

# MEDIA STUDIES, B.A.

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

## Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	12-15
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	39

0-3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 3 credits of GS courses for the Media Effects option.

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

### Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

### Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 100N	The Mass Media and Society	3
COMM 205	Gender, Diversity and the Media	3
COMM 270	Introduction to Multimedia Production	3
COMM 304	Research Literacy and Media	3
COMM 305	Introduction to Critical Studies of Media	3
COMM 405	Political Economy of Communications	3
COMM 413W	Media, Politics, and Civic Life	3

### Requirements for the Option

*Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better*

Select an option	18
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### Requirements for the Option

#### Film and Television Studies Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema	3
COMM 242	Basic Video/Filmmaking	3
COMM 250	Film History and Theory	3

#### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 9 credits from the following:	9
COMM 451	Topics in American Film
COMM 452	Topics in International Cinema
COMM 453	Narrative Theory: Film and Literature
COMM 454	Documentary in Film and Television
COMM 455	Advanced Film Theory and Criticism
COMM 495	Internship
COMM 496	Independent Studies

### Media Effects Option (18 credits)

A minor in a complementary area of study is encouraged (e.g. Psychology or Sociology).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		

*Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

COMM 118	Introduction to Media Effects	3
COMM 418	Media Effects: Theory and Research	3
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3

#### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 3 credits from the following:	3
COMM 110	Media and Democracy
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema
COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications
COMM 320	Introduction to Advertising
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society
Select 6 credits from the following:	6
COMM 325	Effects of digital games
COMM 326	Effects of social media
COMM 327	Effects of entertainment media
COMM 328	Effects of Science, Environmental and Health Media

### Society and Culture Option (18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		

*Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media	3
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#### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 credits from the following:	6
COMM 110	Media and Democracy
COMM 118	Introduction to Media Effects
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema
Select 9 credits (a least 6 credits at the 400 level) in communication theory from the following:	9
COMM 170	Introduction to the Sports Industry
COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications
COMM 408	Cultural Foundations of Communications
COMM 409	News Media Ethics

COMM 410	Global Media, Culture, and Society
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society
COMM 417	Ethics and Regulation in Advertising and Public Relations
COMM 418	Media Effects: Theory and Research
COMM 419	Comparative National Media in a Global Context
COMM 451	Topics in American Film
COMM 452	Topics in International Cinema
COMM 453	Narrative Theory: Film and Literature
COMM 454	Documentary in Film and Television
COMM 455	Advanced Film Theory and Criticism

## General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

### Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

### Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

### Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

### Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

## University Degree Requirements

### First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

### Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

### Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

### Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

### Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

### Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## B.A. Degree Requirements

**World Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

**World Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.