



University Bulletin

Undergraduate Degree Programs

Media Studies

University Park, College of Communications (MEDIA)

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This major is designed for students who want to pursue an academic rather than professional program of media studies. Students are exposed first to the breadth of approaches to understanding the mass media (e.g., aesthetic, humanistic, social-behavioral, legal policy) and then, by selecting one of five options, go into depth in a specialized area of media studies. All options within the major are closely intertwined with the liberal arts and sciences. Therefore, students who successfully complete this major must have a strong foundation in the liberal arts and well-developed language and analytical skills. That foundation should include courses such as ART H 100 GA(3), ECON 002 GS(3), HIST 002 GH(3), PSYCH 110 GS(3), and SOC 001 GS(3).

The following five options are offered:

FILM AND TELEVISION STUDIES OPTION: This option is designed for students interested in studying the art, history, and criticism of film and television. Electives offer students the opportunity to pursue a related field, such as art, art history, creative writing, speech communication, or theatre arts. This option merges aesthetics and social sciences and is appropriate for those seeking a more theoretical/critical approach to the study of film and video.

GENERAL OPTION: In this option, a student and faculty adviser work together to tailor a program of courses to meet the student's individual interest in a coherent theme in media studies. These courses are usually selected in tandem with a minor or other supporting cluster of non-major courses in the area of specialization. Examples of themes include, but are not limited to, communication and the environment, communication and health campaigns, sports and the media, minorities and the media, and gender and the media. A minor in an area of specialization is encouraged.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OPTION: This option is designed for students who want to study the mass media systems of the world and their role in international affairs. The option offers students an opportunity to enhance their occupational opportunities in international business, organizations, or government and to be better prepared to participate in the world community. Students must select either a University-approved minor in a foreign language or area/international studies, a University-approved education abroad program, or other international related courses or programs with prior departmental approval.

MEDIA EFFECTS OPTION:

This option focuses on the social and psychological effects of media messages and technologies. Students progress through a general introduction to problems and issues, such as the effects of televised sex and violence, to courses that emphasize more theoretical approaches and advanced applications. A minor in a complementary area of

study, such as Psychology or Sociology, is encouraged.

MEDIA LAW AND POLICY OPTION:

Students in this option focus on the societal constraints and compulsion on the media, primarily in a U.S. domestic context. Areas of study include First Amendment law, regulation of the media - especially the electronic media - and policy issues and process. The option is preparation for those who intend to go to law school or other graduate programs or who will seek policy positions in business, government or non-profits.

Students must select at least 80 credits in courses outside the College of Communications, including at least 65 in the liberal arts and sciences.

For the B.A. degree in Media Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required.

Scheduling Recommendation by Semester Standing given like (Sem: 1-2)

GENERAL EDUCATION: 45 credits
(See description of General Education in this bulletin.)

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR:
(Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selection)

UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES:
(Included in ELECTIVES, GENERAL EDUCATION course selection, or REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:
(Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

ELECTIVES: 6-18 credits

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: 24 credits
(3 of these 24 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR, GENERAL EDUCATION, or ELECTIVES and 0-12 credits are included in ELECTIVES if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.)
(See description of Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements in this bulletin.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR: 33-45 credits [\[1\]\(#mnote01\)](#)

COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (ALL OPTIONS): 15 credits

PRESCRIBED COURSES (15 credits)
COMM 100 GS(3), COMM 304(3), COMM 405(3), COMM 411(3), COMM 413(3) (Sem: 5-8)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPTION: 18-30 credits

FILM AND TELEVISION STUDIES OPTION: (21 credits)

PRESCRIBED COURSES (9 credits)
COMM 150 GA(3), COMM 242(3), COMM 250 GA(3) (Sem: 3-4)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (12 credits)
Select 9 credits from COMM 451(3), COMM 452(3), COMM 453 IL(3), COMM 454(3), COMM 455(3), COMM 495(1-3), or COMM 496(1-18) (Sem: 5-8)
Select 3 credits from AM ST 491W(3-6), CAS 415(3), CAS 438(3), CMLIT 153 GH;IL(3), ENGL 403(3), FR 138 GH(3), FR 487 IL(3), FR 488 IL(3), FR 489 IL(3), GER 489(3), IT 475(3), JAPNS 453 IL(3-6) (Sem: 5-8)

GENERAL OPTION: (18 credits)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (18 credits)

Select 3 credits from COMM 110 GH(3), COMM 118 GS(3), COMM 150 GA(3), or COMM 205 US(3) (Sem: 3-4)

Select 15 credits in communication theory from COMM 118 GS(3), COMM 150 GA(3), COMM 180(3), COMM 205 US(3), COMM 250 GA(3), COMM 320(3), COMM 370(3), COMM 401(3), COMM 403(3), COMM 407(3), COMM 408(3), COMM 409(3), COMM 410 IL(3), COMM 417(3), COMM 418(3), COMM 419 US;IL(3), COMM 451(3), COMM 452(3), COMM 453 IL(3), COMM 454(3), COMM 455(3) [At least 9 credits must be at the 400 level] (Sem: 5-8)

A minor in an area of specialization is encouraged.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OPTION: (21-30 credits)**PRESCRIBED COURSES** (9 credits)

COMM 110 GH(3), COMM 410 IL(3), COMM 419 US;IL(3) (Sem: 5-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (3 credits)

Select 3 credits from COMM 118 GS(3), COMM 150 GA(3), or COMM 205 US(3) (Sem:3-4)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (9-18 credits)

Select at least one of the following for a minimum of 9 credits and a maximum of 18 credits, no more than 9 credits in COMM. (Sem: 1-8)

University approved minor in foreign language or area of International studies

University approved education abroad program

Other international related courses or programs with prior Departmental approval

More than one of the above is strongly recommended.

MEDIA EFFECTS OPTION: 21 credits**PRESCRIBED COURSES** (9 credits)

COMM 118 GS(3), COMM 418(3), PSYCH 110 GS(3)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (6 credits)

Select 3 credits from COMM 110 GH(3), COMM 150 GA(3) or COMM 205 US(3) (Sem:3-4)

Select 3 credits from PSYCH 221 GS(3) or PSYCH 256 GS(3)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (6 credits)

Select 3 credits in research methods from an approved department list (Sem: 1-8)

Select 3 credits of philosophy of science from an approved department list (Sem: 1-8)

A minor in a complementary area of study is encouraged (e.g. Psychology or Sociology) (Sem: 1-8)

MEDIA LAW AND POLICY OPTION: 21 credits**PRESCRIBED COURSES** (9 credits)

COMM 110 GH(3), COMM 180 GS(3), COMM 403(3) (Sem: 3-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (12 credits)

Select 3 credits from COMM 118 GS(3), COMM 150 GA(3), or COMM 205 US(3) (Sem:3-4)

Select 3 credits from: COMM 381(3), COMM 491(3), COMM 492(3)

Select 6 credits from one of the following a, b, or c:

- a. PL SC 001 GS(3) and 3 credits from PL SC 470W(3), PL SC 471(3), PL SC 472(3), PL SC 473(3), PL SC 474(3), or
- b. Select 3 credits from SOC 005 GS(3), SOC 012 GS(3), SOC 013 GS(3), and 3 credits from SOC 412(3), SOC 413(3), SOC 414(3), SOC 416 US(3), SOC 467(3) or
- c. Select 6 credits from HIST 449 US(3), HIST 450 US(3), PHIL 012 GQ(3), PHIL 105 GH(3), PHIL 108 GH(3), PHIL 408(3).

The Law and Liberal Arts Minor is strongly encouraged. Double counting minor with major requirements is permitted (9-18 credits) (Sem: 1-8)

Integrated B.A./M.A. in Media Studies

The College of Communications offers academically qualified students enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts program in the College of Communications the opportunity to earn both the B.A. and the M.A. upon completion of five years of study. The Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Program in Media Studies would facilitate 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 would accelerate and enhance undergraduate students' appreciation for graduate level scholarship by involving them in the seminars, research activities and the scholarly discourse of the College's community of Masters and Doctoral-level scholars.

For the IUG Media Studies B.A./M.A. degree, a minimum of 120 credits are required for the B.A. and 36 credits for the M.A. Twelve graduate level credits, in consultation with the adviser, can apply to both the B.A. and M.A. degrees. Six of these must be at the 500 level.

If for any reason a student admitted to the BA/MA program is unable to complete the requirements for the Master of Arts degree program in Media Studies, the student will be permitted to receive the BA degree assuming all degree requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

Application Process and Admissions Requirements

Applicants must complete 6 credits from the following lists of courses with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in order to be admitted: 3 credits from COMM 100, COMM 150, COMM 180, COMM 320, or COMM 370 and 3 credits from COMM 205, COMM 250, COMM 381, COMM 401, COMM 403, COMM 404, COMM 405, COMM 407, COMM 408, COMM 409, COMM 410, COMM 411, COMM 413, COMM 417, COMM 418, COMM 419, COMM 451, COMM 452, COMM 453, COMM 454, COMM 455, COMM 484, or COMM 485. The minimum overall GPA required of applicants is 3.2. Admission to the program is based on the evaluation of the student's transcript, examples of completed writing and research projects, a narrative statement of objectives, and two letters of support from faculty with whom they have worked. One faculty member must be from the College of Communications. Students are expected to apply after completing 60 credits but before the completion of 100 credits. Candidates are expected to present records of outstanding scholarly achievement to qualify. Applications will be reviewed by the appropriate subset of members of the Graduate Committee of the College.

Applicants to the integrated program:

1. Must be enrolled in a B.A. program in the College of Communications.
2. Must have completed 60 credits of the undergraduate degree program. (It is

- recommended that students apply prior to completing 100 credits.)
3. Must provide a narrative statement of objectives and two letters of endorsement from faculty with whom they have worked. One faculty member must be from the College of Communications.
 4. Must present an approved plan of study in the application process.

Program of Study

The Integrated B.A./M.A. degree in Media Studies is an academic program that involves students in the systematic study of media. The objective of the course of study is to enable students to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the systems, networks, cultures, and information associated with media. The program prepares students for doctoral study in communications and for professional positions in business and government requiring a comprehensive understanding of the historical, social, and political implications of the media. This program helps prepare students to organize research projects, critically evaluate research reports, and directly influence media practices by the application of research findings. The program is specifically not intended for advanced professional education.

Undergraduate tuition rates will apply as long as the student is in undergraduate status, unless the student receives financial support, such as an assistantship requiring the payment of graduate tuition.

Degree Requirements

For the IUG Media Studies M.A. degree, a minimum of 120 credits are required for the B.A. and 36 credits for the M.A. At least 18 of the required 36 credits must be at the 500 level. Twelve graduate level credits, in consultation with the adviser, can apply to both the B.A. and M.A. degrees. Six of these double-counted credits must be at the 500 level. A minimum of 12 credits of coursework, as opposed to research credits, must be completed in Communications. COMM 515 and COMM 506 or COMM 511 are required. IUG students will prepare a thesis proposal in consultation with their advisers and are required to present the final thesis in a formal oral defense meeting to a committee of at least 3 members of graduate faculty, two of whom must be members of the College faculty. It is encouraged that one member of the committee be from outside the College.

[1] A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

Last Revised by the Department: Summer Session 2008 (MEDIA); Summer Session 2005 (Integrated B.A./M.A.)

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UCA Revision #1: 8/20/06

UCA Revision #2: 7/30/07

Department head updated by Publications: 1/16/07

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This is the official bulletin of The Pennsylvania State University. Programmatic expectations for General Education are those in effect at the time of admission to degree candidacy, and college and major requirements are those in effect at the time of entry to college and major. These are accurately indicated in each student's degree audit.

The University reserves the right to change the requirements and regulations listed here and to determine whether a student has satisfactorily met its requirements for admission or graduation, and to reject any applicant for any reason the University determines to be material to the applicant's qualifications to pursue higher education. Nothing in this material should be considered a guarantee that completion of a program and graduation from the University will result in employment.

The University Faculty Senate has responsibility for and authority over all academic information contained in the Undergraduate Bulletin.