The interdisciplinary ATLAS PhD program in technology, media and society attracts highly motivated inventors and investigators whose interests at the intersections of technology, media and society are not met by traditional disciplinary PhD programs. Students come from all fields, including electrical engineering, education, journalism, music, computer science, art history, physics and library science.

The ATLAS PhD program is research-based: each student must pass a qualifying examination, propose a field of study, carry out a research project and defend the resulting dissertation.

The program emphasizes out-of-the-box invention and radical investigation. We are looking for people who want to improve the world through technology, who aren’t afraid to think beyond conventional wisdom, and who have or are prepared to gain the technical expertise to carry out their vision.

For more information, visit the ATLAS Institute’s PhD Program (http://atlas.colorado.edu/programs/ph-d-program) webpage.

**Requirements**

**Course Requirements**

- A minimum of 30 credit hours of courses numbered 5000 or above where students earn a minimum of 3.00 GPA.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of dissertation credit are required for the degree.
- Students must complete at least one qualitative and one quantitative or other methods course, which may be taken in a variety of departments.

**Program Proposal**

To maintain good standing in the program, all students must complete their academic program plan/program proposal by the end of the second semester. In general, ATLAS academic plan/program proposals include general research area and the courses to be taken and other research/disciplinarily appropriate activities planned.

**Preliminary Examination**

To maintain good standing in the program, all students must complete their preliminary examination by the end of the second year. The preliminary examination will demonstrate the student’s preparation for scholarly work in his/her chosen area. Generally, this is a 3–5 page document that is approved by the advisor and the ATLAS graduate committee.

**Comprehensive Examination**

To maintain good standing in the program, all students must complete their comprehensive exam by the end of the second semester of their fourth year in the program. The comprehensive examination will outline the student’s completed research and proposed research agenda. This includes both an oral and written exam delivered to their dissertation committee and open to the larger community.

**PhD Dissertation**

Students must write a dissertation based on original research conducted under the supervision of a graduate faculty member. The dissertation must fulfill all CU Boulder Graduate School requirements. After the dissertation is completed, an oral final examination on the dissertation and related topics is conducted by the student’s doctoral committee.