

MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Dual-Titles

Dual-Title Ph.D. in Mass Communications and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-titles/>).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Mass Communications and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. Applicants interested in the dual-title degree program may make their interest known on their applications to Mass Communications. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Bulletin page (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/womens-gender-sexuality-studies/>). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in WGSS prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Ph.D. in Mass Communications and WGSS is awarded only to students who are admitted to Mass Communications doctoral program and admitted to the dual-title degree in WGSS. To qualify for this dual-title, students must satisfy the requirements of the Mass Communications doctoral program, in which they are primarily enrolled, and of the WGSS dual-title program, the latter listed on the WGSS Bulletin page (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/womens-gender-sexuality-studies/>). Within this framework, final course selection is determined by the student and the CAS and WGSS advisers.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Students must meet the Ph.D. qualifying examination requirements specified by the Mass Communications program. The dual-title field must be fully integrated into the qualifying exam for the doctoral program of Mass Communications. The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree must include two Graduate Faculty members from the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. Although this is not normally anticipated, because dual-title students may require an additional semester to fulfill all requirements, the qualifying exam may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

PH.D. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-602-phd-committee-formation/>), the Ph.D. committee of a Mass Communications and WGSS dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least two members of the WGSS Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in WGSS, a member of the committee representing WGSS must be appointed as co-chair.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

The WGSS faculty members on the student's committee will participate in developing and evaluating the student's comprehensive exams. The exam will incorporate written and oral components based on the student's areas of interest and specialization and may include questions on a variety of WGSS-related scholarship, perspectives, and/or theoretical concepts. It will follow the basic Comprehensive Exam process in the Mass Communications as described in the Graduate Handbook.

DISSERTATION AND FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

The candidate must complete a dissertation and pass a final oral examination of that dissertation on a topic that reflects original research in both MASSC and WGSS to earn the dual-title Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.