Twin Cities Campus

Mass Communication Ph.D.

School of Journalism & Mass Communication
College of Liberal Arts

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
School of Journalism and Mass Communication, 111 Murphy Hall, 206 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-625-9824; fax: 612-625-9525)
Email: sjmcgrad@umn.edu
Website: http://sjmc.umn.edu/grad

- Program Type: Doctorate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2018
- Length of program in credits: 70
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The PhD offers training for academic careers primarily in communication instruction, research, or policy. Areas of specialization include media processes, influences, and effects (including health communication, advertising, and political communication); media law, ethics, history; and media management. The program is suffused with the study of new communication technologies.

Program Delivery

This program is available:
- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

Other requirements to be completed before admission:
Students whose native language is not English are required to submit scores from the TOEFL or IELTS (academic). In addition, such students seeking teaching assistantships are required to pass the SPEAK test of spoken-English proficiency prior to appointment. Admission is considered for fall semester only; the application deadline is January 15.

The mass communication MA and PhD programs offer a joint degree with the Law School. Applicants to either joint degree--either the MA/JD or the PhD/JD--are reviewed separately by the Law School and the mass communication programs for admission, but are asked to identify themselves as seeking the joint degree option in their statement of intent for the mass communication application. For more information, contact sjmcgrad@umn.edu.

Special Application Requirements:
Applicants must submit a department application; a clearly written statement of career interests, goals, and objectives; three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with their scholarship and research potential; a complete set of transcripts; academic work samples in English; a resume or curriculum vita; and scores from the General Test of the GRE.

Applicants must submit their test score(s) from the following:
- GRE

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:
- TOEFL
- IELTS
- MELAB

Key to test abbreviations(GRE, TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

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Information current as of March 29, 2024

Program Requirements

34 credits are required in the major.
12 credits are required outside the major.
24 thesis credits are required.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for students to remain in good standing.

A minimum of 46 course credits and 24 thesis credits are required. Coursework must include 16 credits in required core courses, and at least 30 other graduate credits. Of these credits, at least 18 credits must come from SJMC courses and at least 12 credits from outside the SJMC. All courses included on the PhD graduate degree plan must be taken A-F, except for JOUR 8009, which is taken S/N.

Required Mass Communication Core

JOUR 8001 - Studies and Theories of Mass Communication (3.0 cr)
JOUR 8009 - Pro-seminar in Mass Communication (1.0 cr)
One additional theory course either inside of outside the SJMC, chosen in consultation with the student's adviser (3.0 cr)

Required Methodology Core

JOUR 8501 - Research Methods in Mass Communication (3.0 cr)
JOUR 8503 - Advanced Qualitative Methods in Mass Communication Research (3.0 cr)
One additional methods course outside of the SJMC, chosen in consultation with the student's adviser (3.0 cr)

Electives

Take 18 or more credit(s) from the following:
•JOUR 5xxx
•JOUR 8xxx

Outside the Major in a Supporting Program

Take 12 credits outside the major in a minor or supporting program.

Thesis Credits

Take exactly 24 credit(s) from the following:
•JOUR 8888 - Thesis Credit: Doctoral (1.0 - 24.0 cr)

Joint- or Dual-degree Coursework:JD/ Mass Communications PhD

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