

is enrolled in the Ph.D. program the next semester. Up to 18 graduate credits earned in the M.A. program will count toward the Ph.D. degree if the accelerated entry option is approved by the MCMA Graduate Committee. Once the student is admitted to the Ph.D. program, all requirements of the Ph.D. program apply. Exceptions to any of these rules must be appealed to the MCMA Graduate Committee, which has final authority to approve or reject the petition.

**Retention.** No course in which the grade is below *C* shall count toward the degree nor fulfillment of any requirement, but the grade will be included in the grade point average. No more than 3 hours of *C* work in graduate courses will count toward the degree.

**Procedures.** Detailed policies for the Ph.D. degree are available from the MCMA Graduate Office, including such topics as graduate symposium, first year review, composition of graduate committees, comprehensive exam procedures, etc. However, some of the major steps through the program are:

1. During the third semester of enrollment, each Ph.D. student will prepare a total program plan for the degree and secure sponsorship by a faculty member who may become the dissertation committee chair. The plan should include a list of courses and tools, with some explanation and justification for their selection in relation to academic goals. The plan will be discussed and modified, when appropriate, before approval.
2. When the student has completed all course work (with all incomplete and deferred grades removed) other than the classes taken in the concurrent semester, the student must pass rigorous comprehensive written and oral examinations. The examination must be completed during the fall semester of the third year in the program. Failure to successfully complete the exams by the end of the fall semester of the third year will result in dismissal from the program.
3. Upon successfully completing the comprehensive written and oral exams, the student advances to candidacy to complete and defend a dissertation based on scholarly research and independent thought that adds to the body of knowledge in the field.
4. Under the guidance of a dissertation committee chair, the student forms a dissertation committee and prepares a dissertation proposal consisting of the introduction, literature review, and methodology for the investigation proposed. An oral defense of proposal must be made before the committee and interested observers and approved within one year of reaching candidacy.
5. The dissertation defense will be before members of the dissertation committee and interested observers. Although others than committee members may be allowed to ask questions, the pass or fail decision on the oral defense will be made by committee members only. The College of Mass Communication and Media Arts allows a maximum of seven years from date of enrolling for completion of the doctoral degree.

**Curriculum.** The Ph.D. in mass communication and media arts requires a minimum of 60 credits including 12 credits of

foundation courses, 9 credits of research tools courses, 15 credits of electives, and a 24-credit dissertation. A minimum of 12 courses are required. Ten courses must be taken within MCMA.

All course work counting towards the degree must be at the 500 level. If the faculty advisor and student determines a 400 level course would be beneficial, the course can be taken as an independent study with specific extra work to make it equivalent to a 500 level course. A plan of study must be submitted and approved for such a course.

A maximum of two (2) independent study courses, for 6 credit hours total, can be counted toward degree (MCMA 596 and/or 591).

#### **Foundation (12 credits)**

MCMA 504-3	Foundations of Mass Communication Theory
MCMA 505-3	Theoretical Issues in Mass Communication
MCMA 508-3	Conceptual Foundations of Research Strategy
MCMA 595-3	PhD Proseminar

#### **Research Tools Courses (9 credits)**

Nine credit hours of additional research tools courses must be taken, selected in consultation with the student's faculty advisor. A minimum of two (2) must be within MCMA.

#### **Electives (15 credits)**

Fifteen credit hours of additional courses must be taken, selected in consultation with the student's faculty advisor to build an emphasis.

Possible emphasis areas include but are not limited to Journalism/Mass Communication, Media Law & Policy, Media/Cultural Studies, Interdisciplinary.

#### **Comprehensive and Oral Exams**

##### **Dissertation (24 credits)**

MCMA 600-24	Dissertation (24 credits): Proposal and Defense.
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#### **Courses (CP)**

**404-3 Lighting for Photography.** Basic concepts and essential principles of lighting technique will be thoroughly explained and investigated. Fundamental challenges in lighting arrangements and aesthetic considerations of both studio and location applications will be explored. Students will use a required text and provide photographic materials. Prerequisite: CP 330 with grade *C* or better or concurrent enrollment. Special approval needed from the department. Lab fee: \$35.

**415-3 Photographic Criticism and Practice.** Introduction to photographic criticism and its application in photographic practice. Through readings, writings and practical experiences, students will gain a broad-based knowledge of critical approaches to the photographic image. Prerequisite: CP 210 and 260 both with grades of *C* or better. Screening fee: \$30.

**421-6 (3,3) Experimental Photographic Techniques.** Experimental approaches to the creation of photographic images. Specific course content may include experimental techniques utilizing the camera, the darkroom and a wide range of additional media. Students provide materials and may