The College of Media, Communication and Information (CMCI) prepares students for careers as engaged and effective citizens endowed with deep understanding of the historical and contemporary context of human communication and expression. Mindful of the active role communication plays in shaping human relationships, CMCI trains graduates to study and practice constructive interaction among people, communities, industries and publics. The college equips students with the skills needed to produce, gather, archive, curate, analyze and evaluate the flood of information, messages, images, sounds and ideas that populate our complex and rapidly evolving global media landscape.

To these ends, CMCI resourcefully combines disciplines newly extended and empowered by digital media and the social and cultural transformations those media engender. These include established scholarly, creative and professional fields such as media studies, communication, the history and interpretation of film and television, journalism, advertising and video production in its cinematic, documentary and broadcast forms. But the college also houses both the fast-growing field of information science—a discipline that, through inquiry and innovation, tackles the problems and opportunities facing an increasingly networked society—and the emergent disciplines of interdisciplinary documentary media, design, music, writing and performance.

In giving these activities a collaborative home, CMCI facilitates innovative interactions among them. Its academic structure accordingly stimulates cross-disciplinary cooperation at all levels of curriculum, research and creative work. Further, CMCI promotes the transformational exchanges it nurtures within its own walls for campus-wide benefit. Its organization thus fosters outreach to—and student and faculty participation from—other schools, colleges, centers and facilities throughout CU Boulder and the wider Colorado community.

CMCI’s collaborative character is even more visible at the graduate level and in terms of its faculty’s scholarly and creative work. Examples include the doctoral program in information science (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/information-science/information-science-doctor-philosophy-phd), the master's in interdisciplinary documentary media practices (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/interdisciplinary-documentary-media-practices-master-fine-arts-mfa), the doctoral program in intermedia art, writing and performance (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/intermedia-art-writing-performance/intermedia-art-writing-and-performance-doctor-philosophy-phd) and the doctoral program in media research and practice (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/programs-study/media-research-and-practice-doctor-philosophy-phd), which offers three PhD tracks, each lodged in these areas together with artists and researchers in information science, environmental science and from journalism to media design in focused multidisciplinary resources in everything from cultural studies to organizational, interpersonal and public conversation that structure the worlds in which advertising and strategic communication operate while gaining access from colleagues in these areas to problems and case studies they might have overlooked. Meanwhile, faculty in media studies benefit from direct exposure to the technologies and creative processes explored by media production faculty, offering in return a deeper historical, social and theoretical insight into the way media shape, even as they are shaped by, the wider society they serve.

Joumalists learn from information scholars about the nature and uses of big data while sharing with them their skills in narrative and communication. Members of the communication faculty deepen colleagues' insights into the underlying forms and principles of organizational, interpersonal and public conversation that structure the worlds in which advertising and strategic communication operate while gaining access from colleagues in these areas to problems and case studies they might have overlooked. Meanwhile, faculty in media studies benefit from direct exposure to the technologies and creative processes explored by media production faculty, offering in return a deeper historical, social and theoretical insight into the way media shape, even as they are shaped by, the wider society they serve.

Centers like CMRC, CEJ and 3CG already harness CU’s exceptional multidisciplinary resources in everything from cultural studies to environmental science and from journalism to media design in focused collaborative initiatives of all sorts. By bringing practitioners in all of these areas together with artists and researchers in information science, media production and intermedia art, writing and performance, CMCI provides the environment for many more such common enterprises in the future.