DONALD P. BELLISARIO
COLLEGE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

About the College
Marie Hardin, Dean, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications

The Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications provides the
opportunities and resources of a large university with the personalized
feel and support of a small school. As the largest accredited program
of its kind in the nation, students can find numerous opportunities to
fit in and succeed. The Bellisario College uses a proven approach to
help students prepare for success. An emphasis on the combination
of classroom instruction, campus media opportunities and career
preparation represents the core of our educational philosophy. Faculty
members blend strong academic and professional backgrounds and
possess a commitment to excellence in teaching. In skills classes and
internships, students use state-of-the-art technology to gain hands-on
experience on their way to becoming the next generation of great digital
storytellers.

The Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications offers an M.A.
(Master of Arts) in media studies, a joint degree offering with Penn State
Law (J.D./M.A.), an integrated B.A./M.A. in media studies, an M.P.S.
(Master of Professional Studies) in strategic communications, and Ph.D.
in mass communications. As graduate programs that use the resources
of the entire Bellisario College, our curriculum allows students to design
a program of study tailored to their interests, choosing from an array of
classes each semester that explore theory and cutting-edge research
methods in mass communication.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGE (http://bellisario.psu.edu/about)

Mission and Goals

The mission of the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications is to
prepare students to take their place in an information-rich society and in
the professions as active, critical and ethical participants. We promote
effective, responsible use of communications media and technologies by
individuals, organizations, industries and government.

Offering both a thesis and non-thesis option, the M.A. program prepares
students for doctoral study in mass communications and for professional
positions in business and government requiring a comprehensive
understanding of the historical, social and political implications of
the media in society and advanced research skills to critically evaluate
the processes and effects 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.

For academically qualified students enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts
program in the College of Communications, there is the opportunity to
earn both the B.A. and the M.A. upon completion of five years of study.
The Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (I.U.G.) 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 for graduate level scholarship by involving them
in the seminars, research activities, and the scholarly discourse of the
college’s community of master’s- and doctoral-level scholars.

Penn State Law (PSL) and the Donald P. Bellisario College of
Communications (COMM) offer a joint degree program leading to a Juris
Doctor (J.D.) and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Media Studies. In combining
the J.D. in the School of Law with an M.A. in Media Studies, enrolled
students would earn the two degrees in less time than taking them
separately, and would integrate the credentials of the two degrees as
well as the research skills and media-specific knowledge in the College
of Communications with the legal expertise offered by a J.D. in the Penn
State Law. The program will credential students who wish to pursue
legal careers in media law or in areas of law in which media and/or
communication industries are a significant component in a field related to
legal aspects of the media and communications industries.

The online M.P.S. in Strategic Communications explores the importance
of messaging. In this 30-credit degree program, you will learn the
methods and practices used to conduct effective research in examining
practical and theoretical questions in strategic communications.
Course material in collecting, analyzing, and utilizing audience data for
digital media are highlighted in this degree designed with the future of
communications in mind.

The Ph.D. program in Mass Communications preparea graduates for entry
into college and university teaching and research and for a variety of
communications-related professions. Doctoral education in the Bellisario
College of Communications is committee-driven and highly flexible and
emphasizes the cultivation of research skills leading to the development
and implementation of innovative and impactful research on mediated
communication.

MORE INFORMATION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/about/plans-reports)

Accreditation

The Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications is evaluated regularly
by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass
Communications and has consistently met the high standards of the
Council. For undergraduate students, accreditation most practically
means that most upper-level professional classes are small, the College
uses the latest in technology, and provides outstanding student service.

MORE INFORMATION (http://www.aejmc.org)

Departments and Schools

The M.A., I.U.G., J.D./M.A. and Ph.D. in the Bellisario College of
Communications draw from the faculty of all four departments. The
M.P.S. in strategic communications is housed in the Department of
Advertising and Public Relations

Department of Advertising/Public Relations

Faculty in this department research the effectiveness and social
implications of strategic communication, from both quantitative and
qualitative perspectives. The M.P.S. in strategic communications is
housed in this department and faculty also contribute to the other
graduate programs in the College.

MORE INFORMATION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/adpr)

Department of Film-Video and Media Studies

Emphasizing social science-based media effects, critical-cultural
perspectives, and film studies, faculty in this department focus their
research on media's role in individual well-being, society and culture. Faculty in this program contribute to college level graduate degree programs.

MORE INFORMATION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/fvms)

Department of Journalism
Journalism is a vital institution for a democracy. Faculty in this department study the historical, legal, professional and ethical implications of journalism. Journalism faculty contribute to all of the college level graduate degree programs the College offers.

MORE INFORMATION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/journ)

Department of Telecommunications
Focusing on a variety of electronic media, including radio and TV, cable and satellite, the internet, and wired and mobile technologies, faculty in Telecommunications research such media from policy, economic, technological and managerial perspectives. Faculty contribute to all college level graduate degree programs.

MORE INFORMATION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/departments/department-of-telecommunications)

Resources
Research Centers
The Bellisario College of Communications houses several research centers that richly contribute to the graduate students’ experience and offer support as students advance through their program of study. These centers include The John Curley Center for Sports Journalism, The Don Davis Program in Ethical Leadership, The Information Communication Technology for Development Consortium (ICT4D), The Institute for Information Policy, The Media Effects Research Lab, The Newspaper Journalists Oral History Program, The Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Communication, The Pennsylvania Center for the First Amendment, and The Science Communication Program.

Office of Academic Services
A dedicated, eight-person staff supports students through scheduled appointments, drop-in hours and a variety of support services. At the graduate level, typically I.U.G. student utilize this resource.

MORE INFORMATION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/current/advising)

Office of Internships and Career Services
Graduate students are encouraged to use the resources provided by this office. The office conducts two job fairs and offers additional support through resume workshops, mock interviews and “career conversations” with alumni who return to campus.

MORE INFORMATION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/career-services-and-internships)

Office of Diversity and Inclusion
The Office of Diversity and Inclusion strives to make the Bellisario College a comfortable, welcoming home for all students, staff and faculty. This office assists in acclimating graduate students new to Penn State to navigate Penn State infrastructure, while also providing additional insight and perspective on the State College area. Professional and career guidance is also offered.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (http://bellisario.psu.edu/current/diversity)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BELLISARIO COLLEGE ALUMNI (http://bellisario.psu.edu/alumni)

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