MEDIA RESEARCH AND PRACTICE - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

The media research and practice PhD program is dedicated to interdisciplinary inquiry into the social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of media, strategic communication and journalism, both nationally and internationally, and in historical and contemporary contexts.

The degree combines the research and teaching emphases of the three participating departments – advertising, public relations and design (APRD), journalism (JRNL) and media studies (MDST) – and encourages doctoral students to develop research agendas that bridge disciplines and cross between academic research and professional practice.

Because media and communication are central to social and individual life, to commerce, to understanding social change and supporting social justice, and to the health of democratic politics, the MDRP degree draws from a wide range of fields and disciplines, including anthropology, political science, cultural studies, sociology, philosophy, history, linguistics, economics, business, psychology, literature, law and public policy.

The interdisciplinary nature of media research and practice is reflected in the range of faculty research and professional practice in the media and communication industries. The program fosters theoretical and practical understanding about how media innovations serve various forms of mass and public communication, including strategic communication, journalism, entertainment industries, and the creation and maintenance of local, national and transnational social networks. In addition to rigorous training in research and teaching, the degree program emphasizes the importance of young scholars developing the skills to share their scholarship in a variety of arenas of public life.

Students receive training in media theory, as well as qualitative and quantitative research methods, and take courses inside and outside the three departments and the college.

The program strives to produce graduates who demonstrate intellectual leadership, nationally and internationally, in the area(s) of research specialization they choose and/or pioneer, and an interest in and aptitude for generating public awareness and conversation about their scholarship.

An important part of doctoral students’ education is their participation in the college’s research and teaching missions through their assignments as research assistants, teaching assistants and instructors.

Requirements

Application Guidelines

Applicants to the PhD program in media research and practice are expected to hold a master’s degree or have completed equivalent graduate work. In exceptional cases, applicants without a master’s degree may be considered for admission.

Individuals are encouraged to apply if their record and interests promise success in the program, and they aspire to actively engage in scholarly investigation of media and communication.

Completed domestic applications must be received by the program no later than Jan. 1 prior to the fall semester for which entrance is sought. International applications should be submitted by Dec. 1. Late applications may be considered under special circumstances.

Successful applicants typically meet or exceed the following criteria:

- Have a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of at least 301 (1100 pre 2011) on verbal and quantitative combined. International applicants must also have a TOEFL score of 625 (IBT 106).
- Have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in previous graduate work.
- Provide three letters of recommendation, with at least two being academic references.
- Provide a 700-word statement of purpose.
- Provide a resume or CV that includes academic and employment experience.
- Provide a writing sample that exhibits the ability to undertake the conceptual and empirical studies required of doctoral students (e.g., a chapter from a master’s thesis or graduate-level term paper).

Meeting these criteria does not guarantee acceptance into the program. The program accepts relatively few new doctoral students each fall; qualified applicants may exceed available openings.

For review and decision purposes, students are required to upload an unofficial copy of their transcript(s) in the online application. The program requires one copy of the scanned transcript from each undergraduate and graduate institution attended. This includes community colleges, summer sessions and extension programs. While credits from one institution may appear on the transcript of a second institution, unofficial transcripts must be submitted from each institution, regardless of the length of attendance and whether courses were completed.

Failure to list and submit transcripts from all institutions previously attended is considered a violation of academic ethics and may result in the cancellation of admission or dismissal from the university.

Only after a student is recommended for admission will they need to provide official transcripts.

Graduate advising is available by phone (303-492-7977), email (cmcigrad@colorado.edu) or in person (Hellems 96D).

Program Requirements

All three departments have the same structure of requirements. For a list of graduate course offerings, visit the college’s PhD in Media Research and Practice (http://www.colorado.edu/cmcr/academics/media-studies/phd-media-studies) webpage.

Core Courses (14 credit hours)

- Proseminar 6
- Quantitative research methods 3
- Qualitative Research Methods 3
- Colloquium 2

Additional Courses (60 credit hours)

- Advanced research methods 3
- One additional advanced methods or media practice course 3
- Inside emphasis 15
- Outside emphasis 9
Dissertation hours 30
Total Credit Hours 74

**Time Limit**

Students are expected to complete the program and defend the dissertation in four years.