

College of Communications

Ph.D. Mass Communications Program Plan

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Date of Meeting: _____

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)

Other ethics and professional responsibility education

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, at least 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:

_____	_____
_____	_____

Coursework in related areas:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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. Courses in Communications may not be used to fulfill this requirement. 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 determined by 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 which are members from the College of Communications faculty and at least one outside member. 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 place 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 3 weeks in advance.

Enter the actual or expected dates for these required meetings:

Candidacy Evaluation: _____

Comprehensive Oral Exam: _____

Dissertation Proposal: _____

Final Oral Defense: _____

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:
