

MASS COMMUNICATIONS, PHD

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirementstext>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiestext>), 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 Credit Requirement	68 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	35 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	34 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 Graduate GPA Requirement	3.50 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	Courses in which the student earns a grade below B do not satisfy degree requirements, but they do count in the cumulative GPA.
Assessments and Examinations	Doctoral students must pass preliminary exams once coursework is completed.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.
Graduate School Breadth Requirement	Breadth is provided via interdisciplinary training (doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate is not required).

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Colloquium		
JOURN 901	Colloquium in Mass Communication	1
Communication Perspectives		
Students are recommended to complete 3 courses from this area, such as these example courses.		9
JOURN 801	Mass Communication and the Individual	
JOURN 802	Mass Communication and Society	
JOURN 803	Mass Communication and Culture	
JOURN/ HISTORY 808	Mass Communication History	
Research Methods		
Students are recommended to complete at least 9 credits from this area, such as these example courses.		9
JOURN 658	Communication Research Methods	
JOURN/LSC 811	Conceptualization and Design of Mass Communication Research	
JOURN 812	Qualitative Communication Research Methods	
JOURN 813	Practicum in Communication Research	
JOURN 818	Computational Approaches to Communication Research	
Communication Areas		
Students are recommended to complete 3 courses from this area, such as these example courses.		9
JOURN 821	Health Communication	
JOURN 822	Global Communication	
JOURN/ ENVIR ST/ LSC 823	Science and Environment Communication	
JOURN 824	Race, Ethnicity and Media	
JOURN/LSC 825	Law and Ethics of Communication and Media	
JOURN/LSC 826	Journalism Theory	
JOURN/ GEN&WS 828	Gender and Sexuality in Mass Communication	

JOURN/ Political Communication
POLI SCI 829

Communication Specialities

Students are recommended to complete 2 courses from this area, such as these example courses. 6

JOURN/LSC 833 Technology and Society

JOURN 835 News Framing and Social Protest
Movements

Additional Coursework

To satisfy the minimum credit requirement, students must complete additional Journalism and Mass Communication (JOURN) or other approved courses. See Electives below for some of the recommended options. 31

Electives

JOURN 880 Topics in Mass Communication

JOURN 902 Graduate Teaching Colloquium

JOURN 999 Independent Research Problems

Research and Dissertation

Students enroll in thesis credits during dissertation research to satisfy degree requirements. 3

JOURN 990 Thesis

Total Credits 68

Additional requirements are detailed in the Academic Policies and Procedures Handbook for Graduate Work (https://journalism.wisc.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/41/files/2024/06/Mass_Communications_PhD-Handbook_Revised2024.pdf) in the PhD program in Mass Communications.