

School of Communication

Graduate Programs

Designed for students with diverse professional and educational backgrounds, the graduate programs fully utilize the resources of Washington, D.C. for both field work and classroom study. The many professional news organizations, public interest organizations, trade associations, government agencies, public relations firms, and media production organizations in the Washington area provide excellent opportunities for internships and cooperative education field experience. Special seminars and events, including the school's American Forum and Media Center presentations, enable students to meet major public figures and film and media artists.

M.A. in Communication: Journalism and Public Affairs

Admission to the Program

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study. Admission to the program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least a 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) grade point average in last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. International students whose first language is not English should take the TOEFL examination to demonstrate proficiency in written as well as spoken English. All applicants must earn a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General (verbal, quantitative, and analytical).

Previous professional or campus experience in communication is useful but not required. However, all applicants are required to show evidence of professional commitment and career direction related to the specialization and track they choose. Official transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and a 1,000-word essay on the applicant's commitment to pursuing graduate study in the program are submitted with the application. If available, samples of published professional or college news writing, scripts, or tapes should also be submitted.

A limited number of graduate fellowships and assistantships are awarded on the basis of merit as well as school and program needs.

Admission to the full-time degree program is for the fall semester. Students are generally expected to complete the program in ten months. The program is also available in a weekend format which takes twenty months to complete (see below).

Qualified undergraduate students may apply to a combined bachelor's/M.A. program and use up to 6 credit hours of 500-level courses to satisfy the requirements of both degrees.

Degree Requirements

- 30–33 credit hours of approved graduate work, as advised
- Most students are required to take COMM-624 Principles and Practice of Journalism and receive a grade of B or better.

Students who have earned a B or better in a news-media law course within five years of enrollment may petition to be exempted from COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication. International students are normally exempted from this course. Students with extensive professional editing experience may petition to be exempted from COMM-621 Advanced Editing.

- Continuous full-time enrollment
- A grade point average of 3.00 maintained during all work toward the degree
- Comprehensive examination in journalism

Specializations and Tracks

Public Policy Journalism, International Journalism, Economic Communication (each taken in either the print or broadcast journalism track), Interactive Journalism, or News Media Studies

Course Requirements

Public Policy Journalism

Core (12 credit hours)

- COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication (3)
- COMM-624 Principles and Practice of Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-710 Seminar in Public Affairs (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-724 Reporting of Public Affairs (3)

Electives (12 credit hours)

- Four elective courses approved by the program director
- One or two courses outside the School of Communication in an area related to public affairs may be substituted for journalism electives with permission of the program director. Possible areas include political science, public administration, history, economics, the range of social sciences, and international relations.

Broadcast Track (9 credit hours)

- COMM-632 Television Field Reporting (3)
- COMM-721 Broadcast News I (3)
- COMM-722 Broadcast News II (3) (with a grade of B or better)

Print Track (9 credit hours)

- COMM-621 Advanced Editing (3)
- COMM-636 Washington Reporting (3)
- COMM-720 Seminar in Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)

International Journalism

Core (15 credit hours)

- COMM-546 Foreign Policy and the Press (3)
- COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication (3)
- COMM-624 Principles and Practice of Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-710 Seminar in Public Affairs (3) (with international emphasis and a grade of B or better)
- COMM-724 Reporting of Public Affairs (3) (with international emphasis)

Broadcast Track (18 credit hours)

- COMM-632 Television Field Reporting (3)
- COMM-721 Broadcast News I (3)
- COMM-722 Broadcast News II (3) (with international emphasis and a grade of B or better)
- 9 credit hours from the following:
Two international relations courses outside the School of Communication
COMM-xxx elective course

Print Track (18 credit hours)

- COMM-621 Advanced Editing (3)
- COMM-636 Washington Reporting (3) (with international emphasis)
- COMM-720 Seminar in Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- 9 credit hours from the following:
Two international relations courses outside the School of Communication
COMM-xxx elective course

Economic Communication

Core (12 credit hours)

- COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication (3)
- COMM-624 Principles and Practice of Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-710 Seminar in Public Affairs (3) (with emphasis on economic and business coverage and with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-724 Reporting of Public Affairs (3) (with emphasis on economic and business coverage)

Economics (12 credit hours)

- 12 credit hours from the following:
ECON-500 Microeconomics (3)
ECON-501 Macroeconomics (3)
ECON-522 Econometrics (3)
ECON-546 Industrial Economics (3)
ECON-573 Labor Economics (3)
ECON-579 Environmental Economics (3)
ECON-603 Introduction to Economic Theory (3)
ECON-619 U.S. Economic History (3)

Broadcast Track (9 credit hours)

- COMM-632 Television Field Reporting (3)
- COMM-721 Broadcast News I (3)
- COMM-722 Broadcast News II (3) (with a grade of B or better)

Print Track (9 credit hours)

- COMM-545 Business and Economic Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- Economics or business elective course (3)
- COMM-xxx elective course (3)

Interactive Journalism

Core (12 credit hours)

- COMM-504 Journalism Ethics (3)
- COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication (3)
- COMM-710 Seminar in Public Affairs (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-724 Reporting of Public Affairs (3) (with an emphasis on online research and reporting)

Interactive Journalism (18 credit hours)

- COMM-535 Special Topics in News Media (3)
- COMM-599 Media, Technology and Society (3)
- COMM-621 Advanced Editing (3)
- COMM-720 Seminar in Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-721 Broadcast News I (3)
- COMM-502 In-Depth Journalism (3)
or
COMM-722 Broadcast News II (3)
or other approved elective course

News Media Studies

Core (12 credit hours)

- COMM-504 Journalism Ethics (3)
- COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication (3)
- COMM-710 Seminar in Public Affairs (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-724 Reporting of Public Affairs (3) (with an emphasis on how stories are chosen and developed, their effect and the media response)

News Media Studies (18 credit hours)

- COMM-508 The Media and Government (3)
- COMM-535 Special Topics in News Media (3)
- COMM-546 Foreign Policy and the Press (3)

- COMM-545 Business and Economic Journalism (3)
- COMM-599 Media, Technology and Society (3)
- COMM-720 Seminar in Journalism (3) (with a grade of B or better)

Weekend Graduate Program in Communication: Journalism and Public Affairs

The weekend M.A. program in journalism and public affairs is for professionals whose schedules make Saturday classes a preferable alternative to full-time study. Admission requirements are the same as for the full-time program and for the fall semester only. Students are expected to complete the program within a twenty-month period.

M.A. in Communication: Public Communication

Admission to the Program

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study. Admission to the program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least a 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) grade point average in last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. International students whose first language is not English should take the TOEFL examination to demonstrate proficiency in written as well as spoken English. All applicants must earn a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General (verbal, quantitative, and analytical).

Previous academic or professional work in public communication is not required, but all applicants must demonstrate a serious commitment to a career in this field. The ability to speak and write English well is essential. Official transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and a 1,000-word essay on the applicant's commitment to pursuing graduate study in the program are submitted with the application. Interviews are not required, but may be recommended by the school.

Admission is open to both full-time and part-time students for the fall semester. Full-time students are generally expected to complete the program in ten months. Part-time students are expected to take a minimum of two courses each semester and complete their program in two years. The program is also available in a weekend format which takes twenty months to complete (see below).

Qualified undergraduate students may apply to a combined bachelor's/M.A. program and use up to 6 credit hours of 500-level courses to satisfy the requirements of both degrees.

Degree Requirements

- 30 credit hours of approved graduate work
- A graduate project with a grade of B or better is required of all students. This project, which fulfills the university research requirement, is in lieu of a thesis.

The project work must be focused in a particular communication area, such as: arts communication; government and political communication; international public relations; public interest communication; or corporate public relations (elective options in business administration are limited). The

project should be selected to provide an important credential for future employment as well as a focus for learning. It should reflect the student's career direction within the broad field of public communication.

- A grade point average of 3.00 maintained during all work toward the degree

- Comprehensive examination in public communication

Course Requirements

- COMM-640 Principles of Strategic Communication (3)
- COMM-642 Public Communication Management (3)
or
COMM-646 Public Communication Practicum (3)
- COMM-644 Public Communication Writing (3)
- COMM-735 Communication Theory (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-738 Research Methods in Communication (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-744 Public Communication Seminar (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- 12 credit hours in elective courses:

Students may take an internship as one of the elective courses. Other elective courses may be taken in communication or in other fields such as sociology, business, performing arts, education, government, justice, international service, psychology, anthropology, art history, literature, economics, or statistics.

Weekend Graduate Program in Communication: Public Communication

With its emphasis on public relations, this program, conducted on Saturdays, is for experienced professionals who wish to enhance their skills in conducting and managing strategic communication campaigns, yet their schedules won't allow a full-time or even a part-time graduate program during the week. Admission requirements are the same as for the full-time program with the additional prerequisite of at least three years of work experience, and the program starts in the fall semester only. Students are expected to complete the program within a twenty-month period.

M.A. in Communication: Producing for Film and Video

Admission to the Program

This weekend graduate program is designed for working adults who want to pursue careers in producing for film, video, television, and multimedia. Student cohort groups follow a planned curriculum, taking one course every seven weeks (two courses each semester) on Saturdays for a total of 10 courses. The 30-credit hour program is completed in 21 months. Previous academic or professional experience in film or video is not required, but all applicants must demonstrate a serious commitment to a career in this field.

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study. Admission to the program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least a 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) grade point average in last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. International students whose first language is not English should take the TOEFL examination to demonstrate proficiency in written as well as spoken English.

Official transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and a 1,000-word essay on the applicant's commitment to pursuing graduate study in the program are submitted with the application. The application deadline is April 1.

Degree Requirements

- 30 credit hours of approved graduate work
- Continuous enrollment
- A grade point average of 3.00 maintained during all work toward the degree

- Comprehensive examination in producing film and video

Course Requirements

- COMM-503 Broadcast Operations and Management (3)
- COMM-513 Producing Film and Video (3)
- COMM-550 Financing and Marketing Independent Productions (3)
- COMM-571 Production Planning and Management (3)
- COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication (3)
- COMM-671 The Media Enterprise I: Establishing the Enterprise (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-672 The Media Enterprise II: Managing the Enterprise (3) (with a grade of B or better)
- COMM-682 Writing for Visual Media (3)
- 6 credit hours from COMM-570 Summer Film and Digital Media Institute

M.A. in Film and Video

Admission to the Program

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study. Admission to the program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least a 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) grade point average in last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. International students whose first language is not English should take the TOEFL examination to demonstrate proficiency in written as well as spoken English.

Applicants must earn a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General (verbal, quantitative, and analytical). Previous exposure to film study, film and video production, or script writing is not required, although all applicants are required to show evidence of professional commitment and career direction related to their program of study.

Official transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and a 1,000-word essay on the applicant's commitment to pursuing graduate study in the program are submitted with the application.

Admission is not limited to full-time students, however students must be available to take most of their course work during the day. Students will normally be expected to complete the 33-credit hour program within 24 months.

Degree Requirements

- 36 credit hours of approved graduate work
Non-thesis option:
COMM-701 Graduate Seminar in Film Theory and Practice with a grade of B or better
COMM-702 Master's Portfolio Seminar with a grade of B or better

- A grade point average of 3.00 maintained during all work toward the degree

- Comprehensive examination in film and video

Course Requirements

- COMM-513 Producing Film and Video(3)
- COMM-631 Film and Video Production I (3)
- COMM-634 Film and Video Production II (3)
- COMM-682 Writing for Visual Media (3)
- COMM-701 Graduate Seminar in Film Theory and Practice (3) with a grade of B or better (taken in the first year)
- COMM-702 Master's Portfolio Seminar (3) with a grade of B or better
- 18 credit hours in courses selected from the following areas:

Film production or video production; film theory, history, and criticism; multimedia; and script writing. Students may emphasize one of these areas in the design of their program, but the program must include courses from all of these areas. Courses in related areas such as performing arts and photography may also be included.

M.F.A. in Film and Electronic Media

Admission to the Program

Applicants must meet the minimum university requirements for graduate study. Admission to the program requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least a 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) grade point average in last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. International students whose first language is not English should take the TOEFL examination to demonstrate proficiency in written as well as spoken English. The Graduate Record General Examination (GRE) is required, but may be waived by the division director.

An undergraduate degree in one of the visual media is desirable, but applications from candidates who have majored in other fields will also be considered. Applicants with prior experience in the visual media should submit a portfolio illustrating relevant professional experience. Students without prior experience in film, video, photography, or digital media production or who do not demonstrate through their portfolio a level of minimum proficiency in media production will need to reconcile their deficiencies with additional course work.

Official transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and a 1,000-word essay on the applicant's commitment to pursuing graduate study in the program are submitted with the application.

Degree Requirements

- 51 credit hours of approved graduate work
Students without a minimum level of proficiency in media production are required to take COMM-630 Principles of Photography prior to or at the beginning of their program. This course does not count toward the 51 credit hours required for the degree.
- Production of a portfolio of original creative work in the areas of scriptwriting, film, or electronic media production under the supervision of a faculty committee and in conjunction with COMM-702 Master's Portfolio Seminar, with a grade of B or better
- A grade point average of 3.00 maintained during all work toward the degree
- Comprehensive examination in film and electronic media

Course Requirements (51 credit hours)

Core (27 credit hours)

- COMM-513 Producing Film and Video (3)
 - COMM-631 Film and Video Production I (3)
 - COMM-634 Film and Video Production II (3) *or* COMM-584 Film Technology and Practice (6)*
 - COMM-650 Digital Imaging (3)
 - COMM-682 Writing for Visual Media (3)
or
COMM-587 Screenwriting (3)*
 - COMM-701 Graduate Seminar in Film Theory and Practice (3) (must be taken in the first year)
 - COMM-711 Teaching Seminar in Media Arts (3)
- With the advisor's approval, students with comparable prior experience or course work may substitute other courses in production and writing or media studies.
- Two of the following:
COMM-511 History of Documentary (3)
COMM-517 History of Cross-Cultural Cinema (3)
COMM-520 History of Animation (3)
COMM-527 History of Photography (3)
COMM-558 Survey of American Cinema (3)

Portfolio Requirement (6 credit hours)

- COMM-702 Master's Portfolio Seminar (6) with a grade of B or better

Electives (18 credit hours)

With the guidance of their advisor, students may develop an area of concentration or expertise using courses from the following; COMM-690 Independent Study Project, COMM-691 Graduate Internship, and COMM-692 Cooperative Education Field Experience may also be used with permission of the student's advisor:

Production and Writing (minimum 6 credit hours)

- COMM-561 Advanced Writing for Film (3)
- COMM-562 Advanced Writing for Television (3)
- COMM-565 Advanced Visual Media Portfolio (3)
- COMM-570 Summer Film and Digital Media Institute (1-6)
- COMM-635 Introduction to Studio Television (3)
- COMM-638 Production Practicum (1-3)
- COMM-652 Web Studio (3)
- COMM-654 Digital Post Production (3)
- COMM-656 Dramatic Production (3)
- COMM-664 Directing for Camera (3)
- COMM-686 Documentary Production (3)

Media Studies and Producing (minimum 3 credit hours) (see note below)

- COMM-511 History of Documentary (3)
- COMM-514 Censorship in the Media (3)
- COMM-515 Media, Children, and Society (3)
- COMM-516 Topics in Film and Media Arts (3)
- COMM-517 History of Cross-Cultural Cinema (3)
- COMM-520 History of Animation (3)
- COMM-527 History of Photography (3)
- COMM-550 Financing and Marketing Independent Productions (3)
- COMM-558 Survey of American Cinema (3)
- COMM-584 Film Technology and Practice (3)*
- COMM-585 Directing (3)*
- COMM-586 History of Czech Cinema (3)*
- COMM-601 Legal Aspects of Communication (3)

Note: One media studies elective may be taken in a related subject area with the approval of the faculty advisor. Related media studies courses include the following:

- COMM-503 Broadcast Operations and Management (3)
- LIT-646 Topics in Film
- PERF-557 Creative Writers' Performance Laboratory (3)
- PERF-665 Theatre History I (3)
- PERF-666 Theatre History II (3)
- PERF-667 Theatre History III (3)

* Courses offered in Prague, Czech Republic. Students may enroll in the film and theatre curriculum at the Prague Film Academy (FAMU) through the AU Abroad program. Courses taken at FAMU receive full credit toward the M.F.A. in Film and Electronic Media.

M.A. in International Media

The Master of Arts in International Media offers students a unique opportunity to learn international communication theory and research while at the same time developing professional production skills. This interdisciplinary M.A. program allows students to take concurrent courses in the School of Communication (SOC) and School of International Service (SIS) that emphasize strategic communication, research, international communication, and global media. In addition, students take hands-on courses designed to hone writing skills over a broad range of media, and production classes that introduce them to filmmaking, newswriting, digital imaging, web design, photography, and public communication writing. The media studies component of the program gives students a strong background in research skills, broad knowledge of global economic and political issues, and a deep understanding of how the media works, especially in an international environment. The production portion of the program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical groundings to be professionally competent and literate managers/producers/commissioners.

Admission to the Program

Applicants must hold an accredited bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.30 or higher on a 4.00 scale. Some background knowledge of communication studies, or media/journalism professional experience, or international studies and international work experience is a plus.

All applicants are required to submit results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In addition, international applicants whose first language is not English are required to submit results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A strong TOEFL score is necessary to ensure that students can fully benefit from the media production courses and analytical courses. All applicants must also submit two letters of reference evaluating undergraduate academic performance and suitability for graduate study in international affairs and communication.

Students apply to either SOC or SIS. Applications will be reviewed jointly by SOC and SIS, with both schools agreeing on student admission.

Degree Requirements

- 45 credit hours of approved graduate work with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00, including 12 credit hours of core courses, 6 credit hours of professional courses, 6 credit hours of methods courses, and 6 credit hours of research/capstone courses. Students also take 15 credit hours of electives. Students choose a concentration in either SIS or SOC and complete a total of 24 credits hours in that concentration, including their research/capstone requirement. Students may not take more than a total of 24 credit hours in either SIS or SOC to fulfill degree requirements.

Requests for the transfer of a maximum of six graduate credits will be considered only on an exceptional basis.

- One oral comprehensive examination in the School of International Service. To be eligible to take a comprehensive examination, students must have maintained at least a 3.00 grade point average in all graduate course work.
- Demonstration of research and writing skills through completion of the research/capstone requirement courses with grades of B or better.
- Proficiency in a modern foreign language. Research competence in English and another language relevant to the student's career objectives must be certified.

Course Requirements

Core (12 credit hours)

- COMM-549 Topics in International Media (3)
- SIS-640 International Communication (3)
- SIS-645 International Communication Policy (3)
- one of the following:
 - COMM-640 Principles of Strategic Communication (3)
 - SIS-628 Advanced Topics in International Communication:
 - Global Knowledge Economy (3)
 - SIS-644 Communication and Social Economic Development (3)

Students who take COMM-640 Principles of Strategic Communication for the core must take either SIS-628 Advanced Topics in International Communication: Global Knowledge Economy or SIS-644 Communication and Social Economic Development as an elective.

Professional (6 credit hours)

- COMM-688 Media Writing (3)
- COMM-638 Production Practicum (1-3)

Methods (6 credit hours)

- SIS-695 Research Seminar in International Communication (3)
- COMM-738 Public Communication Research Methods (3)

Research/Capstone Requirement (6 credit hours)

- SIS-795 Master's Research Requirement (1-3)
 - and*
 - SIS-691 Internship (1-6)
 - or*
 - COMM-710 Seminar in Public Affairs (3) *or*
 - COMM-744 Public Communication Seminar (3)
 - and*
 - COMM-691 Internship (3)

Students who take COMM-710 or COMM-744 and COMM-691 Internship for the research/capstone requirement may take only one additional 3-credit SOC (COMM-xxx) elective.

Electives and Concentration

- 15 credit hours in elective courses including 6 credit hours from one of the following concentrations (IC or SOC):

Students who take COMM-640 Principles of Strategic Communication for the core must take either SIS-628 Advanced Topics in International Communication: Global Knowledge Economy or SIS-644 Communication and Social Economic Development as an elective.

Students who take COMM-710 or COMM-744 and COMM-691 for the research/capstone requirement may take only one SOC (COMM-xxx) elective.

International Communication (IC) (6 credit hours)

SIS-628 Advanced Topics in International Communication (1-3) (approved topics)

SIS-566 International Communication Skills Institutes (1-3) (up to 3 credit hours of approved topics)

Approved electives in other SIS fields related to International Communication

School of Communication (SOC) (6 credit hours)*Theoretical*

COMM-541 Media Relations

COMM-539 International Public Relations

COMM-511 History of Documentary

COMM-512 Social Documentary

COMM-516 Topics in Film and Media Arts

COMM-517 History of Cross-Cultural Cinema

COMM-527 History of Photography

COMM-531 Political Communication

COMM-535 Special Topics in News Media

COMM-544 Foreign Correspondence

COMM-546 Foreign Policy and the Press

COMM-548 Global Journalism

COMM-735 Communication Theory

Professional

COMM-521 Opinion Writing

COMM-630 Principles of Photography

COMM-631 Film and Video Production I

COMM-635 Introduction to Studio Television

COMM-644 Public Communication Writing

COMM-650 Digital Imaging and Design

COMM-652 Web Studio

COMM-567 Communication and Social Change

- 9 additional credit hours in approved elective courses
Students may not take more than a total of 24 credit hours in either SIS or SOC to fulfill degree requirements.