Program Type: 

Degree Type: 

Communication (PhD) (new PHD)

Provide a brief summary of the proposed program changes and describe the rationale for the change(s):

What is proposed is the implementation of a doctoral program in the Department of Communication.

The mission of the Communication Ph.D. program is to provide advanced training to students in the field of Communication, and others with relevant disciplinary interest (e.g., social sciences, technology), with the goal of preparing them for research-based careers. Areas of in-depth study are driven by the strength of faculty research and encompass the areas of Interpersonal Communication, Media/Mass Communication, and Political Communication in a social science tradition. Graduates are prepared to advance research and theory in the field of Communication. This program will provide high quality classroom-based instruction through a core graduate curriculum, research and statistical methodology courses, and the ability of students to focus their program of study in one of the department’s three core concentrations.

This Ph.D. in Communication is a critical component supporting the academic priorities of the University of Delaware. Consistent with major initiatives of both the College of Arts and Sciences and the University of Delaware, this Ph.D. program will help to achieve the recommendations put forth by the strategic principles of the University of Delaware President and administrators. The implementation of this Ph.D. degree would contribute to the University of Delaware’s goal of doubling the number of doctoral programs and its proposed expansion of the graduate population by 1,000 new doctoral students. It is the goal of the Department of Communication to be a contributor to the excellence of the University of Delaware’s graduate programs while also working toward the university’s strategic goals by increasing student diversity and building toward an environment of inclusive excellence, by engaging students in challenges that would go beyond traditional ideas about communication including opportunities for interdisciplinary education and research, and by continuing to have an impact on the discourse and the knowledge about communication in both the world of academia and the world at large through the fostering of a spirit of academic innovation. We hope continuing such excellence through doctoral education will help us to be able to successfully compete for external funding for further graduate education.

 Letters of support from other academic units affected are attached and included in the program statement. Also included in the program statement is a letter of support from the College of Arts and Science's Dean, George Watson. The policy statement attached has been created with the assistance of Mary Martin, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education.

All of the following courses have all already been submitted for approval and to be added to the course catalog.

The following courses are proposed in order to add breadth of topics and to encompass the various topics that the current members of the Department of Communication faculty have expertise in within the Political Communication track.

COMM633 - Topics in Political Communication

COMM832 - Proseminar in Political Communication

COMM836 - Digital Technology in Politics

Because of the varying methodological perspectives within the field of Communication that students should know and understand, the following course was proposed for the course catalog as a potential course to satisfy the doctoral program's research competency requirement:

COMM803 - Topics in Communication Research Methods

The following courses have been added as courses that could fulfill the requirement of one of the department's 3 tracks (Media Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Political Communication)

COMM808 - Media Law and Policy

COMM811 - Communication and Ethics

COMM814 - Communication Campaigns

COMM815 - Proseminar in Media Effects

COMM841 - Proseminar in Interpersonal Communication

For students who may want to take a deeper look and investigate further topics related to their concentration but are not included in other coursework, the following course is proposed for students to complete their own independent study.

COMM866 - Special Problem

In order for there to be a regular venue for students to hear about recent research from faculty members and departmental visitors, as well as to present their own research projects, the following has been proposed:

COMM890 - Communication Colloquium

Finally, the following courses have been proposed for those students who have either completed coursework but haven't fully progressed into candidacy or are currently in the candidacy stage and working on their doctoral dissertation:

COMM964 - Pre-Candidacy Study

COMM969 - Doctoral Dissertation

Letters are attached for each of the following academic units affected by this doctoral program proposal:

Department of Applied Economics and Statistics

Department of Political Science & International Relations

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

Human Development and Family Sciences

School of Education

School of Public Policy & Administration

Prospective Curriculum:\*

Required Core Courses

15 credits

Courses

COMM 601 Epistemology and Theory in Communication (3cr.)

COMM 603 Communication Research Methods - Procedures (3cr.)

COMM 604 Communication Research Methods - Analysis (3cr.)

COMM 630 Interpersonal Communication Theory (3cr.)

COMM 670 Media Theory (3cr.)

No one class may be used to fulfill more than one requirement in completion of the PhD.

Research Methodology Courses

Students must take 3 credits from the Research Methodology course list, 3 credits from the Statistical Methods Course list, and 3 additional credits from either list.

Courses

COMM 624 Media Message Analysis (3cr.)

COMM 685 Analysis of Face-to-Face Communication (3cr.)

COMM 803 Topics in Communication Research Methods

COMM 815 Proseminar in Media Effects

COMM 832 Proseminar in Political Communication

COMM 841 Proseminar in Interpersonal Communication

EDUC 862 Design and Analysis of Experiments (3cr.)

HDFS 615 Research Methods (3cr.)

HDFS 815 Research Issues and Designs (3cr.)

SOCI 605 Data Collection and Analysis (3cr.)

SOCI 606 Qualitative Methodology (3cr.)

UAPP 702 Research Methods in Urban and Public Policy (3cr.)

UAPP 718 Survey Research Methods (3cr.)

UAPP 808 Qualitative Methods for Program Evaluation (3cr.)

If a student finds a course not on the lists above that they would like to use to fulfill part of the research competency requirement it must be approved by their academic advisor and a request must be made for its evaluation by the Department of Communication’s Graduate Director.

Statistical methods Courses

Students must take 3 credits from the Research Methodology course list, 3 credits from the Statistical Methods Course list, and 3 additional credits from either list.

Courses

EDUC 665 Elementary Statistics (3cr.)

EDUC 812 Regression and Structural Equation Modeling (3cr.)

EDUC 865 Educational Measurement Theory (3cr.)

POSC 815 Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science (3cr.)

PSYC 860 Psychological Statistics (3cr.)

PSYC 861 Psychological Statistics (3cr.)

PSYC 878 Hierarchical Linear Modeling (3cr.)

PSYC 879 Structural Equation Modeling (3cr.)

SOCI 614 Advanced Data Analysis (3cr.)

STAT 609 Regression and Experimental Design (3cr.)

STAT 611 Regression Analysis (3cr.)

STAT 615 Design and Analysis of Experiments (3cr.)

STAT 616 Advanced Design of Experiments (3cr.)

STAT 675 Logistic Regression (3cr.)

UAPP 691 Quantitative Analysis in Public and Nonprofit Sectors (3cr.)

If a student finds a course not on the lists above that they would like to use to fulfill part of the research competency requirement it must be approved by their academic advisor and a request must be made for its evaluation by the Department of Communication’s Graduate Director.

Concentration 1 - Interpersonal Communication

Each student will choose and declare one of three concentrations within the Communication program by the end of their first academic year. Concentration requirements consist of the completion of four concentration courses (12 credits) from their chosen concentration. Students must also complete one 3 credit course from each of their non-chosen concentrations (6 total credits).

Courses

COMM 610 Organizational Communication Theory (3cr.)

COMM 617 Communication and the Management of Conflict (3cr.)

COMM 621 Intercultural Communication (3cr.)

COMM 640 Topics in Interpersonal Communication (3 to 9cr.)

COMM 642 Topics in Organizational Communication (3 to 9cr.)

COMM 643 Communication and Emotion (3cr.)

COMM 652 Communication and Persuasion (3cr.)

COMM 653 Health Communication (3cr.)

COMM 656 Communication in Organizations (3cr.)

COMM 676 Social Media and Communication (3cr.)

COMM 685 Analysis of Face-to-Face Communication (3cr.)

COMM 811 Communication and Ethics

COMM 841 Proseminar in Interpersonal Communication

Concentration 2 - Media Communication

Description

Each student will choose and declare one of three concentrations within the Communication program by the end of their first academic year. Concentration requirements consist of the completion of four concentration courses (12 credits) from their chosen concentration. Students must also complete one 3 credit course from each of their non-chosen concentrations (6 total credits).

Courses

COMM 618 Topics in Media Communication (3 to 9cr.)

COMM 623 Communication, Advertising and the Consumer (3cr.)

COMM 652 Communication and Persuasion (3cr.)

COMM 653 Health Communication (3cr.)

COMM 654 Children and the Mass Media (3cr.)

COMM 658 Science Communication (3cr.)

COMM 676 Social Media and Communication (3cr.)

COMM 808 Media Law and Policy

COMM 811 Communication and Ethics

COMM 814 Communication Campaigns

COMM 815 Proseminar in Media Effects

UAPP 715 Media, Citizenship & Public Policy (3cr.)

Concentration 3 - Political Communication

Description

Each student will choose and declare one of three concentrations within the Communication program by the end of their first academic year. Concentration requirements consist of the completion of four concentration courses (12 credits) from their chosen concentration. Students must also complete one 3 credit course from each of their non-chosen concentrations (6 total credits).

Courses

COMM 621 Intercultural Communication (3cr.)

COMM 625 Advanced Topics in Political and Broadcast Journalism (3cr.)

COMM 631 Entertainment and Politics

COMM 633 Topics in Political Communication

COMM 652 Communication and Persuasion (3cr.)

COMM 658 Science Communication (3cr.)

COMM 676 Social Media and Communication (3cr.)

COMM 808 Media Law and Policy

COMM 811 Communication and Ethics

COMM 814 Communication Campaigns

COMM 832 Proseminar in Political Communication

COMM 836 Digital Technology in Politics

UAPP 715 Media, Citizenship & Public Policy (3cr.)

POSC 807 American Political Behavior (3cr.)

Elective Courses

Communication Colloquium

Description

Students must enroll in the COMM890 – Communication Colloquium each semester they are enrolled in coursework for a total of up to six semesters.

Courses

COMM 890 Communication Colloquium

Dissertation

COMM 964 Pre-Candidacy Study

COMM 969 Doctoral Dissertation

COMM - 601 - Epistemology and Theory in Communication (3cr.)

COMM - 603 - Communication Research Methods - Procedures (3cr.)

COMM - 604 - Communication Research Methods - Analysis (3cr.)

COMM - 610 - Organizational Communication Theory (3cr.)

COMM - 617 - Communication and the Management of Conflict (3cr.)

COMM - 618 - Topics in Media Communication (3 to 9cr.)

COMM - 621 - Intercultural Communication (3cr.)

COMM - 623 - Communication, Advertising and the Consumer (3cr.)

COMM - 624 - Media Message Analysis (3cr.)

COMM - 625 - Advanced Topics in Political and Broadcast Journalism (3cr.)

COMM - 630 - Interpersonal Communication Theory (3cr.)

COMM - 631 - Entertainment and Politics

COMM - 633 - Topics in Political Communication

COMM - 640 - Topics in Interpersonal Communication (3 to 9cr.)

COMM - 642 - Topics in Organizational Communication (3 to 9cr.)

COMM - 643 - Communication and Emotion (3cr.)

COMM - 652 - Communication and Persuasion (3cr.)

COMM - 653 - Health Communication (3cr.)

COMM - 654 - Children and the Mass Media (3cr.)

COMM - 656 - Communication in Organizations (3cr.)

COMM - 658 - Science Communication (3cr.)

COMM - 670 - Media Theory (3cr.)

COMM - 676 - Social Media and Communication (3cr.)

COMM - 685 - Analysis of Face-to-Face Communication (3cr.)

COMM - 803 - Topics in Communication Research Methods

COMM - 808 - Media Law and Policy

COMM - 811 - Communication and Ethics

COMM - 814 - Communication Campaigns

COMM - 815 - Proseminar in Media Effects

COMM - 832 - Proseminar in Political Communication

COMM - 836 - Digital Technology in Politics

COMM - 841 - Proseminar in Interpersonal Communication

COMM - 866 - Special Problem

COMM - 890 - Communication Colloquium

COMM - 964 - Pre-Candidacy Study

COMM - 969 - Doctoral Dissertation

EDUC - 665 - Elementary Statistics (3cr.)

EDUC - 812 - Regression and Structural Equation Modeling (3cr.)

EDUC - 862 - Design and Analysis of Experiments (3cr.)

EDUC - 865 - Educational Measurement Theory (3cr.)

HDFS - 615 - Research Methods (3cr.)

HDFS - 815 - Research Issues and Designs (3cr.)

POSC - 807 - American Political Behavior (3cr.)

POSC - 815 - Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science (3cr.)

PSYC - 860 - Psychological Statistics (3cr.)

PSYC - 861 - Psychological Statistics (3cr.)

PSYC - 878 - Hierarchical Linear Modeling (3cr.)

PSYC - 879 - Structural Equation Modeling (3cr.)

SOCI - 605 - Data Collection and Analysis (3cr.)

SOCI - 606 - Qualitative Methodology (3cr.)

SOCI - 614 - Advanced Data Analysis (3cr.)

STAT - 609 - Regression and Experimental Design (3cr.)

STAT - 611 - Regression Analysis (3cr.)

STAT - 615 - Design and Analysis of Experiments (3cr.)

STAT - 616 - Advanced Design of Experiments (3cr.)

STAT - 675 - Logistic Regression (3cr.)

UAPP - 691 - Quantitative Analysis in Public and Nonprofit Sectors (3cr.)

UAPP - 702 - Research Methods in Urban and Public Policy (3cr.)

UAPP - 715 - Media, Citizenship & Public Policy (3cr.)

UAPP - 718 - Survey Research Methods (3cr.)

UAPP - 808 - Qualitative Methods for Program Evaluation (3cr.)