# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA (M.S.)

The Master of Science in Communication and Media is an advanced degree designed for media professionals and recent baccalaureate graduates who plan careers as media scholars and/or practitioners. The program emphasizes the application of technology and new media delivery systems in the evolving media environment.

### Graduate Admission Standards for M.S. in Communication and Media

Students are required to meet the following prerequisites for admission to the program:

- 1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- 2. Undergraduate GPA 3.0 or higher.
- 3. Official undergraduate transcripts.
- 4. A letter of recommendation from an academic or professional source.
- 5. A writing sample demonstrating the capacity to perform at the graduate level.
- 6. For international students who have not graduated from an accredited undergraduate institution in the United States, a satisfactory TOEFL score (550 paper-based, 213 computer-based or 80 Internet-based) along with an International Transcript Evaluation and a course equivalency report must be provided.

### **Completion Requirements**

- 1. Complete the degree in four calendar years from the date of a student's initial registration or be held to any new degree requirements.
- 2. Maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA and achieve a C (2.0) grade or higher in each course.
- 3. Complete 36 graduate credits of foundation and specialization course work, including a creative project or thesis in the Media Studies and Practice specialization or digital portfolio in the Digital Media specialization.\*

#### Curriculum

The curriculum seeks a balance of theory and practice by incorporating a substantive foundation of communication and media theory, research, law and history with multiple layers of practical application in content production and delivery.

The interdisciplinary nature of the degree permits students who have undergraduate degrees in a variety of majors to enter the program without penalty. Students without an undergraduate degree in a media-related discipline may be required to complete a limited number of lower-level courses.

The M.S. in Communication and Media is made up of 36 credit hours of academic courses and creative project or thesis. Eighteen (18) of the 36 credits are foundation courses and 18 credits are specialization courses. The creative project/thesis and the digital portfolio are determined and evaluated by the candidate's graduate committee. M.S. graduate committees are composed of the candidate's major professor and two members of the faculty.

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### MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) IN COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: M.S. IN COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

I. FOUNDATION CO	JURSES	18 CREDITS	
COM 505	HISTORY OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA	3	
COM 510	COMMUNICATION & MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES	3	
COM 515	MEDIA LAW AND REGULATION	3	
COM 525	INTERNATIONAL MEDIA	3	
COM 550	MEDIA AND CULTURE	3	
COM 575	PROFESSIONAL MEDIA PRESENTATION	3	

## II. SPECIALIZATION COURSES

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(Choose one specialization from the following)

MEDIA STUDIES AND PRACTICE SPECIALIZATION			
COM 500	THEORIES IN COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA	3	
COM 520	RESEARCH METHODS FOR COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA	3	
COM 555	MEDIA, PUBLICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE	3	
COM 570	VISUAL COMMUNICATION PRACTICE	3	
COM 590*	CREATIVE PROJECT/THESIS SEMINAR I	3	
COM 595*	CREATIVE PROJECT/THESIS SEMINAR II	3	

<sup>\*</sup>The following courses may be substituted for COM 590 and COM 595: COM 540 TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA I and COM 545 TOPICS IN COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA II.

<sup>\*</sup> In the Media Studies and Practice specialization, COM 540 and COM 545 may be substituted for the creative project or thesis.

DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIZATION			
GVC 530	AESTHETICS OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY	3	
GVC 535	DRAWING AND DESIGN THEORY AND PRACTICE	3	
GVC 570	DIGITAL STORYTELLING	3	
GVC 575	IMAGEMAKING AS EXPRESSION	3	
GVC 580	ANIMATION AND MOTION GRAPHICS	3	
GVC 585	AESTHETICS AND PRACTICE OF 3D ANIMATION	3	

### **Digital Portfolio**

Following successful completion of 18 credits in the Digital Media specialization, students are required to submit two copies of a digital portfolio composed of course assignments in COM and GVC courses for review by a committee of three members of the college faculty. The Digital Portfolio is not required for students in the Media Studies and Practice specialization.

### **Creative Project/Thesis**

The creative project offers candidates in the Media Studies and Practice specialization the opportunity and the means to demonstrate the acquisition, mastery and integration of appropriate knowledge and skills in the field. Students are expected to select a creative project that fits professional and career objectives. The creative project is not required for students in the Digital Media specialization.

The thesis is an original work conducted with scholarly rigor. The work must demonstrate the mastery of research skills and be theoretically significant. Students who wish to pursue doctoral studies are encouraged to choose the thesis option.

#### Grading of the Creative Project/Thesis

All projects/theses must be completed within one year of the date of the accepted proposal. The creative project/thesis culminates in a public presentation and an oral defense. The creative project/thesis is graded on a pass/fail basis. In the event of a failing grade, students may resubmit their work within 90 days of the decision.

Students are required to enroll in COM 595 for 3 credits in the term following successful completion of COM 590. Students who fail to successfully complete COM 595 – CREATIVE PROJECT/THESIS SEMINAR II in the term following completion of COM 590 – CREATIVE PROJECT/THESIS SEMINAR I must reenroll in COM 595 for one credit in consecutive terms.

### Completion of the Creative Project/Thesis

Upon successful completion of the creative project/thesis, the student must submit two copies, one for the university library and one for the College of International Communication.