

Master's Degree Journalism and Media Studies 2008-2010

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Graduate Studies in Journalism and Media Studies	2
Facilities	2
Financial Assistance	3
Teaching and Research Assistantships	3
Graduate Admissions Procedures and Requirements	3
Non-Admitted Graduate Status	4
Overview of Degree Options and Requirements	5
Grades	5
Degree Requirements	6
Examination Track	6
Thesis Track	9
Examples of Two-Year Course Schedules	11
Summer Sessions	12
Taking Courses Outside the Major	12
Transfer Credits	13
Forms & Due Dates	13
Advising and Your Advisor	14
Graduate Courses Offered	14
Graduate Faculty	15
Hank Greenspun	16
FAQs	17
Checklists	20

Graduate Studies in Journalism and Media Studies

My observations and research told me that you have one of the top “up and coming” programs of journalism and media studies in the country. I have no doubt that in this next decade, it will be among those mentioned as a leader in our field.

Mary Ann Ferguson
Page Legacy Professor of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida
2006

The Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies offers a traditional Master of Arts degree focusing on research methods and theory. The program is committed to the proposition that enhancing society requires an innovative, interdisciplinary, and rigorous understanding of its media. As media continue to change and evolve, continuous observation and interpretation are necessary elements in our scholarly and pedagogical missions.

The Journalism and Media Studies (JMS) program offers courses of study for students with a career orientation in such diverse areas as advertising, public relations, broadcast and print journalism, media management, media research, teaching, and for students who aspire to continue their education in doctoral programs.

Students are required to take four courses: survey of journalism and media studies, quantitative research methods, qualitative research methods, and theories of journalism and media studies. Yet because each student’s goals are unique, the curriculum allows flexibility for developing individual degree programs. Such development aims to balance each discipline’s varied traditions in theoretical, methodological, and applied research.

Facilities

The School of Journalism and Media Studies is located on the first two floors of Greenspun Hall. Staff and faculty offices as well as graduate assistant offices are located here. Located on the corner of Maryland Parkway and University Drive, Greenspun Hall is the new home of the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies and the College of Urban Affairs. The building features state-of-the-art classrooms and research facilities.

Also for research is the 302,000-square-foot Lied Library which opened Jan. 8, 2001. It offers comfortable seating, group study rooms, and the Book-n-Bean café. It is one of the most technically sophisticated university libraries in the United States with hundreds of computer workstations and laptop computers, an automated book storage and retrieval system, the media distribution system, and a Special Collections reservation/conservation laboratory that is the only one of its kind in the state.

Financial Assistance

There are many opportunities for graduate students to receive scholarships, fellowships, assistantships (see next section), and other monetary awards. Please refer to the *Graduate Catalog* for a listing of programs available through the university. Also check out the Greenspun College website for application procedure. In addition to these university-wide programs, there are opportunities within the school and department that you may be eligible for. These include:

The Maury Stevens Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship provides \$1000 for graduate students. Students apply for this scholarship during the general scholarship application period.

Teaching and Research Assistantships

The School of Journalism and Media Studies offers several teaching or research assistantships. During any given year approximately eight student teachers and/or research assistants will be supported. The stipend is \$10,000 along with a tuition waiver and health insurance. Students teach, prep, and grade course material for about 20 hours of work per week. Research assistants work 20 hours a week on various faculty supported research projects. Applications for assistantships are obtained through the Graduate College and are due March 15th each year.

Graduate Admissions Procedures and Requirements

Applications for admission to the graduate program must include the following:

- X Complete application form
- X All transcripts
- X Foreign students must also send TOEFL scores

These are sent to: The Graduate College
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1017

You must also send:

- X Three letters of recommendation addressing your ability to do graduate-level work (at least two should come from college or university faculty)
- X All transcripts
- X Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Results
- X Letter of Intent¹
- X Writing sample²

And these are sent to: The Graduate Studies Coordinator
 Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies @ UNLV
 4505 Maryland Parkway Box 455007
 Las Vegas, NV 89154-5007

The Graduate Application materials should be postmarked no later than March 15 for fall admission.³

See Admissions Checklist at the back of this manual on page 20.

Non-Admitted Graduate Status

A holder of a Bachelor's degree who wants to take graduate classes but does not want to apply for an advanced degree may register as a "Non-Admitted Graduate Student" for a limited number of graduate credits. Faculty are allowed to review and evaluate you before admitting you into any 600-700-level class. So, before registering for any graduate-level classes, you should present evidence to the instructor of adequate preparation for the course. Transcripts may be required as evidence.

If the student later wishes to apply for admission to the Graduate College they will be allowed to transfer up to 15 credits taken as a non-admitted graduate. However, only those classes in which the student received a "B" grade or better will apply to his or her program of study. The non-admitted graduate student must follow all the admission guidelines as outlined here.

¹The Letter of Intent is a succinctly written statement about why you are pursuing a Master's degree in journalism and media studies at UNLV and what your scholarly interest are.

²The writing sample is typically a research or critical paper that you might have done for an undergraduate class, or something similar.

³ An applicant may be denied admission for a number of reasons including low GPA, low GRE scores, inadequate undergraduate preparation, academic interests and intentions do not coincide with the program, etc.

Overview of Degree Options

There are two tracks the student may take to achieve a Master's degree in Journalism and Media Studies.

Thesis Track. The thesis track involves taking 30 credits of courses and writing a thesis (an additional 6 credits). The thesis is an original piece of research that the student writes under the guidance of a thesis advisor and thesis committee.

Examination Track. The examination track involves taking 36 credits of courses, constructing a Graduate Education Portfolio (see below), and writing a comprehensive exam at the end of the program.

Grades

GPA: A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by the Graduate College. It is computed for all course work included on a student's Proposed Degree Program form. Graduate courses taken at institutions other than UNLV prior to admission to Graduate College are not included in the graduate GPA computation. Graduate students only get credit for classes in which they receive a "B-" grade or higher. A "C" grade in a course means that that course does not count in the program of course work. Receiving two "C" grades is grounds for termination from the program.

Pass/Fail: Graduate courses are not normally offered on a pass/fail basis except for thesis, professional papers, or for non-credit courses.

"X" Grade: An X grade is used to identify unfinished thesis credits.

"I" Grade: If a student receives an Incomplete (I) grade in a graduate-level course, the instructor may determine a time period, not to exceed one year, for removal of the Incomplete grade from the student's record. If after a year the student fails to complete the work, the Registrar automatically changes the grade to an "F." The "I" grade should only be used when a student has failed to complete course requirements and the instructor judges the reason for non-completion to be satisfactory.

Degree Requirements

<i>Thesis Track:</i>		<i>Exam Track:</i>	
X	A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained in order to graduate.	X	A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained in order to graduate.
X	30 hours of course work	X	36 hours of course work
X	6 hours of thesis	X	Graduate Education Portfolio
X	Completed thesis	X	Written exam
X	Oral defense of the thesis	X	Oral defense of the exam
X	Passing grade on thesis	X	Passing grade on exam

Examination Track

Description

The examination track, or non-thesis option, is one of two tracks a graduate student may take to achieve a Master's Degree. The 36 semester hour non-thesis option culminates in three activities: the satisfactory completion of written comprehensive exams, the submission of a Graduate Education Portfolio, and satisfactory completion of an oral examination. The student works with his/her faculty advisor (whom the student selects) to compose a Faculty Committee. The committee administers the written and oral exam. The development and completion of the Graduate Education Portfolio is negotiated between the student and the faculty advisor (also see guidelines below).

Exam Committee

Composition. The student's examination committee consists of three members from the School of Journalism and Media Studies one of which is the exam advisor. A fourth member of the committee is from outside the School of Journalism and Media Studies and serves as the graduate college representative.

Duties. Each member of the committee (excluding the outside member) writes exam questions. The advisor then chooses from these questions to create the exam.

The Written Exam

Composition. The written exam consists of several questions that cover the depth and breadth of knowledge one should obtain in a master's-level graduate program. The student will be asked to answer questions in detail in two 4-hour sessions over two consecutive days. Answers to the questions should be detailed, well-written, and show the student's range of knowledge in the areas addressed. Questions will be tied to specific course material the student covered in their program of study with emphasis on core course material (JMS 710, 711, 712, and 730). Theory, method, and various other research techniques may be assessed. Reference to specific scholars, theories, methods, research domains, and so forth are expected. Students should write around 20 type-written pages over the 8-hours of testing.

Format. The student uses a department laptop, or an office computer if available. Other ways to take the exam will be considered (e.g. typewriter, handwritten, etc.).

The Oral Defense

The oral defense of the examination must take place within one week of completing the written examination.

Exam Results

Three examination results are possible: Pass, Pass with Conditions (conditions must be specified), and Fail. In order to pass the Examination Committee must agree on the vote. The Graduate College Representative always has the right to challenge the fairness of the examination and its grading or question if the examination meets University graduate level standards. In these rare instances, the entire examination may be deemed null and void or some other corrective action taken under Graduate College policies.

The Examination Committee Advisor will notify the student and the School of Journalism and Media Studies Graduate Coordinator in writing of the final results normally within 7 work days after the examination (with exceptions for holidays). Student performance on the examination is considered strictly confidential. Only the Examination Committee Chair (i.e., no other faculty member) should reveal the final outcome.

In the case where a student receives a Pass with Conditions involving a minor rewrite, these rewrites must be completed within two weeks of notification. Examination Committee members will again have the same time limits as specified above.

A student must retake a failed examination within one year and successfully pass it to receive his or her degree. A second failure on the examination automatically results in student termination from the program.

The Graduate Education Portfolio

Purpose. The “Graduate Education Portfolio” is a tool that summarizes and synthesizes your educational experience as a JMS Master’s student.

Design and Binding. The portfolio should have a professional look to it. It needs to be bound. For example, you might use spiral binding with a plastic cover. Pages must be numbered consecutively. Copies must be made for each committee member.

Contents:

- I. Title Page with your name and contact information
- II. Table of Contents
- III. Overview of Your Program of Study
- IV. Course Materials
 - A. Course Syllabi
 - B. Critical Overview of Each Course
 - C. Course Notes
 - D. Summarized discussion of Course notes
 - E. Major Paper and/or Other Important Written Assignments
 - F. Assessment of the Written Assignments
- V. Conclusions
 - A. Strengths of the Program
 - B. Limitations
 - C. Other (if necessary)
- VI. Curriculum Vita

Deadlines

Exam Times. All written exams should be scheduled either in mid-October or in mid-March at a time no later than three weeks before the end of the semester, or by the deadline the Graduate College determines. No examinations are given during the summer sessions. Specific days and times to take the exam are arranged by each student in cooperation with his or her faculty committee and with adequate advanced notice. The exam takes two days to complete with the student writing a minimum of four hours each day.

Oral Exam Times. The oral defense of the exam occurs within a week of the written exam and by the deadline set by the Graduate College. The student is responsible for scheduling the room for the defense and finding a time all the committee members can meet. At the defense the student discusses the exam and the Graduate Education Portfolio (GEP) with the committee in a spirit of cooperative good will, understanding that the faculty may question any aspect of the exam or GEP and ask for further improvements. Improvements may involve more detailed answers to exam questions, refinement of the GEP, or other refinement and editing.

Portfolio Due Date. The Graduate Education Portfolio is due two weeks before the student takes the written exam.

See Examination Track Requirements Checklist at the back of this manual, page 21.

Thesis Track

Description

The thesis option is one of two tracks a graduate student may take to achieve a Master's Degree. A student must complete 30 hours of approved course work plus 6 hours of thesis credits. The classes may include 6 credits outside the JMS curriculum.

Thesis Committee

Composition. The student's thesis committee consists of three members from the School of Journalism and Media Studies, one of whom is the thesis advisor. A fourth member of the committee must come from outside JMS, depending on your chosen program, and serves as the graduate college representative.

Duties. Though the student usually works most closely with his or her thesis advisor, each member of the committee plays a role in guiding the student through the thesis process. Each professor sees the entire thesis and critiques it. They are the ultimate judges of its quality and they make the decision on whether or not to pass the thesis. The graduate college representative is charged with making sure there are no inequities in the thesis defense or other aspects of the thesis process.

The Thesis

The thesis marks the end of graduate work. It is a substantive original work that contributes to the body of knowledge in the field of journalism, or media studies. It is a public testimony of student scholarship.

Content. Typically grounded in theory, the thesis consists of several chapters oriented around an introduction to the problem, literature review, methodology, results and discussion of the results.

Form. The appearance of the thesis is important to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas whose name it also bears. Therefore, the Graduate College provides guidance, oversight, and direction to students concerning the rules, regulations, and procedures for final thesis submission to the Graduate College. The School of Journalism and Media Studies accepts two general styles for the written thesis. These styles are found in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* and the *Modern Language Association Manual*.

Non-traditional Forms. Non-traditional forms of the thesis will be allowed if they are consistent with the overall objectives of the program. The content could be a documentary, a drama, a public relations campaign, portfolios, or other similar form and content. The form might be a film, a videotape, CD-ROM, digital video, an exhibit, a script, a web page, any combination of these, or some other form approved by your thesis committee. Besides the nontraditional form the thesis might take, a written research component is also required. The Graduate College's *Guide to Preparing & Submitting a Thesis or Dissertation*⁴ may serve as a guideline to the written part of the non-traditional thesis, but allowances may be made depending on the scope of the project. The Graduate College receives both the written and the non-written parts of the non-traditional thesis upon completion of the project.

The Prospectus

Before the student begins his or her thesis, or nontraditional project, he or she writes a prospectus, which is a plan for writing the thesis and/or creating the nontraditional project. The prospectus includes an introduction explaining your study's purpose, how you will do it, and a timeline for completing the thesis. A prospectus meeting is held in which the student's committee makes suggestions for doing the study.

Oral Defense

After the thesis is completed, the student distributes it to the faculty members on his or her committee, giving them approximately two weeks to review it before scheduling a time for its defense. At the defense, the student discusses the thesis or nontraditional project with the committee in a spirit of cooperative good will, understanding that the faculty may question any aspect of the thesis and ask for further improvements. Make sure to follow deadlines from the Graduate College.

Defense Results

The defense of the thesis may result in any of three decisions: pass, pass with revisions, no pass. The most common of these three results is the pass with revisions decision. These revisions may range from simple editing of style, grammatical errors, and so forth, to substantial rewrites of entire sections of the thesis. The committee may decide to either "sign off" on the thesis or not at the time of this decision depending on the extent of the revisions. The committee may also want to see the final revisions or not. Signing off on the thesis means that the committee agrees to sign the appropriate forms for the completion of the thesis. Again, they may do that at the time of the defense, or at a later time after revisions are completed.

If the thesis passes outright, then the student will have no further revisions except those that the Graduate College may request. The committee signs off on the thesis at the time of the defense.

⁴Available upon request from UNLV's Graduate College.

In the rare event that the student's thesis is not passed, the student will at that time be severed from the program and will not be granted a master's degree.

Deadlines

Thesis Distribution. The completed thesis must be distributed to the committee members no less than two weeks before a desired defense date.

Oral defense. The oral defense must be scheduled at least three weeks before the end of the semester or by a deadline date set by the Graduate College. No oral defenses will occur in the summer.

See Thesis Track Requirements Checklist at the back of this manual, page 21.

Examples of Two-Year Course Schedules

Example 1: Thesis Track			
Semester	Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Fall (1 st Year)	JMS 710	Survey of Journalism and Media Studies	3
	JMS 730	Theories of Journalism and Media Studies	3
	JMS XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
Spring (1 st Year)	JMS 711	Qualitative Methods	3
	JMS 712	Quantitative Methods	3
	JMS XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
Summer (1 st Yr.)	XXX	Any graduate class of interest (and approved by an advisor)	3
TOTAL CREDITS AT THE END OF YOUR FIRST YEAR			21
Fall (2 nd Year)	JMS 798	Thesis (Section 001)	3
	JMS XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
	JMS XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
Spring (2 nd Year)	JMS 798	Thesis (Section 002)	3
	XXX	Any graduate class of interest (and approved by an advisor)	3
TOTAL CREDITS AT THE END OF YOUR SECOND YEAR			36

Example 2: Exam Track			
Semester	Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Fall (1 st Year)	JMS 710	Survey of Journalism and Media Studies	3
	JMS 730	Theories of Journalism and Media Studies	3
	JMS XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
Spring (1 st Year)	JMS 711	Qualitative Methods	3
	JMS 712	Quantitative Methods	3
	JMS XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
Summer (1 st Yr.)	JMS XXX	Any graduate class of interest (and approved by an advisor)	3
TOTAL CREDITS AT THE END OF YOUR FIRST YEAR			21
Fall (2 nd Year)	XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
	XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
	XXX	Any graduate class of interest (and approved by an advisor)	3
Spring (2 nd Year)	XXX	A JMS course of your choice (and approved by an advisor)	3
	XXX	Any graduate class of interest (and approved by an advisor)	3
TOTAL CREDITS AT THE END OF YOUR SECOND YEAR			36

Summer Sessions

UNLV offers graduate courses in journalism and media studies during two of its three summer sessions (Sessions 2 & 3). Summer sessions are five weeks long. Graduate students may take classes during these sessions, but only up to 12 semester hours of credit (four classes). No more than six credit hours may be earned in any one summer session. Summer is also a good time to seek classes outside the major.

Taking Courses Outside the Major

Graduate students may take up to 6 credits from a department or school outside the JMS curriculum and have them count toward your degree. The student should discuss their program of courses with an advisor.

Transfer Credits

Students transferring from other graduate programs may transfer up to one-third of the total credits of the degree program excluding thesis credits. This translates to 10 credits that may be transferred from another program. All transfer credits must be approved by the graduate committee, graduate coordinator (or department chair), and the Graduate Dean. Students should be prepared to submit syllabi and major papers or other assignments from the courses they wish to transfer for credit.

Forms & Due Dates

Once you have been admitted to the graduate program there are several forms that you will need to fill out and have signed at various times throughout your career as a Master's student. The due dates are approximations.

<u>Form</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
1. Proposed Master's Degree Program (Two Parts)	Before completing more than 16 credits of course work (end of 2 nd semester)
2. Appointment of Examination Committee	Before your prospectus meeting (late 2 nd or early 3 rd semester)
3. Prospectus Approval	After your prospectus meeting (early 3 rd semester)
4. Final Examination Results (Exam Track Only)	After defense of the comprehensive exam (4 th semester)
5. Oral Defense Results (Thesis Track Only)	After thesis defense (4 th semester)
6. Application For Graduation	Check Graduate College Website
7. Graduate Program Evaluation Form	At the time you file for graduation

These are the forms that are required. There are several others for special needs for which you'll get information on an as-needed basis. All of the forms you'll need are available for downloading from (except for part II of the Proposed Master's Degree Program form which you get from the graduate coordinator):

<http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/forms/>

Advising and Your Advisor

From the moment you are admitted to the Master's program you have an advisor—the Graduate Coordinator. You may always contact or meet with the Graduate Coordinator for advisor, ideas, or other forms of academic counseling. Eventually you will want to work with a faculty member on your thesis or comprehensive exam. That person may or may not be the Graduate Coordinator. He or she becomes your thesis or examination advisor. You as the graduate student always have the option to change advisors at any time with no penalty or repercussions whatsoever.

Graduate Courses Offered

JMS 710: Survey of Journalism and Media Studies

This is an introduction to the journalism and media studies disciplines and their interrelationships. Past, present, and emerging issues are discussed. Research topics, questions, methods, and writing style are examined.

JMS 711: Qualitative Research Methods

Fundamentals of critical philosophy, theory, and practice, writing and critiquing research reports.

JMS 712: Quantitative Research Methods

Fundamentals of scientific philosophy, research design, and data analysis, writing and critiquing research reports.

JMS 713: History of Journalism and Mass Communication

Critical analysis of historical research and scholarship in journalism and media studies including primary sources and methods. Development of a research project.

JMS 715: Science and Health Communication

Investigates the application of communication theory and research to understanding processes through which information related to science, health, environment, and technology reaches the public. Emphasis on mediated communication but also considers the interrelated roles of other channels.

JMS 730: Theories of Journalism and Media Studies

Theory is critical to the exploration and explanation of media phenomena. This course is a survey of theoretical ideas, the nature of theory in general, major media theories and theories relevant to journalism, and examines the purpose of theory in media research.

JMS 733: First Amendment Theory

An examination of theory development on the meaning of the press and speech clauses of the First Amendment and how First Amendment theory has been reflected in legal decisions.

JMS 739: Special Problems in Media Production

Discussion and practical experience in production techniques of mass media. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits.

JMS 760: Social Influence of the Media

Analysis of mediated communication patterns and their social importance; considers both news, public affairs, and entertainment influences. Emphasis may vary depending on instructor.

JMS 761: Journalism and Media Policy and Regulations

In-depth examination of regulation and policy aspects of broadcasting with an emphasis on legal research in telecommunications.

JMS 784: The Media and Politics

Examines the relationship between the media and political leadership, policymaking, campaigns, and other related issues.

JMS 789: Selected Topics in Journalism and Media Studies

Content varies with current developments in journalism and media theory. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits with instructor's permission.

JMS 795: Independent Study

Supervised study and practical experience in subjects and projects determined in consultation with a faculty member. Students wishing to take this course must consult with the faculty member prior to registration.

JMS 798: Thesis

May be repeated, but only six credits apply to the student's program.

In addition, there are several 600-level classes that graduate students may take. These are classes that have both undergraduates and graduate students in the same classroom. Fifty percent of the semester hours of a degree program, exclusive of the thesis, must be 700-level. That means that at most, you can take five classes at the 600-level.

Graduate Faculty

Stephen Bates, Assistant Professor, J.D., 1987, Harvard Law School. Media Law, Advertising.

Greg Borchard, Associate Professor, Ph.D., 2003, University of Florida. Journalism History, Journalism Writing.

Barbara Cloud, Emeritus Professor. Ph.D., University of Washington. Journalism History, Broadcast and Journalism Law.

Anthony Ferri, Professor. Ph.D., 1979, Wayne State University. Health Communication, Social Scientific Research Methods, Media Studies.

Julian Kilker, Associate Professor. Ph.D., 1999, Cornell University. New Media Technologies, Social Interaction, Design, Research Methods.

Gary Larson, Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Coordinator. Ph.D., 1997, University of Minnesota. Emerging Technologies, Visual Studies, Humanistic Research Methods, Media Criticism.

Lawrence Mullen, Professor, Graduate Coordinator and Advisor. Ph.D., 1992, University of Iowa. Visual Studies, Virtual Environments, Media Theory and Method, Media Processes and Effects, Community Studies.

Susanna Priest, Professor, Ph.D., 1989, University of Washington. Science communication, technology, environment and health, public issues and public opinion.

Ardyth Broadrick Sohn, Professor, Ph.D., 1976, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Media management and leadership, media effects and agenda setting, free press/fair trial.

Daniel Stout, Professor, Professor, Ph.D., 1993, Rutgers University. Integrated Marketing, Media and Religion.

Paul Traudt, Associate Professor. Ph.D., 1981, University of Texas at Austin. Audience Analysis, Television Criticism, Information Technologies, Social Scientific Research Methods.

Hank Greenspun

The School of Journalism and Media Studies is named after the media visionary Hank Greenspun who died in 1989 after a celebrated career as a leading public advocate and crusading founder and publisher of the *Las Vegas Sun* newspaper. Hank Greenspun enthusiastically confronted major public issues, using the power of the press to fight corruption and demagoguery, successfully championing the welfare of the poor and disenfranchised in society. Hank Greenspun's legacy lives on at the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies, where we actively emphasize the powerful functions of communication in addressing challenging social issues and promoting public good. We strategically use communication knowledge to enhance the quality of life with our progressive educational curriculum, applied research efforts, relevant media production projects, and influential community outreach programs.

FAQs

Here are some of the questions graduate students and those interested in our graduate program frequently ask:

- X Do I have to be an undergraduate journalism or broadcasting major to be admitted to your graduate program?

No. It's not required that you have an undergraduate degree in journalism, broadcasting, or media studies to apply to the graduate program. It is helpful, however, if you have had at least a couple of courses in journalism, broadcasting, or related fields at the undergraduate level. You may be advised to take one or two undergraduate classes before full admission to the program is granted.

- X What's the minimum GRE score I need to get to be admitted to the department or school?

There are no minimum requirements for the GRE scores. However, it is still important to do as well as you can on the verbal and quantitative parts of the exam (the analytical part is not as important). As rough guide: scoring a combined 1,000 in the quantitative and verbal portions of the exam is a reasonable expectation.

- X What can students do with a master's degree?

Master's students have gone into all sorts of careers: teaching (elementary, secondary, and college-levels), consulting, advertising,

broadcasting, management, corporate communication, fundraising, sales, writing, public relations, event planning, labor negotiations, human resources, lobbying, politics, advocacy, public affairs, training, various careers in the non-profit sector, and several students have gone on to earn their Ph.D's. at respected institutions across the United States or go on for law degrees.

X What's the emphasis of the program?

The best way to tell what any graduate program emphasizes is to look at the faculty; what they teach and what are their research interests (see the section above that describes the faculty). In general, however, we emphasize research and theory; how to conduct good quality research and contribute to the knowledge of the journalism discipline and media studies.

X Who should I seek out for advice; who is my advisor?

From the moment you are admitted to the Master's Program you have an advisor. That person is the Graduate Coordinator. You can always visit, call, or e-mail that person for advice about the graduate program. After you've been in the program for a semester or two, you may select a thesis advisor who will direct your thesis, or examination. But the graduate coordinator is still always available for consultation.

X Who should be on my thesis or examination committee? Who should direct it?

If you are doing the thesis track, you should select a committee based on what your thesis topic is. Ideally, you should choose a graduate faculty member to advise the thesis who has knowledge of the topic and the method you are going to use. Sometimes, however, you might have one member of your committee who is knowledgeable on the topic and another who will help you on the methods. You'll also want a member who you believe is a good editor-who will help you with the technical aspects of the writing, i.e., APA or MLA styles, etc. Many times students find out who their thesis advisor and committee members are by taking the courses with a particular professor and finding out that they have similar interests. Of course, it's also important to pick a committee who you can work with and who will challenge you to produce the best piece of research you possibly can.

If you take the exam track, your committee will consist of professors whose courses you have taken because the examination questions are based on the accumulation of knowledge from those courses.

- X Who should the outside member of my committee be and how do they get on the committee?

Many times an outside member, also called the Graduate College Representative (see Examination Track or Thesis Track section above under committee composition for a description) is chosen based on a course you might take outside the School of Journalism and Media Studies (you can take up to 6 credits of course work outside The School). If you don't take any classes from outside the School of Journalism and Media Studies, then your advisor might suggest someone. The best way to get that person on your committee is to ask them personally, providing them with background on your project, courses you've taken, and other pertinent information. Or you can list up to three potential outside members on the Appointment of Examination Committee form and the Graduate College will ask them if they will serve on your committee.

Admissions Checklist

Send to the Graduate College before March 15:

- 1. Completed Application Form and Fee
- 2. GRE Scores
- 3. Undergraduate Institution Transcripts

If you are an International Student:

- 4. TOEFL Scores (must be 550 or higher (213 computerized))

If you are seeking a teaching assistantship:

- 5. Graduate Assistant Application Form

Send to The Graduate Coordinator:

- 6. Letter of Intent (sometimes called a "Purpose Statement")
- 7. Writing Sample
- 8. A Copy of Your GRE Scores
- 9. Undergraduate Institution Transcripts
- 10. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (two should be from college or university faculty members).

Thesis Track Requirements Checklist

- 1. Meet with the Graduate Coordinator at the start of your Master's studies.
- 2. File Proposed Masters Degree Program Form (after completing 16 credit hours)
- 3. Create a committee (file appropriate form with Graduate College)
- 4. Discuss thesis topics with your thesis advisor.
- 5. Write a prospectus
- 6. Prospectus meeting (Approval Form must be signed)
- 7. Write the Thesis
- 8. Schedule a defense date
- 9. Distribute Thesis to committee at least two weeks before defense date.
- 10. Oral Defense
- 11. Defense Results (pass, rewrites, fail)

Examination Track Requirements Checklist

- 1. Meet with the Graduate Coordinator at the start of your Master's studies.
- 2. File a Proposed Masters Degree Program Form (after 16 credit hours are completed)
- 3. Create a committee (file appropriate form with Graduate College)
- 4. Completion and Distribution of the Graduate Education Portfolio
- 5. Schedule a test date
- 6. Take the written exam
- 7. Oral defense
- 8. Notification of exam results (pass, rewrites, fail)