, please refer to the appendices. University policies and rules can be found at http://www.psu.edu/oue/integrity.html

General Standards of Professional Ethics (Policy AD47) http://guru.psu.edu/policies/AD47.html

Handling Inquiries/Investigations into Question of Ethics in Research and In Other Scholarly Activities (Policy RA 10) http://guru.psu.edu/policies/Ra10.html

Co-authorship of Scholarly Reports, Papers and Publication (Policy RA13)
http://guru.psu.edu/policies/Ra13.html

The Use of Human Participants in Research (Policy RA14) http://guru.psu.edu/policies/Ra14.html

Sexual Assault, Relationship and Domestic Violence, and Stalking (Policy AD12)
http://guru.psu.edu/policies/Ad12.html

Computer and Network Security (Policy AD 20) http://guru.psu.edu/policies/Ad20.html

Use of Institutional Data (Policy AD23) http://guru.psu.edu/policies/Ad23.html

Statement of Intolerance (Policy AD29) http://guru.psu.edu/POLICIES/Ad29.html

Graduate Assistants Payroll (Policy PR06) https://guru.psu.edu/policies/psu/PR06.html

Use of a University vehicle: http://www.transportation.psu.edu/fleet/rent/
Administrative Policies

Guidelines for Funding Graduate Student Travel

Enabling graduate students in the College of Communications to travel to academic conferences contributes both to their professional development and to the visibility of the College. Therefore, to the extent possible, within financial constraints, the College should support graduate student travel.

With budget constraints and a relatively small travel fund, it is imperative that the College allocate its travel resources carefully; this is made all the more important by the size of our graduate program. However, we acknowledge that there are circumstances that may alter the need for travel funds. Generally, it is assumed that students will cover many of their expenses. The College’s graduate program travel fund does not support graduate student travel to conduct research; the funds are meant to support the presentation of (refereed) research.

These travel guidelines are designed to add a measure of transparency to the disbursement of travel funds, provide information for students that will be useful for planning their conference participation, and allow flexibility for both the student and the College in the case of exceptional circumstances.

Disbursement of general College funds, for the fiscal year that begins July 1 and ends June 30, will be guided by the following:

- Priority for funding will go to:
  - Students on assistantship;
  - Advanced Ph.D. students (students who have reached candidacy in the program).
- Students can generally expect the following maximum disbursements annually; these totals, of course, are subject to budgetary changes/constraints in the College:
  - Post-Candidacy (2nd-year) Ph.D. students: $600
  - 3rd-year Ph.D. students: $700
  - 4th-year Ph.D. students: $800
- Since the College offers limited funding to each graduate student, it is important to consult closely with your academic advisor on what conferences are best suited for you.
- M.A. students, students who are not on assistantship, and first-year Ph.D. students may apply for funding for specific conference travel. Decisions will be based on the availability of funds.
- Any student can apply for additional travel funding (international conferences, for example); however, such requests will be granted on a case-by-case basis in light of the availability of funds and the nature of the conference.
- Graduate students will be notified (based on the second bullet point) by mid-July of the amount they will be allocated for the fiscal year. (Travel request forms will no longer be required before the conference.)

Reimbursement procedures:

To receive the total amount of funding requested, all receipts need to be submitted within five days of the end of the conference. If this is not possible, please contact Betsy Hall. Reimbursements will be processed within five days of receiving the request for reimbursement if submitted within the five business days of the end of the conference. (Receipts that are submitted after that may be processed with reimbursements for the next conference for which receipts are submitted.)
Receipt submission should comprise:

- Airfare confirmation (Expedia, Travelocity, etc.). The confirmation should include:
  Total amount including taxes  
  Airline (Delta, US Airways, United, etc.)  
  Itinerary (time and date of departure and arrival)  
  (If traveling by car, keep track of mileage. University will reimburse for mileage, not gas.  
  Current rate is 55 cents per mile). For those who carpool, the graduate student whose  
  vehicle is being used will be reimbursed (the amount will be divided among those who are  
  carpooling).
- Conference registration with amount paid (original email from the conference or receipt  
  handed to you at the conference). The University cannot accept a credit card statement or  
  the signed credit card receipt.
- Hotel (lodging and taxes only). Internet connection, phone calls or room service – even if  
  on the receipt -- will not be covered. If sharing a room, it is recommended to have  
  individual receipts for each person. If this is not possible, list the names of the people  
  sharing the room on the receipt and the amount each person paid. If one person paid the  
  entire bill, confirmation will be needed from the other students.
- Meals will be paid based on per diem (the University lists the amount per day for all the  
  towns and cities in the US and other counties.).

All reimbursements will be processed through ERS (Employee Reimbursement System). After the  
receipts are input by staff in the Graduate Office, the student will receive an email from  
“ConcurSolutions,” sent through ERS, indicating that the request is ready for submission. The chain for  
the reimbursement is:

1) Entered by Grad Office staff  
2) Graduate Student submits the request through ERS (www.ers.psu.edu). Penn State user ID and  
   password will be needed to log into the system.  
3) Dean Hardin approves the request  
4) Annette Jones, assistant to the financial officer, approves  
5) Jane Agnelly, financial officer, approves  
6) Accounting office approves

Reimbursements during the summer months run through the same process. The main difference for  
reimbursement during the summer is for international students: A VISIT form will need to be filled out  
with a copy of the student’s I-94 card.

Poster Costs: The College will now pay for the printing of the poster. Students who will be making  
poster presentations should contact the Graduate Office on how to proceed with the printing of the poster.

Office and Key Assignments

Because of a limited amount of office space, only those students holding graduate assistantships will be assigned  
an office. The Graduate Assistant Offices are located on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} floor of James Bldg. There are currently enough  
desks that each graduate assistant may share desk space with another graduate assistant. Because all assistants  
don’t usually keep the same office hours or utilize office space at the same time, this has not been a problem in the  
past. If you must hold office hours as a requirement of your teaching assignment, you must work out a schedule  
that will be compatible with your assigned desk partner(s).

Please do not remove any furniture from these offices. All furnishings are inventoried and need to remain
accountable.

There are several computers available with limited printing facilities. These computers are for your use, and again must be shared by all. Please be considerate of others by sharing the working time.

Keys will be assigned by the assistant to the Facilities Manager, 11 Carnegie Building.

Graduate students have mailboxes in the 115 Carnegie Building. **All mail will be sent to your office mailbox rather than to your home address**, so please be sure to check your mailbox on a regular basis.

Graduate students must return all keys assigned to them upon completion of their graduate assistantship (or completion of a specific teaching/research assignment if other keys are assigned). Keys are not to be loaned to **anyone**. If a key is lost, there is a $20 charge to replace the key. If recoring of a door is necessary in order to change the locks due to a lost key, additional costs will be incurred. Also, it is unlawful to duplicate these keys. Doors are to be kept locked when the office is vacant.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 501</td>
<td>PROSEMINAR IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>Overview of the paradigms in mass communications research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 502</td>
<td>PEDAGOGY IN COMMUNICATIONS (3)</td>
<td>Focuses on the unique characteristics of undergraduate education as well as the need for the integration of teacher preparation at the doctoral level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 504</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN THE HISTORY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 505</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS</td>
<td>Legal and communications problems of the international flow of news and opinion; international press codes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 506</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO MASS COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH</td>
<td>The scientific method; survey of basic concepts of theoretical and empirical research; variety of methodology; criteria for adequate research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 507</td>
<td>NEWS MEDIA &amp; PUBLIC OPINION</td>
<td>Problems in the function, techniques, and responsibilities of press, radio, and television in forming and interpreting opinion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 510</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE THEORIES OF PRESS SYSTEMS</td>
<td>Institutional structure and normative functions of press systems in modern societies as shaped by prevailing world view and social organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 511</td>
<td>MASS COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH METHODS II (3)</td>
<td>Problems of bibliographical research; evaluation of sources and materials in mass communications history, biography, structure, ethics, and other areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 512</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS (3)</td>
<td>Problems of freedom of information; governmental efforts to control mass communication agencies; government news coverage; public information agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 513</td>
<td>CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS OF THE NEWS MEDIA (3)</td>
<td>Problems involving conflict between guarantees of press freedom in the First and Fourteenth Amendments and rights and privileges of others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 514</td>
<td>POLITICAL ECONOMY OF COMMUNICATIONS (3)</td>
<td>Structure and functions of United States and global media systems and their relationship to political and economic systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 515</td>
<td>MA PROSEMINAR IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS (3)</td>
<td>An introduction to graduate studies for MA students in Media Studies and Telecommunications Studies. Prerequisite: First semester enrollment in MEDIA or TELEC M.A. programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 516</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO DATA ANALYSIS IN COMMUNICATIONS (3)</td>
<td>To understand and be able to use data analysis techniques common to research in communications. Prerequisite: COMM 506 or consent of program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 517</td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>Investigation of psychological aspects of human-computer interaction (HCI) and computer-mediated communication (CMC). Prerequisite: COMM 404 or COMM 506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMM 518  MEDIA EFFECTS (3)
Advanced study of the effects of media messages and technologies via theories and empirical evidence pertaining to processes of effects.  
Prerequisite: COMM 506 or equivalent

COMM 520  THEORY AND APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS (3)
A practical study of strategic communications through examination of theoretical and conceptual fundamentals within the advertising/public relations industries.  (Proposed new title and description)

COMM 521  ADVERTISING/PR RESEARCH SEMINAR (3)
Exposure to important research in the advertising and public relations field and its implications in research development.  (Proposed new title and description)

COMM 522  ADVERTISING, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SOCIETY (3)
Examination of the social and ethical impact of advertising and public relations; social responsibility; regulatory concerns and the ethical conduct of the industry.  (Proposed new title and description)

COMM 550  FILM THEORY AND CRITICISM
Advanced studies in traditional and contemporary film theory and criticism.

COMM 553  SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN FILM AND TELEVISION
Advanced studies in current theoretical paradigms in film and television studies.

COMM 556  CLOSE TEXTUAL ANALYSIS--FILM AND VIDEO (3)
Using theoretically-informed, close textual analysis approach, course will explore the way films and videos generate meaning.  Prerequisite:  COMM 501

COMM 580  TELECOMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR
Study of the historical and contemporary issues and problems in telecommunications.

COMM 582  ETHICS AND EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
Identification and analysis of ethical issues raised by electronic communications technologies.

COMM 583  SEMINAR ON UNITED STATES TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY
Examination of the U.S. telecommunications policy process and current issues.

COMM 584  INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRADE POLICY
An interdisciplinary perspective that investigates contemporary debates and ongoing or anticipated conflicts in international telecommunications and trade policy.

COMM 585  MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRIES (3)
Study the structure and performance of media, telecommunications and information industries applying principles and ideas from microeconomics, finance and communications.

COMM 587  INTERNET LAW AND POLICY (3)
Examination of legal, policy and business developments in Internet-mediated communications emphasizing the impact on existing regulatory and economic models.

COMM 590  COLLOQUIUM
Continuing seminars that consist of a series of individual lectures by faculty, students, or outside speakers.

COMM 594  RESEARCH APPRENTICESHIP
Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis.

COMM 595  COMMUNICATIONS INTERNSHIP
Supervised off-campus, non-group instruction, including field experiences, practicums, or internships.  Written and oral critique of activity required.
COMM 596  INDEPENDENT STUDIES
Creative projects, including nonthesis research, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

COMM 597  SPECIAL TOPICS

COMM 602  SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE IN COLLEGE TEACHING

COMM 603  FOREIGN ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE
Lee Ahern

Office: 118 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-8314

Email: laa182@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Ahern’s research focuses on the description, analysis and ethics of strategic messages, primarily in the context of environmental and health communications.

Biography:

Ahern has close to 20 years of industry experience to complement his teaching and research. Most recently he was marketing manager for an international custom publishing company, where he also oversaw development and implementation of all new media products.

After beginning his career as a financial writer in New York, he worked in various communications capacities on Wall Street for over a decade. For several years thereafter, Ahern and his wife (Colleen Connolly-Ahern) ran their own marketing communications company serving clients in financial services and advertising.

Ahern has more than 25 refereed journal articles, book chapters and conference papers. He has also published on leading blogs, include CommPro.biz and GreenBiz.com. His current research focuses on the description, analysis and ethics of strategic messages, primarily in the context of environmental and health communications. In particular, he has explored psychological effects and cognitive processing implications of different environmental message factors. In an international context, Ahern also studies the roles of culture and media system development on environmental attitudes and behaviors.

Selected Publications:


Ahern, L. (2012). The role of media system development in the emergence of postmaterialist values and environmental concern: A cross-national analysis. Social Science Quarterly.

Doug Anderson

Office: 201 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-1484

Email: doug-anderson@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Dr. Anderson has written about media law, media ethics, media history, and journalism-mass communication administration.

Biography:

Douglas Anderson is professor of journalism and dean of the College of Communications at Penn State University. He is the author or coauthor of six books, two of which have gone into subsequent editions. His coauthored textbook, "News Writing and Reporting for Today's Media," is in its seventh edition, with the first edition having been published in 1987. Through the years, the book has been adopted for courses in nearly 300 colleges and universities. He also is the author or coauthor of more than 75 academic articles and papers. He is a former daily newspaper managing editor and former president of the Nebraska Associated Press Managing Editors Association. He also is a former president of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication. He was honored in 1996 by The Freedom Forum as journalism administrator of the year, and remains the youngest person ever to receive the award.

Selected Publications:

His most recent publications include the seventh edition of "News Writing and Reporting for Today's Media," a book chapter on diversity in mass communication education, and an article on the most pressing issues facing journalism-mass communication schools.
George Anghelcev

Office: 315C Willard

Office Phone: 865-4354

Email: gua4@psu.edu

Research Interests:

His current research focuses on cultural differences in emotional and cognitive responses to environmental campaigns and public health advertising.

Biography:

George Anghelcev (Advertising/PR) received his PhD from the University of Minnesota, Twin-Cities in 2008. He has an MA in Sociology and a BA in Advertising and Journalism from Babes-Bolyai University, Romania. He previously taught at the University of Minnesota, served as an assistant professor at Babes-Bolyai University in Romania, and lectured at both Universite de Nantes in France, and Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary. His professional experience highlights include working in strategic planning for Campbell-Mithun Advertising in Minneapolis, MN, as well as for advertising agencies in Romania. He served as an associate researcher for Romania’s Ministry of Public Information.

Selected Publications:


Robert Baukus

Office: 128 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-3800

Email: rab18@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Current research concerns ethical issues related to advertising media planning and teaching methods to enhance critical thinking skills in advertising curriculum

Biography:

He recently contributed to Communication and Terrorism, a book about the impact of media depictions of terrorist events, and Framing Friction, a book on how the media portray social conflict. Has published in Journalism Educator, the Journal of Health Communications, and Communication Research Reports, among others. He has presented numerous papers related to advertising and marketing communications.

He has been an active marketing communications consultant for more than 16 years for network news corporations, advertising agencies, newspapers, media production agencies and the pharmaceuticals industry in the area of strategic advertising and marketing communications. He works with commercial productions companies and is involved in various aspects of advertising development and implementation. He is also interested in the development and marketing of programming and public relations materials related to the eco-fashion industry.

Selected Publications:


Ronald Bettig

Office: 129 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-3067

Email: rvb3@psu.edu

Biography:

Ronald Bettig joined the College of Communications in 1988. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on the political economy of communications. He is author of Copyrighting Culture: The Political Economy of Intellectual Property (1996, Westview Press) and co-author, with Jeanne Lynn Hall, of Big Media, Big Money: Cultural Texts and Political Economics (2002, Roman & Littlefield). He also has published a number of book chapters and journal articles and presented many conference papers on political economy, intellectual property, and media industries.

He is a longtime member of the Union for Democratic Communications and has served as a member of the organization's steering committee since 1993. He won the Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Communications Alumni Society in 1996 and has been named Faculty Marshal five times. He also has chaired and served on dozens of scholar, master's and doctoral thesis committees.

Selected Publications:


Barbara Bird

Office: 103 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-1616

Email: bob2@psu.edu

Biography:

Barbara Bird's professional creative film work is about the silences around difficult issues... Album (2002) explores a family's struggles with addiction and dysfunction. Powerlessness and abuse in the workplace is dealt with in Handmaidens (1995), and, recently, the 60-year silence of the Holocaust survivors in No. 4 Street of Our Lady (2009).

Public scholarship film work, such as Toward Daylight, teams student filmmakers, community partners and faculty in a creative collaboration that has research, learning and service outcomes all partners. This work is integrated into courses Professor Bird teaches in film/video production, screenwriting and documentary film making at Penn State University.

Selected Productions:

Toward Daylight (2011), Barbara Bird, director, Andrea Seeley, Susan Kennedy producers, Ken Campbell cinematographer. 12 minute documentary is the combined stories of five people, all struggling with what it means to be a 'suicide survivor'.

No. 4 Street of Our Lady (2009), Barbara Bird, director/editor, Richie Sherman, director/cinematographer, Judy Maltz, director/producer. 90 minute feature length documentary focuses on two families caught up in the tragic events of the Holocaust – one Jewish and one Christian – and examines how these events continue to impact their lives today, reuniting them 65 years later on a journey back to Ukraine. www.streetofourlady.org


Selected Awards/Accomplishments:

Voice Award, Honorable Mention, Hollywood,CA, August 2011
Grand prize, Best Documentary Feature, Rhode Island International Film Festival, August 2009
CINE Golden Eagle Award, June 2009
Award of Excellence, The Accolade Competition, July 2009
Silver Palm Award, Mexico International Film Festival, April 2009
Honorable Mention, Columbus International Film & Video Festival, 2009
Best Feature Documentary, 2nd Prize, Athens International Film Festival, April 2009
Denise Bortree

Office: 106 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-1274

Email: dsb177@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Research interests include nonprofit organization communication, environmental responsibility, and adolescent communication

Biography:

Denise Bortree, assistant professor of communication, teaches in the department of advertising and public relations. Her research focuses on ethical dimensions of communication in a number of contexts including nonprofit organizations, environmental sustainability, and adolescent communication. She has authored more than 20 peer-reviewed journal articles, which have been published in journals such as Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly, Journal of Public Relations Research, Nonprofit Management and Leadership, Public Relations Review, the International Journal of Volunteer Administration, among others. She is the guest editor for a special issue of the Journal of Public Relations Research on nonprofit communication. In 2011 she consulted for the United Nations on the State of the World’s Volunteerism study. She was awarded the 2007 and 2008 Mary Merrill Memorial Award from the International Journal of Volunteer Administration for her co-authored research on volunteer communication. Bortree earned a master’s degree in mass communication, a master’s in education with a focus in education psychology, and a Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Florida.

Selected Publications:


Jeremy Cohen

Office: 420 Old Main

Office Phone: 863-1864

Email: jxc45@psu.edu

Research Interests:

The origins of the relationship among education, democracy and public communication are rooted in the Enlightenment and are reflected in the American Constitution’s instrumental obligations of citizen engagement fueled by information and education. What are the educational keystones necessary today to build a capacity to sustain democracy and to mend democracy's tattered social justice values?

Biography:

Currently associate vice president and senior associate dean of undergraduate education and professor of mass communication at Penn State, Cohen concentrated on third person effects and first amendment rights as elements of political communication and of defamation as a tenured faculty member at Stanford University (1984-1994). He continues to supervise doctoral dissertations and undergraduate independent study and chair the undergraduate Bachelor of Philosophy interdisciplinary major. His administrative portfolio focuses on curriculum and policy across Penn State's undergraduate campuses. A member of the PSU Science Diving Control Board, Cohen's underwater imaging has appeared on the cover and as a portfolio in The Penn Stater Magazine and as one-person installations in The Gallery at Penn State Great Valley and at the Museum of Arts and Culture in New Rochell, New York. His images are currently on display as a one-person installation in the EMS Gallery, 16 Deike Bldg., at University Park.

Selected Publications:

“Portrait of the University as a Young Citizen” in, Agent for Democracy. Kettering Foundation (D. Witte & D. Brown, editors), 2008


Colleen Connolly-Ahern

Office: 127 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-3073

Email: cuc15@psu.edu

Research Interests:

- International Strategic Communication
- Political Communication
- Health Communication
- Content Analysis
- Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies

Biography:

Colleen Connolly-Ahern joined the Penn State faculty in the Fall 2004. She brings a mix of teaching, research and public service that match well with the College of Communications’ mission to train future communications professionals for careers and for life.

Connolly-Ahern’s research interests include international political advertising and health communications, as well as issues of culture, framing and media access in strategic communications. She has published more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles, as well as one law review article, and her work has appeared in journals such as *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Journal of Public Relations Research, and Communication, Culture and Critique*. Since coming to Penn State, she has presented more than 25 papers at academic conferences. She is a former head of the Public Relations Division of AEJMC, a member of the editorial board of *JPRR*, and has served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Penn State Yearbook, *La Vie*.

Connolly-Ahern teaches a wide range of undergraduate advertising and public relations classes, and serves as the course co-coordinator for COMM 420 Advertising and Public Relations Research. She also teaches graduate seminars (COMM 511 Qualitative Research Methods and COMM 597 International and Intercultural Strategic Communications).

Colleen Connolly-Ahern graduated from Georgetown University with an undergraduate degree in medieval history, but because Romanesque cathedrals are scarce in the United States, she took a job in the advertising industry. Among other positions, she worked as managing editor for *Marine Log Magazine* and promotion manager for *USA Today* before starting her own marketing communications firm, Abbey Lane Marketing.

Selected Publications:


Frank Dardis

Office: 212 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-7993

Email: fdardis@psu.edu

Research Interests:

1. Persuasive effects of information (mostly message factors) in consumer-related and sociopolitical contexts, 2. Effects of in-game brand placement and videogame advertising

Biography:

Dr. Dardis is an associate professor and has been at Penn State since 2003, when he received his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He received both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of Florida. This is his first academic position. His current research encompasses two areas: the persuasive effects of message factors, and the effects of in-game advertising in videogames. Prior to working in academia, Dr. Dardis worked in the in-house Marketing and/or Advertising departments of several multi-million-dollar companies, including an Anheuser-Busch subsidiary, a golf course/real estate developer, and a professional baseball team. His duties as Marketing Manager involved creating marketing/advertising plans, media planning, budgeting and contract negotiation, special event planning, and numerous other promotional responsibilities.

Selected Publications:


Marcia DiStaso

Office: 304A Willard

Office Phone: 863-9874

Email: mwd10@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Social media in public relations, financial communication (how financial institutions communicate), and investor relations (how companies communicate about finances)

Biography:

Marcia W. DiStaso, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of public relations in the College of Communications at Pennsylvania State University. She is Chair of the PRSA Financial Communications Section, Co-Chair of the PRSA National Research Committee, Research Chair of the PRSA Educators Academy, and a Senior Research Fellow of the Arthur W. Page Center. Her research focuses on exploring and informing the practice of social media, financial communication and investor relations. She serves on the Editorial Review Board of Public Relations Journal and is a member of the Advisory Committee of the International Public Relations Research Conference. She is a past recipient of the Ketchum Excellence in Public Relations Research Award and was recently recognized as a Promising Professor by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Prior to entering academia she worked in the global investment industry. She also has worked in agency, corporate, nonprofit, and university public relations. Her Ph.D. degree is from the University of Miami. She also holds an M.A. degree in mass communications and a B.A. degree in economics from the University of South Florida.

Selected Publications:


C. Michael Elavsky

Office: 310 Willard

Office Phone: 865-2444

Email: cme16@psu.edu

Research Interests:

the global music cultural industries, music as cultural/political communication, social theory, media studies, new media, pedagogy, and postcommunist cultural studies

Biography:

C. Michael Elavsky is an associate professor of communications in the department of Film/Video and Media Studies. He has published several journal articles and book chapters related to his research interests, and his manuscript Between the Bloc and a Hard Place: Postsocialist Identity, Pop Music, and the Politics of the Global Music Industry is currently in development. He has taught at the university level in both the US and Europe since 1996 and completed his doctorate at the University of Illinois in May 2005. In his past life, he was a Fulbright Research Scholar in the Czech Republic, touring musician, and McDonald’s employee. Along with his scholarly endeavors, his energies are equally focused on being happily married and the father of two.

Selected Publications:


Russell Frank

Office: 125 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-6415

Email: rfrank@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Five interests currently: journalism ethics; literary journalism; ethics of literary journalism; Internet folklore; mythological dimension of journalism

Biography:

Russell Frank is a folklorist by training (MA, UCLA; PhD, UPenn) and a journalist by trade. He worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers in California and Pennsylvania for 13 years before joining the journalism faculty at Penn State, where he has been teaching newswriting, feature writing, literary journalism and journalism ethics since 1998. In addition to his scholarly writing on journalism ethics, literary journalism and Internet folklore, he has maintained his connection to the journalism world by writing weekly columns for the Centre Daily Times and for Statecollege.com. He is spending the Fall 2013 semester teaching journalism in Lviv, Ukraine, on a Fulbright fellowship.

Selected Publications:

“Covering Captain Cool: The ‘Miracle on the Hudson as a Hero Tale, Western Folklore 72, (Winter 2013) (in press).

“The Sandusky Scandal: Penn State Ethics Students Had a Front-Row Seat,” Media Ethics 23 (Spring 2012)


Rob Frieden

Office: 102 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-7996

Email: rmf5@psu.edu

Research Interests:

law, policy and economic aspects of media convergence; universal service and next generation network development; network neutrality; spectrum management

Biography:

Rob Frieden holds the Pioneers Chair in Cable Telecommunications and Law at Penn State University. He is a leading analyst in the field of telecommunications and Internet infrastructure and has authored many comprehensive works on international telecommunications, Internet law and policy, cable television and communications law. Professor Frieden has published over sixty journal articles and several books on various telecommunications topics. In 2010 the Yale University Press published his latest book entitled Winning the Silicon Sweepstakes: Can the United States Compete in Global Telecommunications. Prior to joining Penn State, Professor Frieden served as Deputy Director, International Relations, Motorola Satellite Communications, Inc., where he managed the regulatory and international liaison efforts for Motorola’s IRIDIUM low earth orbiting satellite project. He has held senior level policy making positions in government and worked in the private sector as an attorney. Professor Frieden received a B.A. in Telecommunications from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from the University of Virginia.

Selected Publications:


Rob Frieden, Case Studies in Abandoned Empiricism and the Lack of Peer Review at the Federal Communications Commission, 8 JOURNAL ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS & HIGH TECHNOLOGY LAW 277-312 (2010); available at: http://www.jthtl.org/content/articles/V8I2/JTHTLv8i2_Frieden.PDF

Rob Frieden, Lock Down on the Third Screen: How Wireless Carriers Evade Regulation of Their Video Services, 24 BERKELEY TECHNOLOGY LAW JOURNAL, No. 2 819-849 (Spring, 2009).
Kevin Hagopian

**Office:** 018 Carnegie

**Office Phone:** 865-3071

**Email:** kxh24@psu.edu

**Research Interests:**

Kevin Hagopian’s specialties include film history and theory, American film, African-American film and American studies.

**Biography:**

Kevin Hagopian, Ph.D., designs and teaches courses in film theory and history. He is the former editor of the SUNY Research Foundation’s Film and Television Literature Index. He is also a former Senior Analyst at Kenny and Associates, a national market research firm, and a former faculty member at the University of Memphis, where he taught African-American studies courses. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 2006. He has taught numerous special topics 400-level cinema studies courses at Penn State, including “The African American Cinema and Political Theory,” and “Colonialism/Postcolonialism and the Cinema.”

He recently wrote a textual analysis and cultural history of the Hollywood film industry’s promotion of itself as a conservative cultural education agency in the years 1936-1945, in the wake of the Depression and the Production Code. He is editing, with David Knowlton, a volume on the relationship between pedagogy and student entitlement in higher education. Recent Ph.D. committees he has served on include an analysis of Martin Scorsese’s series *The Blues,* and a study of the cultural geography of recent Puerto Rican cinema. His current research project is on the digital cinema and its relationship to earlier definitions of “film.”

**Selected Publications:**


Michel Haigh

Office: 221 Carnegie
Office Phone: 863-3850
Email: mmh25@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Her research interests involve mass media influence and strategic communication. She employs quantitative methods and a variety of persuasion, social influence, and media theories.

Biography:

Along with more than six years of public relations experience, Haigh has co-authored more than 30 conference presentations, five of which received the “Top Paper” award. She has published more than 25 articles in journals such as Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media, Communication Research, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, and Newspaper Research Journal.

For the past five years, she has been an officer in the Communication Theory & Methodology division of AEJMC serving as the teaching standards chair, the Midwinter meeting research chair, program planner, and chair of the CT&M division from 2011-2012.

Haigh was selected to attend the 2011 Scripps Howard Leadership Academy, which trains the next generation of leaders in journalism and mass communication. In 2012, she was recognized as a Plank Fellow. The fellowship program is sponsored by The Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations at The University of Alabama. The program is designed to introduce professors to the current day-to-day operations of the public relations field.

In 2007, she placed first in the Promising Professors competition coordinated through AEJMC. Haigh was recognized with the Penn State College of Communications Deans’ Excellence Award in Research in 2008, and the Deans’ Excellence Award in Service in 2010.

Selected Publications:

Haigh, M. M., Brubaker, P., & Whiteside, E. Examining how organizations use social networking to bolster relationships and corporate social responsibility. Accepted. Corporate Communications: An International Journal.


Martin Halstuk

Office: 023 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-7990

Email: halstuk@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Dr. Halstuk’s current research focuses on Freedom of Information laws in Eastern Europe and in China.

Biography:

Dr. Martin E. Halstuk teaches courses in Communications Law and in News Reporting. He is Senior Fellow at The Pennsylvania Center for the First Amendment. Previously, he taught at University of Florida, University of Nevada at Las Vegas and University of San Francisco. He worked as a newspaper journalist for 22 years, holding posts such as a copy editor at the Los Angeles Times, night city editor at the San Francisco Examiner and courthouse reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle. Dr. Halstuk received top national awards for his work both as a journalist and for his scholarship in mass media law. His publications on press and public access to government-held information have been cited in lawsuits argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and several federal courts. He has written more than two dozen articles for publications such as William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal, the Columbia Journalism Review and the Los Angeles Times.

Selected Publications:


Marie Hardin

Office: 201 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-1395

Email: mch208@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Gender in media production/culture, issues of diversity and professional practice in sports communication

Biography:

Marie Hardin is associate professor of journalism and associate dean for undergraduate and graduate education in the College of Communications. Hardin also directs research or activities for two centers in the College: the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism and the Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Communication. From 2004 to 2010, she also directed a Dow Jones News Fund training site for top editing students from across the U.S.

Hardin has taught a range of undergraduate and graduate classes, from skills courses such as reporting and editing to conceptual courses focusing on ethical and professional issues in journalism. She has also taught classes in pedagogy, feminist media studies and sports and society at the graduate level. Before completing her Ph.D., she worked as a newspaper reporter and editor; she has also worked as a freelance magazine writer, newsroom consultant and contract public relations writer. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Georgia.

Selected Publications:


Anne Hoag

Office: 105B Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-7084

Email: amh13@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Media entrepreneurship, media economics, telecommunications management, community engagement/service learning, and teaching and learning technologies

Biography:

Anne Hoag, associate professor, teaches and conducts research in the areas of media entrepreneurship, media economics and telecommunications management. She currently teaches two graduate courses, Masters Proseminar in Mass Communications and Pedagogy in Communications. Before joining the Penn State faculty, she was a cable television general manager for TCI, United Artists and Daniels. She also worked in advertising at Leo Burnett in Chicago. Hoag earned a B.A. at the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Selected Publications:


Matthew Jackson

Office: 105 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-6419

Email: mattj@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Intellectual property, communications law, and telecommunications regulation with an emphasis on copyright, free speech and the relationship between law and new technologies

Biography:

Matt Jackson teaches copyright and intellectual property, telecommunications policy, communications law, and media programming strategies at Penn State University. His research focuses on how copyright law shapes communication networks and impacts free speech. He also studies how the First Amendment and other legal issues affect the Internet and other telecommunications industries.


From 2004-2006, Professor Jackson served as chair of the Law and Policy division of the International Communication Association. In 2006, he was a Visiting Senior Lecturer at the University of Otago in New Zealand and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Media and Communications Law at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Selected Publications:


Krishna Jayakar

Office: 007 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-6416

Email: kpj1@psu.edu

Research Interests:

universal broadband policy (recent work on the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, E-Rate, public computing centers, and telecommunications access charges); media economics (international distribution of film and television programs), political economy of copyright

Biography:

Dr. Krishna Jayakar is an associate professor in the Department of Telecommunications, teaching telecommunications management and media economics. His areas of research cover telecommunications policy and media economics, with a special interest in universal access to telecommunications. He is a past head of the Media Management and Economics Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, and currently serves on the boards of editors of The Information Society journal and the Journal of Information Policy. Dr. Jayakar’s research has been supported by grants from the Pacific Telecommunications Foundation, Time Warner Cable, Free Press Foundation, AT&T etc. Before joining academics, Dr. Jayakar was a research officer in India’s Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, drafting research reports and position papers on media policy. Dr. Jayakar received his undergraduate degree in engineering from the Institute of Technology-BHU, India, and masters and PhD from Indiana University, Bloomington. He lives in State College, PA with his wife and two children.

Selected Publications:


Matthew Jordan

Office: 311 Willard

Office Phone: 863-1243

Email: mfj3@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Dr. Jordan’s research explores how popular media forms are used to constitute and reify aspects of personal identity and cultural ideology.

Biography:

Matt Jordan is a critical media scholar who originally hails from Athens, Ohio. His BA at Allegheny College was in History and English. He completed an MA in Modern European Intellectual History at Drew University, and finished his PhD at Claremont Graduate University in European Studies. His work now blends a Frankfurt School critical sensibility with the concerns for power and ideology drawn from British Cultural Studies. He applies an ever-expanding theoretical frame to a myriad of issues haunting the contemporary global media world. His regularly teaches courses on “Qualitative Methodology” and “Culture and Media,” and is looking forward to a new seminar on "Technology and the Cultural Foundation of Communication" in the near future.

Selected Publications:

Le Jazz: Jazz and French Cultural Identity, (University of Illinois Press, 2010).


Ann Marie Major

Office: 105A Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-3069

Email: amm17@psu.edu

Research Interests:

- political communication
- risk communication
- communication in disasters and emergencies
- the role of social media in society

Biography:

Ann Marie Major is an associate professor of communications and the director of The Jimirro Center for the Study of Media Influence at Penn State. She currently works with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board on research projects focusing on public health and education. She recently launched a social media project to gauge college students’ beliefs and perceptions about political issues including health care. She has conducted research in the United States, Canada, Africa, East and South Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East.

Selected Publications:


Polonec, Lindsey D., Major, Ann M., and Atwood, L. Erwin. 2006. Evaluating the Believability and Effectiveness of the Social Norms Message “Most Students Drink 0 to 4 Drinks When They Party,” Health Communication. 20/1: 23-34.

Matt McAllister

Office: 209 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-3322

Email: mattmc@psu.edu

Research Interests:

His research interests include advertising criticism, popular culture, and the political economy of the media.

Biography:

Matthew P. McAllister is Professor of Communications in the Department of Film/Video & Media Studies, and Assistant Graduate Program Chair. He is the author of *The Commercialization of American Culture* (1996, Sage), and the co-editor of *Comics and Ideology* (2001, Peter Lang), *Film and Comic Books* (2007, University Press of Mississippi), *The Advertising and Consumer Culture Reader* (2009, Routledge), and *The Routledge Companion to Advertising and Promotional Culture* (forthcoming). In 2010 he was selected as a Penn State Alumni Teaching Fellow, a university-wide teaching award. He earned a BA and MA in the Department of Communication at Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Selected Publications:


Naomi McCormack

Office: 306 Willard

Office Phone: 863-2282

Email: nem11@psu.edu

Biography:

Naomi McCormack is a filmmaker and visual artist whose works span a diverse range of media and subject matter. She has created theatre, dance and installation and performance art works as well as directing a variety of independent and commissioned film and television projects, both in Canada and the U.S.. Her films have screened in festivals across the U.S., Canada and Europe and been broadcast on Canadian national and cable television. Her work has been the honored with many awards, including an Academy Award for her short film "The Hangman's Bride".

Since moving to Pennsylvania to teach at the College of Communications at Penn State University, McCormack has completed a documentary film on the historical role of women in media research ("Out of the Question: Women, Media and the Art of Inquiry") which is currently being distributed by the Annenberg School for Communications and recently won the Platinum Award at the Houston Worldfest and an Honorable Mention from the Columbus International Film and Video Festival.

Her most recent release film ("Plural") goes back to her roots and combines live action drama and artist's animation in a fictionalized autoethnographical approach to twinship. “Plural” screened recently at the Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto. McCormack is presently working on a new feature screenplay.
Mary Beth Oliver

Office: 210 Carnegie
Office Phone: 863-5552
Email: mbo@psu.edu
Research Interests:
  media effects; entertainment psychology; media and stereotyping; media and emotion

Biography:

Mary Beth Oliver is a distinguished professor at Penn State University in the Department of Film/Video & Media Studies and co-director of the Media Effects Research Lab. Her research in media effects focuses on entertainment psychology and on social cognition and the media. Her recent publications on these topics have appeared in such journals as the *Journal of Communication*, *Human Communication Research*, and *Communication Research*, among others. She is former editor of the journal *Media Psychology*, associated editor of the *Journal of Communication* and *Communication Theory*, and she currently serves on the editorial boards for 13 journals in the field. She is co-editor with Jennings Bryant on *Media Effects: Advances in Theory and Research* (3rd ed.) and with Robin Nabi on *The Sage Handbook of Media Processes and Effects*.

Selected Publications:


Anthony Olorunnisola

Office: 215 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-7997

Email: axo8@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Political, development, international and cross-cultural communications; recently it has focused on media transformations in Africa's transitional democracies and in transitions of persons of African descent

Biography:

Anthony Olorunnisola, BA (Hons), MA (University of Ibadan, Nigeria); PhD (Howard University, has been on the tenure-line faculty since 1996 and has served as head of Film/Video & Media Studies since July 2006. He routinely teaches undergraduate and graduate courses that include Media & Society; World Media Systems; Pedagogy in Communications and; Comparative Theories of Press Systems. A William J. Fulbright alumnus, he has taken editorial initiatives in the last few years by leading colleagues in Africa and the Diasporas to explore issues pertinent to media transformation in Africa and to publish findings in book volumes and special issues of academic journals. Olorunnisola currently serves on the editorial boards of seven U.S. and Africa-based academic journals.

Selected Publications:


Patrick Parsons

Office: 105C Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-5678

Email: pp6@psu.edu

Research Interests:

His particular research interests include cable television history, emerging media technologies and society, media technology and ethics and normative philosophy.

Biography:

Patrick Parsons (Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1984) holds the Don Davis Professorship in Ethics in the College of Communications. He previously served as Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and the Head of the Department of Telecommunications in the College of Communications. Professor Parsons teaches and conducts research in the general areas of media technology and social change, and media ethics and responsibility. He is author of Blue Skies: A History of Cable Television and Cable Television and the First Amendment as well as co-author of The Cable and Satellite Television Industry and co-editor of The Journalist's Moral Compass. His scholarly articles have appeared in Journal of Communication, Journalism Quarterly, the Journal of Mass Media Ethics, Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, and Journal of Advertising, as well as in other books and journals.

Selected Publications:

He is the co-author of "The Cable and Satellite Television Industry." He is also the author of "Cable Television and the First Amendment" and co-editor of "The Journalist's Moral Compass." His scholarly articles have appeared in the Journal of Communication, Journalism Quarterly, the Journal of Mass Media Ethics, the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, and the Journal of Advertising.

His 2008 book, "Blue Skies: A History of Cable Television," garnered the Plcard Award for Top Research Project in the Media Management and Economics Division from the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication. The book has been repeatedly hailed as the definitive history of cable television and an extraordinary achievement.
Robert Richards

Office: 308B James

Office Phone: 863-1900

Email: rdr2@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Contemporary First Amendment issues, including lawsuits aimed at punishing speech on social networks and issues related to free speech in the public schools.

Biography:

Robert D. Richards is the John & Ann Curley Professor of First Amendment Studies and founding director of the Pennsylvania Center for the First Amendment at Penn State. He has worked as a news writer, anchor, reporter, and talk show host for stations in the northeast and for NBC News in New York City. Professor Richards is the co-author of the 2003 book Mass Communications Law in Pennsylvania and is the author of Freedom’s Voice: The Perilous Present and Uncertain Future of the First Amendment (1998) and Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide-Open: Mr. Justice Brennan’s Legacy to the First Amendment (1994), along with more than 150 articles on the First Amendment in the academic and popular press. He appears frequently in the media commenting on First Amendment issues.

At Penn State, he has served as the head of the journalism department and associate dean of the College of Communications. He created and currently directs the Penn State Washington D.C. Program. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in mass communications law and the First Amendment.

Selected Publications:


Ford Risley

Office: 211 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-2181

Email: jfr4@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Civil War-era journalism history and oral history

Biography:

Ford Risley is professor and head of the Department of Journalism. His research centers on Civil War-era journalism history. He is the author of three books, including Civil War Journalism (Praeger, 2012). He also has published articles in American Journalism, Civil War History, Georgia Historical Quarterly, and Journalism History. He is a past president of the American Journalism Historians Association and also served on the association’s board of directors. He also is director of the Penn State Oral History Program. Prior to teaching, he spent 12 years as a reporter and freelance writer for various newspapers. He holds a B.A. from Auburn University, a M.A. from the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida.

Selected Publications:


Michelle Rodino-Colocino

Office: 117 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-2370
Cell phone: (814) 777-6965

Email: michelle@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Media, culture, gender, labor, technology, feminism, race, and class including topics like Anti-feminist feminism, women in politics, mothers and new media, “participant activism” and “geek jeremiads”

Biography:

Michelle Rodino-Colocino is Assistant Professor of Media Studies and Women’s Studies. She teaches courses on media and culture. Her research explores relationships between media, gender, labor, technology, and power. In her classes and research Rodino-Colocino enjoys finding the old in the new and ways to intervene in the problems she studies. Her work has appeared in Communication and Critical-Cultural Studies, Communication, Culture & Critique, Critical Studies in Media Communication, Democratic Communique, Feminist Media Studies, International Journal of Communication, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, New Media & Society, and Workplace: A Journal of Academic Labor. She is Steering Committee Chair of the academic association UDC (Union for Democratic Communication) and is on the editorial board for the new journal Ada: A Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology, published by the editorial collective Fembot, of which she is also a founding member. Rodino-Colocino has received the 2012 Top Paper Award from the Feminist and Women’s Studies Division of the National Communication Association (NCA). Before joining the faculty at Penn State, Rodino-Colocino was a professor at the University of Cincinnati, where she received recognition by ethnic minority honors students for outstanding teaching. Rodino-Colocino received her Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Pittsburgh, her Master’s from Northwestern University, and her B.A. in political science from UCLA.

Selected Publications:


Amit Schejter

Office: 314C Willard

Office Phone: 865-3717

Email: schejter@psu.edu

Research Interests:

1. Media, culture and telecommunications law, policy and regulation
2. International and comparative studies (with an emphasis on Israel)
3. Communications policy and social justice

Biography:

Amit M. Schejter, (Ph.D., Rutgers) is associate professor of communications, co-director of the Institute for Information Policy and co-founding editor of the Journal of Information Policy. He is the author or editor of 3 books (and a fourth forthcoming in 2013) and more than 40 journal articles, law reviews and book chapters in four languages. Dr. Schejter teaches courses on telecommunications and media regulation, law, and policy; on the media and information industries; on comparative media systems; and on media activism. He dedicates much of his time to promote and sustain a dialog between academia and the media advocacy community. Schejter has held in the past senior executive positions in the media and telecommunications industry in Israel, counseled media and telecommunication entities in Israel and the Palestinian Authority and was assistant professor at Tel Aviv University. Professor Schejter is on leave and on faculty at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel.

Selected Publications:


Michael Schmierbach

Office: 217 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-3717

Email: mgs15@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Exploring the ways in which media use and features shape perceptions of media, especially video games and new media

Biography:

Mike Schmierbach earned his MA and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He originally hails from Oregon, where he also worked as a newspaper copy editor. After earning his doctorate in 2004, he taught for three years at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, and since 2007 has been a member of the media studies department at Penn State. He teaches a variety of courses on political communication, research methods and video games at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and is affiliated with the Media Effects Research Lab, though which he works with other faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students on a range of experimental research designs.

Selected Publications:


Richie Sherman

Office: 124 Carnegie
Office Phone: 865-9208
Email: sherman@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Experimental short films, feature narrative and documentary films, cinematography & lighting.

Biography:

Richie Sherman has shot over fifty short films and six independent feature length films, including The Guatemalan Handshake (2006) and the upcoming SquidMan (2012). He is co-director of the feature documentaries From the Black You Make Color (2012) and No.4 Street of Our Lady (2009), which won the Grand Prize for Best Documentary at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, a Silver Telly Award, and the CINE Golden Eagle Award. His short films have been juried into competitive film festivals, including the Kurz International Film Festival in Hamburg, Germany, the Filmstock Film Festival in Luton, U.K., and the Ann Arbor Film Festival in Michigan.

As an artist with a background in photography and printmaking, I use a visually poetic approach in all of my work; broadly, my films could be described as expressionist documentaries. Although my films concern real people and events, their structure is often untraditional. Rather, I use film media to create a visual and auditory experience that conveys the sensory and emotional aspects of the subject matter. Experimental short film dominates my solo work. Concept and content dictate my decision making processes, rendering stylistically individual films. My short experimental work is free of formal restrictions of narrative and conventions often associated with mainstream media. My subjects are frequently grass roots: demolition derbies, shoemakers, and cemeteries. My concepts are emotive: shock, rest, and loss. My techniques are diverse: Super-8mm, 16mm, digital, and animation.

Selected Awards:

Silver Telly Award, 2010
The Accolade, Award of Excellence, 2009
Grand Prize, Best Feature Documentary, Rhode Island International Film Festival, 2009
Special Jury Award, Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, Iowa City, IA, 2009
Silver Palm Award, Mexico International Film Festival, Baja, Mexico, 2009
Ann Arbor Film Festival, Best of Fest Tour, 2008-2009
Director’s Choice Award, Black Maria Film Festival, Jersey City, NJ, 2006
Fuyuan Shen

Office: 022 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-1371

Email: fshen@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Advertising psychology, health and political communication, media effects and persuasion across cultures

Biography:

Fuyuan Shen is an associate professor in the College of Communications. He teaches advertising media, advertising campaigns as well as a graduate seminar in strategic communications.

He applies theories in social psychology and communications in studying the influence of media messages on individuals. He has previously examined the effects of advertisements, health promotion messages, and news frames. His research has appeared in leading journals including Journal of Advertising, Journal of Communication, and Health Communication. He received his PhD degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and joined Penn State in 2001. He also has previously taught at University of South Dakota, and Hong Kong Baptist University.

Selected Publications:


Susan Strohm

Office: 104 Carnegie

Office Phone: 863-0535

Email: sms14@psu.edu

Research Interests:


Biography:

Susan M. Strohm (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.) is a Senior Lecturer in Communications and College of Communications Coordinator for the Schreyer Honors College, Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Strohm teaches in the areas of advertising and public relations ethics, advertising media planning and advertising campaigns. Her research interests include the role of media in social movements, the uses of advertising in social marketing, the development of health communications campaigns, and issues in advertising ethics and advertising education. She has a professional background in marketing research and holds a B.A. (1976) in economics and political science from the University of Wisconsin and a M.A. (1982) and Ph.D. (1989) in Mass Communications from the University of Minnesota. She has taught at the University of Minnesota, the California State University at Fullerton and, since 1985, at the Pennsylvania State University.

Selected Publications:


S. Shyam Sundar

Office: 122 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-2173

Email: sss12@psu.edu

Website: http://comm.psu.edu/people/sss12

Research Interests:

Social and psychological effects of technological elements (such as interactivity) in digital media, from websites to mobile devices to robots. Current research pertains to user agency in personal and social media, psychological aspects (such as privacy) in the user experience of ubiquitous media, persuasive aspects of human-computer interaction, and the strategic use of communication technologies for motivating health actions and promoting wellness.

Biography:

S. Shyam Sundar (PhD, Stanford University) is distinguished professor and founding director of the Media Effects Research Laboratory (http://www.psu.edu/dept/medialab) in the College. Sundar was among the first to publish refereed research on the effects of digital media interfaces in leading communication journals, and has been identified as the most published author of Internet-related research in the field during the medium's first decade. His research is supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Korea Science and Engineering Foundation, MacArthur Foundation and Lockheed Martin Information Systems and Global Services, among others. A frequently cited source on technology, Sundar has testified before the U.S. Congress as an expert witness and delivered talks at universities in several countries. He is associate editor of Human Communication Research and serves on the editorial boards of a dozen other journals. He was elected chair of the Communication & Technology division and Vice-President of the International Communication Association, 2008-2010.

Selected Publications:


Richard Taylor

Office: 314 Willard
Office Phone: 863-1482
Email: rdt4@psu.edu

Research Interests:

Understanding economic, political and social impacts of national information policies in the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific region. Also, videogame industry.

Biography:

Appointed Professor and Palmer Chair in Telecommunications Studies, August 1989. Previously, chief counsel for second-largest U.S. cable TV company. Interested in the metrics of the “Information Society,” using the case of the Asia-Pacific region compared to the U.S. In recent years have travelled regularly to China, and have developed substantial academic and governmental connections. Co-Director of Institute for Information Policy and co-editor, Journal of Information Policy. Currently co-directing series of expert workshops on current U.S. policy issues funded by Ford Foundation. Have chaired multiple graduate student committees for students from the A-P region. Active in leadership roles in related organizations, e.g., the Pacific Telecommunications Counsel. Teach undergraduate courses in electronic commerce issues, videogame industry, interactive media and post-print publishing. Have twice taught graduate seminar on the videogame industry. Doctorate, Mass Communications, Columbia University; Law Degree, New York University. Member, New York State Bar Association; Federal Communications Bar Association.

Selected Publications:


Bu Zhong

Office: 223 Carnegie

Office Phone: 865-1023

Email: zhongbu@psu.edu

Research Interests:

His research concentrates on decision making in information flow and media use, including impacts of social media.

Biography:

Bu Zhong (Ph.D., University of Maryland) is an associate professor of communications, senior research fellow of the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism, faculty affiliate of the Media Effects Research Lab, and faculty member of the ICT4D Consortium at Penn State. His research concentrates on decision making in information flow and media use, including impacts of social media. Most of his research projects address decision making by constructing axiomatic models that describe media effects at work in particular circumstances or cultures that prescribe appropriate actions. Special attention has been paid to research projects with practical implications. His research has been published in *Journal of Communication, Computers in Human Behavior, Journalism and Mass Communication Educator, Newspaper Research Journal, American Behavioral Scientist* and *International Journal of Sports Communication*.

Selected Publications:


Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures
College of Communications

POLICY

On August 29, 2000, the Council of Academic Deans adopted “A Statement on Academic Integrity at Penn State,” stating:

> Academic integrity mandates the pursuit of teaching, learning, research, and creative activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. An academic community that values integrity promotes the highest levels of personal honesty, respect for the rights, property, and dignity of others, and fosters an environment in which students and scholars can enjoy the fruits of their efforts. Academic integrity includes a commitment neither to engage in acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception, nor to tolerate such acts by other members of the community.

> Academic integrity is a fundamental value at Penn State. It must be at the heart of all our endeavors and must guide our actions every day as students and as members of the faculty, administration, and staff. Because we expect new and continuing members of the University community to meet the high standards that are the foundation of a Penn State education, this message must be clear and reinforced frequently.

The College of Communications, in agreement with these principles, seeks to foster an environment of academic trust and integrity within its student body. Consistent with Senate Policy 49-20, the College shall establish a Committee on Academic Integrity to be comprised as follows: Three faculty members (at least one tenured member with graduate faculty status who will serve as Chair) appointed by the Dean; two students chosen by the Dean from a list of nominees provided by the College; and a Department Head from within the College. The Associate Dean will provide administrative support. The faculty members shall serve two-year terms. The student members may be appointed for one or two years and should be declared majors within the College.

The Committee is charged to develop and maintain a statement of principles of academic integrity suitable for inclusion in course syllabi and consistent with Senate and administrative policies. The faculty shall be asked to include that statement of academic integrity in all course syllabi and review that policy with students during the first week of classes.

The Chair of the Committee (or designate) shall participate in all orientation programs held for new students at the beginning of each semester to review the academic integrity policies and procedures.

The Associate Dean shall ensure that all full-time and part-time faculty members are informed of the College’s statement on academic integrity and that the statement and associated policy are part of the faculty orientation and faculty development procedures.

The Committee shall hear all cases involving violations of academic integrity formally brought to its attention. The starting point for all such cases is the faculty member bringing the charge. To formally process the complaint, the faculty member shall notify the Coordinator of Undergraduate Education in the office of the Associate Dean. The Associate Dean shall convene the Committee once a formal complaint has been contested.
The process for adjudicating a formal complaint shall be as follows:

A. When Academic Dishonesty is Suspected

(1) The faculty member must communicate the specifics of the charge to the student, while taking into account the need to respect each student’s privacy and the goal of maintaining an environment that supports teaching and learning;

(2) The faculty member must explain to the student the specific academic integrity policies at issue;

(3) The faculty member may provide a cooling-off period after presenting a student with the allegation that she or he violated academic integrity;

(4) The student must be provided an opportunity to explain the conduct or respond to the faculty member’s charge;

(5) The faculty member must convey to the student the action to be taken (reduction in assigned grade, reduction in course grade, etc.) and ask the student to sign the College’s Academic Integrity Disposition Form;

(6) The faculty member must explain the options to the student (i.e., accept or contest the charges) and sanction.

(7) It is preferable that the faculty member and student meet to discuss the charges, relevant academic integrity policies, proposed disciplinary action and student options. When circumstances prohibit such a meeting, however, the instructor may communicate the relevant information by email to the student’s PSU access account.

(8) Following the faculty student meeting or email communication, the student will have five business days to respond and to sign the Academic Integrity Disposition Form, accepting or contesting the charges and sanction(s). If the student fails to sign the form within that time period, the process will move forward as if the student had accepted responsibility for the allegation.

B. If the Student Accepts Responsibility for the Violation and the Proposed Academic Sanction

(1) If the student accepts the charges and the faculty member’s sanction or fails to respond within the allotted time period, the Disposition Form will be considered complete, and will be delivered to the Coordinator for Undergraduate Education for transmittal to the Office of Student Conduct. This closes the academic sanction element of the case;
(2) In all cases, before submitting the Academic Integrity Form to the Office of Student Conduct for recording, it is the responsibility of the Office of the Associate Dean to determine through consultation with Student Conduct if the student has prior academic integrity violations.

(3) If a prior recorded violation is discovered after the Form has been submitted to the Coordinator for Undergraduate Education, a new academic sanction may be considered. Information concerning prior academic misconduct may not be used as a basis for judging a student’s guilt, but it may be used as a basis for imposing additional academic sanctions or deciding whether disciplinary action is also warranted.

(4) The faculty member may opt to pursue disciplinary action in conjunction with the College Academic Integrity Committee and the Office of Student Conduct.

(5) Throughout the academic integrity process, grading authority remains the responsibility of the instructor.

C. If the Student Does Not Admit Responsibility for an Academic Integrity Violation

(1) If the student contests the charges and/or academic sanction(s), then the faculty member forwards the case to the Academic Integrity Committee, which shall be convened to hold a hearing on the charges;

(2) Bringing the case is the responsibility of the instructor of record. If the charges are based in whole or in part on evidence or reports provided by a teaching assistant, the instructor must have reviewed the evidence or report and be willing to personally stand behind it, and it becomes part of his or her case;

(3) The student shall have the right to at least ten days notice of the hearing. The student shall have the right to appear before the Committee to contest the charges and/or to provide additional relevant information. Such information must be submitted to the Committee at least five business days in advance of the hearing. The student will have the right to be accompanied by an advisor; to examine all relevant documents; to take notes; and to be heard in response to witnesses or evidence presented;

(4) The student may waive his or her right to attend the hearing, in which case the Committee may proceed with an administrative review based on the written record, including submissions by the student, to reach a conclusion;

(5) The faculty member shall have the right to appear before the Committee to discuss the charge.

(6) In reaching its conclusion with respect to a violation, the Committee shall be guided by the standard of clear and convincing evidence;

(7) The Committee will reach its conclusion and issue its report within ten days of the conclusion of the hearing and the submission of all relevant evidence;

(8) The student may at any time during this process revoke his or her decision to contest the allegation and accept the academic sanction imposed by the instructor, at which time the hearing process will terminate;
(9) The Committee may concur in the academic sanction proposed by the instructor or it may suggest a different sanction. In case of the latter, the Committee may meet with the instructor to discuss its suggestion. If the Committee does not find sufficient evidence to support the allegation of a violation of academic integrity, it shall recommend that no sanction be applied.

(10) The results of that hearing (and any sanction imposed) shall be reported to the Associate Dean who will, in turn, transmit the information to the Office of Student Conduct.

D. Disciplinary Sanctions and the “XF” Grade

(1) In any instance in which the instructor believes disciplinary sanctions are warranted, and whether or not the student has admitted responsibility, the case is forwarded to the College Academic Integrity Committee for administrative review and determination of possible academic sanctions. The case then is forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate fact finding and judgment and possible disciplinary action, including the XF grade;

(2) An “XF” grade is a formal University disciplinary sanction;

(3) “XF” sanctions are only recorded with the concurrence of the instructor, the College Academic Integrity Committee, and the Office of Student Conduct. Reliance on the “XF” should be a rare occurrence and reserved for the most serious breaches of academic integrity;

(4) If an “XF” grade has been given and placed on the student’s permanent transcript, the student may subsequently appeal to the Committee for its removal (and replacement with an academic “F”) based on additional information not reasonably available to be provided at the original hearing. The Committee will receive and review such information, and will forward it to the Office of Student Conduct with its recommendation.

Nothing in this Policy or Procedure shall be contrary to the policies and procedures outlined in Research Administration Policy RA-10 or Administrative Policy AD-47 which set forth statement of general standards of professional ethics within the academic community, and which provide procedures to follow in cases of alleged misconduct in research or other scholarly activities that are normally handled through research administration channels.

College of Communications
Adopted Language on Academic Integrity
For College of Communications’ Syllabi

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly and creative activity in an open, honest and responsible manner, free from fraud and deception, and is an educational objective of the College of Communications and the University. Cheating, including plagiarism, falsification of research data, using the same assignment for more than one class, turning in someone else’s work, or passively allowing others to copy your work, will result in academic penalties at the discretion of the instructor. In serious
cases it could also result in suspension or dismissal from the university or in the grade of “XF” (failed for academic dishonesty) being put on your permanent transcript.

As students studying communication, you should understand and avoid plagiarism (presenting the work of others as your own). A discussion of plagiarism, with examples, can be found at:

http://tlt.its.psu.edu/suggestions/cyberplag/cyberplagexamples.html

The rules and policies regarding academic integrity should be reviewed by every student, and can be found online at: www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/47-00.html#49-20, and in the College of Communications document, “Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures.” Any student with a question about academic integrity or plagiarism is strongly encouraged to discuss it with his or her instructor.

Updated August 2012
College of the Communications
IT Equipment and Support Guidelines

1. Only authorized individuals who have signed and submitted the College of Communications Access and Security Agreement may use university-owned equipment.

2. Full-time faculty and staff will have the exclusive use of one laptop or desktop computer. Part-time faculty and staff and graduate assistants will have access to a small pool of communal machines.

3. The authorized user of an individual machine must have a unique account, userID and password.

4. College-owned equipment may be connected only to the college’s wired network. No personally owned equipment may be physically connected to university data wires in College of Communications Buildings. The College of Communications accepts no responsibility for any machine connected to a “Guest” wireless network.

5. All equipment and software purchases require consultation with the IT office and consent from the department head and associate dean prior to purchase.

6. Purchase of additional computer equipment with research funds will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the department head and associate dean, or their designates.

7. All university-owned desktop equipment must be brought to the user’s on-campus location for service, repairs, etc. All university-owned laptops must be brought to the IT office for service and repairs.

8. An authorized user wanting to take university-owned IT equipment off campus must receive advance written approval by the IT office.

9. IT support will not be provided for personally owned equipment or for personally installed applications.

10. IT support will not be provided for equipment over six years old. Once a machine is six years old, with the approval of the IT office, the authorized user may purchase the decommissioned machine at a fair price determined by University Salvage Operations.

11. Administrative and root privileges on College-owned equipment will be limited to senior IT employees. Special security measures will be implemented on all laptops to protect university data.

6/4/2009
College of Communications  
IT Access and Security Agreement

All faculty, staff and other employees and affiliates of the College of Communications who need access to network resources and IT equipment must agree to abide by Penn State University and College of Communications polices. The HR Director will keep a copy of this signed “Access and Security Agreement” on file for all authorized users.

Terms of the Agreement:
- The authorized user must read, understand and agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the following policies and guidelines:
  - College of Communications IT Equipment and Support Guidelines (attached)
  - ADG-1: Glossary of Computer Data and System Terminology
  - ADG-2: Computer Facility Security Guideline
  - AD-11: Confidentiality of Student Records
  - AD-20: Computer and Network Security
  - AD-23: Use of Institutional Data

ADG and AD policies may be accessed on-line in the University Policy Manual:
http://guru.psu.edu/policies/

In particular, the authorized user who signs below:
- agrees that use of Penn State computers and network resources for private or profit-making enterprises is not permitted.
- will not share any account passwords, nor allow another user to access a computer under his/her credentials.
- will adhere to secure password criteria and request semi-annual password changes for each account.
- will not attempt to obtain or view any electronic institutional data that is not intended for use in her/his job function.
- will not install, modify or remove any hardware or software on the College network or on any College computer without the prior consent of the IT office.
- will not introduce malicious code into departmental computer systems, either as a result of willful intent or as a result of the employee's unsafe electronic mail practices.
- understands that use of the College of Communication network account constitutes his/her continued agreement with the conditions set forth above.
- understands that violation of computer policies may result in the immediate suspension of College of Communication network and computer privileges and further disciplinary action.

I will abide by the conditions stated in this agreement:

________________________       ______________
Signature                        Date

______________________________  ________________________
Print Full Name                   E-mail Address

6/4/2009
APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY
COMM 596

Normally COMM 596 should not be used for work directly related to thesis research and writing. 600-level credits should be used for that purpose.

One copy of this form is required. An approved copy will be returned to the student. The original will be placed in student's file in 201 Carnegie

In consultation with you proposed faculty mentor, you should include a description of the proposed study including:

- Main topic(s) to be covered
- Relevant research to be reviewed
- The primary objective of the study and its relationship to your overall program of study
- The nature of the scholarly work you are expected to do (will there be a paper, a project, a detailed literature review, and experiment etc.)
- How will your work be assessed?

You must receive approval from your faculty mentor and the graduate dean before you begin an independent study project. Once approved, you will automatically be registered. In most cases this means that you should seek approval one semester prior to the semester in which you do the work.

Student Name

Student Number

Semester of Independent Study

Date

Topics of Independent Study Project:

Number of credits proposed for the project or course

Name of faculty supervisor

Ordinarily, each independent study project or course will carry 1-3 credits at the discretion of the professor. No more than SIX credits of independent studies may be used in any student's program of study.

Approval: ___________________________ Date: ________

Independent Study supervisor

Approval: ___________________________ Date: ________

Advisor/Chair

Approval: ___________________________ Date: ________

Associate Dean

Date registration entered: ___________________________
Doctoral Student Annual Assessment
The College of Communications

Indicate the date completed or expected to be completed

CANDIDACY:
DEGREE PROGRAM PLAN:
COMPREHENSIVE WRITTEN & ORAL EXAM:
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL:
FINAL DISSERTATION DEFENSE

Evaluation of academic progress and performance
Is the graduate student making normal academic progress in completing degree requirements? (Student transcripts are available to advisors on eLion or in hard copy from the College’s Graduate Office)

- YES □
- NO (IF NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN) □

Please assess the quality of the graduate student’s academic performance to date:

- SUPERIOR □
- VERY GOOD □
- SATISFACTORY □
- UNSATISFACTORY □
- INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION □ (Please use this response only for the first-year assessment.)

What courses is the graduate student prepared to teach, based on his or her content expertise? (Please feel free to list any undergraduate course offered by the College, although some may not be available to graduate students during any given semester).

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
How would you assess the graduate student's written and oral English language skills in terms of suitability to teach in the undergraduate classroom?

| EXCELLENT: | □ |
| VERY GOOD | □ |
| GOOD | □ |
| POOR | □ |
| VERY POOR | □ |

Other comments by advisor/chair:

Comments by the graduate student in response to this assessment:

Signatures

Advisor/Chair __________________________ Date ______________

Graduate Student __________________________ Date ______________

Assoc. Dean for Graduate Studies and Research __________________________ Date ______________
College of Communications Graduate Program
The Pennsylvania State University

Ph.D. Candidacy Examination and Program Meeting

See "Guidelines for the Candidacy Exam" under "Doctoral Policies and Procedures" in the College of Communications Handbook for Graduate Students and Faculty.

Candidate: ________________________________ Date of Oral Candidacy and Program meeting: __________________________

1. Candidacy Exam

___ Recommend student for advancement to doctoral candidate status

___ Do not recommend student for advancement to doctoral candidate status
Reason: ________________________________

___ Recommend student for advancement to doctoral candidate status upon fulfillment of the following additional requirements:

2. Program Plan

___ The candidate's attached program plan has been approved by the undersigned members of the committee.

3. English Competence

___ The student demonstrates a high-level competence in the use of the English language (both written and oral)

___ The student did not demonstrate a high-level English language competence and remediation is recommended. This may be a basis for conditional admission into candidacy in 1 above.

Undergraduate courses in the College the candidate should be prepared to teach

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

__________________________ List the areas for comprehensive examination and responsible faculty member ____________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Committee Members: Name Signature

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Ph.D. MASSC
Dissertation Proposal

Name of Candidate: _________________________________ Date: __________

Title of proposed dissertation: _________________________________

Committee Decision:

___ The dissertation proposal has met the approval of the committee.

___ The dissertation proposal has **not** met the approval of the committee.

If not approved, recommendation for revision:

Committee Signature:

Chair: __________________________

Adviser: _________________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

Comments:

Please attach a copy of the approved proposal.
M.A. Media Studies
Program Proposal
(Deadline: immediately after completion of 9-12 credits, early in second semester)

Student Name: __________________________  Student Number: __________________________

Date of Proposal Meeting: ______________  Date Student Started Program: ______

Student's Committee
Names: __________________________

Signatures: __________________________

________________________, Chair

________________________, Thesis Supervisor
(if not Chair)

________________________

________________________

Schedule of courses approved by committee:

Required:  COMM 506 _________  and/or  COMM511 _________

COMM 515 _________  COMM 590 _________

Supporting Courses (please indicate course, credits and semester courses are to be taken).
Any change in proposal requires approval in writing by the committee chair.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMM 600 (Thesis)

(NEXT PAGE)
Evaluation of Academic Progress and Performance

Is the graduate student making normal academic progress in completing degree requirements? (Student transcripts are available to advisors on eLion or in hard copy from the Graduate Staff Assistant)

___ Yes
___ No

Please assess the quality of the graduate student's academic performance to date.

___ Superior
___ Above Average
___ Average
___ Below Average
___ Unsatisfactory

Additional assessment by the chair
M.A. Media Studies
Thesis Proposal
(Deadline: End of Second Semester of Study)

Student Name:  ________________________  Student Number:  ____________

Date of Thesis Proposal Meeting:  ______  Date Student Started Program:  ____

Student’s Committee
Names  Signatures

______________________, Chair  ______________________

______________________, Thesis Supervisor (if not Chair)  ______________________

_______________________  ______________________

_______________________  ______________________

_______________________  ______________________

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE APPROVED PROPOSAL.

Committee Decision

______  The thesis Proposal has met the approval of the committee

______  The thesis proposal has not met the approval of the committee.

If not approved, recommendation for revision:

(NEXT PAGE)
Evaluation of Academic Progress and Performance

Is the graduate student making normal academic progress in completing degree requirements? (Student transcripts are available to advisers on eLion or in hard copy from the Graduate Staff Assistant)

__ Yes

__ No

Please assess the quality of the graduate student's academic performance to date.

__ Superior

__ Above Average

__ Average

__ Below Average

__ Unsatisfactory

Additional assessment by the chair
M.A. Media Studies  
Oral Examination for the Master of Arts Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Student Number:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Oral Exam:</th>
<th>Date Student Started Program:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis Title:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student's Committee Names</th>
<th>Signatures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________________________</td>
<td>___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________________________</td>
<td>___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________________________</td>
<td>___________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee Decision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passed (unanimous decision)</th>
<th>Failed (unanimous decision)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passed (divided decision)</th>
<th>Failed (divided decision)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendation in case of failure on this examination:

Comments:

Judgment of the committee concerning this candidate’s ability to work on a doctoral degree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Encourage</th>
<th>Take on a trial basis</th>
<th>Do no permit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>