MEDIA STUDIES, PHD

Contact

Nicholas Bowman, PhD, Director of Media Studies
315-443-9241
nbowman@syr.edu

Faculty

See Faculty for the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

Program Description

The Ph.D. in media studies at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications draws from both the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities traditions, with faculty and graduates studying media from both perspectives. Students may draw on an extensive variety of faculty in the Newhouse School and in other schools at Syracuse University.

Students can specialize in the functions and social effects of print and electronic media or focus on media-related institutions in society. Among the topics they might consider include (but are not limited to): entertainment studies, influences on media content, media influence on social behavior, media psychology, emerging media technologies, advertising influences on consumer behavior, public relations, media law and ethics, diversity and inclusion in media, science communication, and political communication.

Coursework includes three areas of study: mass communication theory, research methods and statistics, and a customized set of core specialization elective courses inside and/or outside the Newhouse School relevant to the student's area of study.

Doctoral students complete at least 45 semester credits beyond the master's degree. In addition to the 45 credits, 15 dissertation completion credits are also taken during the program, to support the student towards their dissertation defense. Doctoral students should be able to complete the program in four years.

Unless accepted on external funding mechanisms or other arrangements, all accepted Media Studies Doctoral students are awarded a four-year assistantship that includes:

a full tuition waiver covering the required program credits.
an annual stipend, and
health insurance benefits.

Through the Newhouse Office of Research and Creative Activity and contingent on annual budget approvals, students also receive funds to support travel and data collection, as well as a specific fund to assist in the completion of the dissertation. Students can also apply for additional annual travel support through SU's Graduate School.

Admission

Applicants must have a Master's degree for admission to the Ph.D. program. This degree does not need to be in media studies, but candidates with degrees in media studies, mass communication, communication, and similar fields are preferred.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students in the Media Studies Doctoral program are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. THEORY: Apply and evaluate core communication theories and concepts of mediated communication.
2. METHODS: Compare and assess key quantitative and qualitative research methods used in the field of communications.
3. MEDIA SYSTEMS: Recognize and critique the role of contemporary media systems and processes in society and culture.
4. GLOBAL DIVERSITY: Critique, assess, and construct explanations for the role of media in a diverse and global environment.
5. WRITING: Compose and construct scholarly arguments in forms and styles appropriate for the field of mass communications.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Principles of Scholarship		
MSD 602	Principles of Research in Media Studies	1
MSD 603	Principles of Pedagogy in Media Studies	1
MSD 604	Principles of Academic Publishing in Media Studies	1
Research		
MSD 601	Research Project Design	3
MSD 605	Quantitative Methods for Mass Communications Research	3
MSD 606	Qualitative Methods for Mass Communications Research	3
Theory		
MSD 755	Theories of Media Effects	3
MSD 788	Theories of Media and Culture	3
Additional Newhouse Theory Course		3
Advanced Methods Course		
Newhouse Advanced Methods course		3
Statistics Courses		
MSD 815	Statistics for Communication Research I	3
MSD 816	Statistics for Communication Research II	3
Core Specialization Electives		
Choose five additional courses in consultation with advisor that build toward the dissertation. Courses may be taken in any SU department, with preference for MSD/Newhouse courses.		15
Dissertation		
MSD 999	Dissertation	15
Choose a dissertation topic with the guidance of the Ph.D. faculty advisor and do the necessary preparatory work for that topic.		
Total Credits		**60**