

COMMUNICATION ARTS, PHD

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

Minimum 51 credits

Credit
Requirement

Minimum 40 credits

Residence
Credit
Requirement

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement 26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/>).

Overall 3.00 GPA required.

Graduate GPA Requirement Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/>).

Other Grade 3.5 average required of all coursework taken within the Requirements department.

Assessments and Examinations To assess satisfactory progress toward the degree and to facilitate determinations of good standing, graduate students must complete a Professional Activities Report (PAR) each spring. A PAR indicates a student's academic and professional activities on and off campus each year. Faculty will use the PAR in their annual evaluations of student progress. A PAR represents one means of communication between graduate students and faculty, providing graduate students with an opportunity to enumerate their activities in a single document. PARS must be completed by April 1 each spring.

Students must successfully complete preliminary examinations before moving on to dissertator status. To take preliminary examinations, students must have completed all of the PhD coursework requirements of their area and their minor coursework. Additional requirements vary by area of study. They are as follows:

Communication Science prelims consist of 16 hours of written examinations in the following areas:

Communication processes and contexts (8 hours): four hours each in two major topic areas in the field focusing on theories and major empirical findings
 Specialization (4 hours): four hours in the student's area of specialization; typically, the dissertation research dictates the area of specialization
 Quantitative research methodology and theory construction (4 hours): this portion of the exam may include questions addressing statistics, research design, measurement, and the construction and evaluation of theory

Film prelims consist of 12 hours of written examination divided across the following four concentrations:

Film theory (3 hours)
 Film history (3 hours)
 Film analysis and criticism (3 hours)
 Area of specialization determined in consultation with the student's advisor (3 hours)

Media and Cultural Studies prelims consists of 24 hours of written examinations as follows: four open-book essay exams, six hours each, taken on separate days. The examination covers a combination of general and specialized areas in relation to the planned dissertation project, to be chosen in a group consultation with the student's advisor and major faculty.

Rhetoric, Politics, and Culture prelims consist of 12 hours of written examination divided across the following four concentrations:

Rhetorical theory (3 hours)

	Rhetorical discourse (3 hours) Critical method (3 hours) Area of specialization determined in consultation with the student's advisor and doctoral committee (3 hours)
Language Requirements	Depending on their dissertation topic, students in the Communication Science and Film areas may need to fulfill a foreign language requirement. The need for such a requirement is determined by the student's advisor and doctoral committee.
Graduate School Breadth Requirement	All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/).

REQUIRED COURSES

Successful completion of the PhD requires completion of the minimum credit requirement, which includes coursework, independent study, and research credits.

Communication Science Pathway¹

Code	Title	Credits
Requirements (In addition to those already taken to meet the master's degree requirements)		
	At least one course in research methods (see below for options)	3
	One course in statistics (see list below for options)	3
	At least four courses numbered 700 or above. At least one of these courses must be COM ARTS 970. Only one of these courses may be COM ARTS 799. COM ARTS 904 does not count toward this requirement.	12
COM ARTS 904	Communication Science Colloquium ²	6
Breadth		9
Research		
Students complete enough credits of research to reach the minimum credit requirement, as needed.		
COM ARTS 990	Research and Thesis	1-9
Total Credits		51

¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

² Students are expected to take one credit of COM ARTS 904 Communication Science Colloquium each semester they are enrolled in the program (unless extenuating/approved circumstances prevent a student from attending).

Code	Title	Credits
Research Methods Course Options		
ED PSYCH 771	Test Construction	3
ED PSYCH/ COUN PSY/ CURRIC/ED POL/ ELPA/RP & SE 788	Qualitative Research Methods in Education: Field Methods I	3

ED PSYCH/ COUN PSY/ CURRIC/ED POL/ ELPA/RP & SE 789	Qualitative Research Methods in Education: Field Methods II	3
ED PSYCH/ ELPA 827	Surveys and Other Quantitative Data Collection Strategies	3
ED PSYCH/ SOC WORK 945	Evaluation Research	3
ED PSYCH 963	Design & Analysis of Quasi- Experiments for Causal Inference	3
SOC 735	Ethnomethodology & Conversation Analysis	3
SOC 751	Survey Methods for Social Research	3
SOC 752	Measurement and Questionnaires for Survey Research	3
SOC 754	Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology	3
SOC/C&E SOC/ ED POL 755	Methods of Qualitative Research	3
SOC/ED POL 955	Seminar-Qualitative Methodology	3
SOC/C&E SOC 960	Seminar-Current Methodological Issues in Social Psychology	3
PSYCH 752	Applied Machine Learning for Behavioral Data Science	3
PSYCH 755	Environments and Tools for Large- Scale Behavioral Data Science	3
PSYCH/COMP SCI/ ED PSYCH 770	Human-Computer Interaction	3
JOURN/LSC 811	Conceptualization and Design of Mass Communication Research	2-3
JOURN 812	Qualitative Communication Research Methods	3
JOURN 813	Practicum in Communication Research	3
POLI SCI 817	Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry	3

Code	Title	Credits
Statistics Course Options		
ED PSYCH 760	Statistical Methods Applied to Education I	3
ED PSYCH 761	Statistical Methods Applied to Education II	3
ED PSYCH 762	Introduction to the Design of Educational Experiments	3
ED PSYCH 763	Regression Models in Education	3
ED PSYCH 773	Factor Analysis, Multidimensional Scaling and Cluster Analysis	3
ED PSYCH/CURRIC/ L I S 803	Computational Research Methods	3
ED PSYCH 871	Test Theory II	3
ED PSYCH 960	Structural Equation Modeling	3
ED PSYCH 964	Hierarchical Linear Modeling	3
ED PSYCH 965	Applied Bayesian Statistics for Education Research	3
SOC/C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	4

SOC/C&E SOC 361	Statistics for Sociologists II	4
SOC 362	Statistics for Sociologists III	4
SOC 952	Seminar-Mathematical and Statistical Applications in Sociology	3
PSYCH 610	Design and Analysis of Psychological Experiments I	4
PSYCH 710	Design and Analysis of Psychological Experiments II	4
POLI SCI 812	Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science	4
POLI SCI 813	Multivariable Statistical Inference for Political Research	3
POLI SCI 818	Maximum Likelihood Estimation	3

Film Pathway¹

Graduate students who enter the PhD program with a master's degree from another Film/Media program may transfer in prior coursework to satisfy degree requirements. Students should work with their advisors directly upon arrival to determine course equivalency and plan an effective course of study.

Code	Title	Credits
Historiography Course		
COM ARTS 958	Seminar in Film History	2-3
	or COM ARTS 955 Media History and Historiography	
	One additional course in either National Cinema or Modes- and-Practices (see list below for options)	3
	One additional seminar numbered 900 or above	3
COM ARTS 902	Film Colloquium ²	8
Additional Electives		18
Breadth		9
Research		
Students complete enough credits of research to satisfy the minimum credit requirement, as needed.		
COM ARTS 990	Research and Thesis	1-9
Total Credits		51

¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

² Students are expected to take one credit each semester they are enrolled in the program (unless extenuating/approved circumstances prevent a student from attending).

Code	Title	Credits
National Cinema Courses		
COM ARTS 455	French Film	3
COM ARTS 556	The American Film Industry in the Era of the Studio System	3
COM ARTS 613	Special Topics in Film (Japanese Cinema or South Asian Cinema)	3
Modes-and-Practices Courses		
COM ARTS 358	History of Documentary Film	3
COM ARTS 461	Global Art Cinema	3
COM ARTS 463	Avant-Garde Film	3

COM ARTS 552	Contemporary Hollywood Cinema	3
COM ARTS 613	Special Topics in Film (Gender and Film)	3

Media and Cultural Studies Pathway¹

From the following courses, students must complete 24 credits numbered 600 or above.

Code	Title	Credits
Four seminars numbered 900 and above:		12

COM ARTS 950 Seminar-Radio Television Film²
or COM ARTS 919 Media History and Historiography

Electives

Eight courses numbered 300 or above in consultation with the advisor. At least six credits must be in MCS (in addition to those listed above). 24

Breadth 9

Colloquium 4

Students are expected to take one credit of COM ARTS 903 Media and Cultural Studies Colloquium each semester they are enrolled in the program (unless extenuating/approved circumstances prevent a student from attending).

COM ARTS 903 Media and Cultural Studies Colloquium

Research

Students complete enough credits of research and colloquium to reach the minimum credit requirement, as needed.

COM ARTS 990 Research and Thesis

Total Credits 51

¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

² Students may only take COM ARTS 955 Media History and Historiography once.

Rhetoric, Politics, and Culture Pathway¹

Code	Title	Credits
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MA Requirements

COM ARTS 570 Classical Rhetorical Theory 3

COM ARTS 969 Seminar: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory 3

Seminar

COM ARTS 976 Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism 3

Colloquium

COM ARTS 905 Rhetoric Colloquium² 4

Electives (numbered 300 and above) 27

At least two courses must be in COM ARTS.

At least two courses must be numbered 700 and above.

At least one course must have primary content focused on issues of race and ethnicity.

Additional PhD Requirements

*Colloquium*² 2

Breadth 9

Research

Students complete enough credits of research and colloquium to reach the minimum credit requirement, as needed.

COM ARTS 990

Total Credits 51

¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

² Students are expected to take one credit of COM ARTS 905 Rhetoric Colloquium each semester they are enrolled in the program (unless extenuating/approved circumstances prevent a student from attending).