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 intermedia art, 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/courses/communication-information/doctoral_programs-study/information_science/doctoral_phd/), the master’s in interdisciplinary documentary media practices (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/courses/communication-information/doctoral_programs-study/interdisciplinary_documentary_media_practices/master/arts_mfa/), the doctoral program in intermedia art, writing and performance (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/courses/communication-information/doctoral_programs-study/intermedia_art_writing_performance/doctoral_phd/), and the doctoral program in media research and practice (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/courses/communication-information/doctoral_programs-study/doctoral_phd/), which offers three PhD tracks, each lodged in a different yet related department. CMCI’s signature spirit of collaboration is further reflected in the various centers the college contains:

- the Center for Environmental Journalism (CEJ)
- the Center for Media, Religion and Culture (CMRC)
- the Center for the Study of Conflict, Collaboration and Creative Governance (3CG)

It is also reflected in the close relations the new college hopes to entertain with centers elsewhere on campus—for example, with the Center for Humanities and the Arts (CHA); the B2 Center for Media, Arts and Performance (B2); and the Stan Brakhage Center.

Statement of Core Skills, Competencies and Scholarly and Creative Initiatives

CMCI attracts students, faculty and industry and creative professionals from across the closely related fields of media, communication and information. All of those either rostered in or affiliated with the new college accordingly share a set of skills, competencies and scholarly and creative interests that form a common core. This core is expressed at all levels of the college, from undergraduate curriculum and graduate training to the research and creative work of its faculty and both internal and external affiliates.

The Undergraduate Experience

All undergraduates enrolled in CMCI take as part of their experience a core curriculum designed to provide the broad intellectual framework common to each of the individual disciplines in which students eventually major. In addition to conveying the conceptual tools and perspectives all students in the college need, the core curriculum supplies the shared body of knowledge, exemplars and ideas required to build a coherent intellectual and creative community. Each academic unit within the college offers a unique curriculum determined by its faculty and expressed as a set of major requirements. Completion of the major requirements within a discipline provides students with depth of knowledge and expertise appropriate to earning a BA or BS as designated by their discipline.

Additionally, undergraduates enrolled in CMCI acquire the technical and computational skills needed to thrive in today’s networked media environment. Training in these skills is provided through CMCI 1010, CMCI 1020 (required of all first-year students) and the core computing requirement, and is integrated into each student’s chosen field of study. Finally, students in CMCI complete a secondary area of study outside of their major in order to build the intellectual versatility necessary for successful study and work in the field of media, communication and information.

Graduate Study

Curricula leading to advanced degrees are offered by all of the departments in the College of Media, Communication and Information. Students should consult the Graduate Catalog’s Admissions (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/admissions/) section for admission and degree requirements. Curricula for graduate programs are listed under each department.