

**Ph.D. in Communication  
Program Policy Statement  
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## **Ph.D. in Communication Program Policy Statement**

### **I. Description**

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. For the department faculty the expected outcomes of the program include increased levels of academic productivity, increased reputations among University Delaware faculty and within the discipline of Communication, and increasing the level of scholarly impact on the field.

Our existing faculty includes some of the top scholars in the fields of media and interpersonal communication, known for their empirical work in those areas, and for their innovative approaches to communication theory. As the media environment becomes more complex and patterns of communication shift, we recognize the need for integrated approaches to communication that blend both interpersonal and media theory. The proposed doctoral program will build upon this premise, to offer our students rich and integrated theoretical considerations of our evolving communication environment, in ways that reflect the history of interpersonal and media communication theory, but more importantly, in ways that recognize and prioritize the integration of these two approaches.

Students are expected to develop an understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of their particular area of interest within the field of Communication as well as to develop the ability to conceptualize and implement original research to further their and others' understanding of that area. Students must demonstrate their proficiency with this content through a successful completion of their coursework, passage of their candidacy examinations and oral defense, and a successful defense of a completed doctoral dissertation.

The markers of success for the program will include the quality of its applicants, the future ranking of the program, the productivity of the faculty, the scholarly outputs for the students, and job placement for the program's graduates. In order to help the Ph.D. program reach its potential, the department will undertake activities that support its solvency; these could include consistent revenue generation from graduate tuition and increased partnerships that lead to sponsored activities and major gifts.

## II. Rationale and Demand

### A. Institutional Demand

#### 1. Compatibility with the University of Delaware Mission

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.

#### 2. Description of the Planning Process

The proposal planning process began for the Department of Communication when the Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences informed the department faculty that they were willing to work with us in starting and implementing a Ph.D. program in Communication. The faculty members of the Department of Communication were excited by this news and started immediately the planning process. The Chair of the department, John Courtright, and the Director of Graduate Studies, James Angelini, reviewed Ph.D. programs already in place at the University of Delaware as well as the Ph.D. programs of comparable and aspirational institutions across the United States. Upon concluding this investigation a draft of the proposal for a Ph.D. in Communication was created. This proposal was then brought to the Department of Communication's Graduate Committee for review in July 2017, which consists of five faculty members, Elizabeth Perse, Professor Emerita, Paul Brewer, Professor and Research Director of the Center for Political Communication, Tracey Holden, Assistant Professor, Jennifer Lambe, Associate Professor, and Dannagal Young, Associate Professor. The members of the committee raised questions, concerns, and further ideas which led to revisions to the initial proposal draft.

The proposal draft was then brought to the entire faculty of the Department of Communication. Further discussion was held about the proposal and all members of the faculty were informed of revisions to the proposal based on faculty and administrative input. This planning process culminated with an endorsement of the program by the Department of Communication faculty in a vote on 9/20/2017. Of the 14 faculty members, 13 voted to approve the program.

### 3. Impact on Other University Programs

The negative impact on other university programs will be minimal. Students will be able to utilize courses from other departments to fulfill the Research Competency and Concentration Requirements but the number of Communication students in those classes will be minimal. Letters of support from these other academic units can be found in Appendix A.

The potential positive impact on other university programs can be great. We will have further opportunities for Graduate Assistant support. A Ph.D. program can work towards attracting multidisciplinary faculty to our department. We see the potential to increase our prominence through student recruitment to the University of Delaware for doctoral study, and these students can bring differing perspectives and ideas to the other departments across the University of Delaware from which they take courses and potentially get involved in interdisciplinary research.

### 4. Utilizing Existing Resources

The Ph.D. in Communication program will utilize existing resources at the university and within the Department of Communication. All Ph.D. faculty members have expertise and experience with graduate-level instruction. In addition, all Ph.D. faculty members have served as master's thesis advisors or members of thesis committees within the Department of Communication and some faculty have been members of master's thesis or doctoral dissertation committees in the disciplines of sociology, psychology, political science, human development & family studies, urban affairs & public policy, anthropology, information sciences, disaster science & management, and plant & soil sciences. Some members of the Department of Communication's Ph.D. faculty have served as members of master's thesis or doctoral dissertation committees at other institutions including the University of Texas at Austin, Rutgers University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Temple University, the U.S. Naval Academy, and Drexel University.

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, in line with the University's strategic initiatives, is committed to promoting cross-program and college collaborations. Scientific and academic rigor will be increased through inter-departmental collaborations which the Department of Communication will take advantage of through the course offerings in both the courses a student could use to fulfill the Research Competency requirement and the Concentration requirement.

The Research Competency Courses include relevant research and statistical methodology courses at the University of Delaware. In addition to possible courses from the Department of Communication students could select courses from the following Research Methodology Courses:

- EDUC682: Design and Analysis of Experiments (3 credits)
- HDFS615: Research Methods (3 credits)
- HDFS815: Research Issues and Designs (3 credits)
- SOCI605: Data Collection and Analysis (3 credits)
- SOCI606: Qualitative Methodology (3 credits)
- SPPA808: Qualitative Research Methods (3 credits)
- UAPP702: Research Methods in Urban and Public Policy (3 credits)
- UAPP718: Survey Research Methods (3 credits)

Students are also required to choose from the following Statistical Methodology Courses:

- EDUC665: Elementary Statistics (3 credits)
- EDUC812: Regression and Structural Equation Modeling (3 credits)
- EDUC865: Educational Management Theory (3 credits)
- POSC815: Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science (3 credits)
- PSYC860: Psychological Statistics (3 credits)
- PSYC861: Psychological Statistics II (3 credits)
- PSYC878: Hierarchical Linear Modeling (3 credits)
- PSYC879: Structural Equation Modeling (3 credits)
- SOCI614: Advanced Data Analysis (3 credits)
- STAT609: Regression and Experimental Design (3 credits)
- STAT611: Regression Analysis (3 credits)
- STAT615: Design and Analysis of Experiments (3 credits)
- STAT616: Advanced Design of Experiments (3 credits)
- STAT675: Logistic Regression (3 credits)
- UAPP691: Quantitative Analysis in Public and Nonprofit Sectors (3 credits)

For those students that choose to specialize in the Media Communication Concentration they will have the option to choose to take UDAPP705: Media, Citizenship, & Public Policy (3 credits) in addition to courses offered by the Department of Communication.

For those students that choose to specialize in the Political Communication Concentration they will have the option to choose to take the following courses in addition to courses offered by the Department of Communication:

- POSC807: American Political Behavior (3 credits)
- UAPP715: Media, Citizenship, & Public Policy (3 credits)

## B. Student Demand

Students must have, at minimum, a baccalaureate degree to enroll in the Ph.D. program. Admitted students can be both new to campus or internal transfers from other programs. The first several cohorts of students will enroll full-time, but part-time students may be considered in the future. At least three academic years of graduate academic coursework are normally required for the Ph.D. degree. At least one continuous year must be devoted exclusively to full-time study (9 credit hours per semester) in the major field at the University of Delaware. This residency requirement may be fulfilled using a fall and spring semester combination; while classes may be taken (if offered) during summer or winter sessions, courses during these terms do not meet the qualification.

## C. Transferability

Students interested in transferring doctoral or master's level credit from other institutions will be evaluated on an individual basis. See specific details about the program's transfer policy see Section III, Subsection C.

## D. Demand and Employment Factors

The prospect of future academic employment of doctoral graduates in the field of Communication is strong. In data collected by the National Communication Association (NCA), one of the leading organization in support of the discipline of Communication, there has been an increase in the number of doctoral graduates in Communication. Specifically there has been a 12.3% increase in the number of Ph.D. graduates in Communication over the timespan of 2012 to 2015, from 595 graduates to 668 graduates (National Communication Associate, 2016a). But even with this great a supply, this number of Ph.D. graduates in Communication is not meeting the demand. The number of academic jobs for Communication faculty has more than doubled since 2009 – with 351 academic jobs advertised in 2009 and 802 advertised in 2015 (National Communication Association, 2016b). While some of the 802 advertised academic positions in 2015 would be for senior faculty positions, the vast majority would be junior faculty positions ripe for the 668 newly minted Ph.D.'s. It should also be noted that 6% of those receiving their Communication doctorate in 2015 reported employment outside of academia but rather in business and industry (National Communication Association, 2016a). Based on these data the employment possibilities for Communication doctorate graduates appear promising and the job market allows for the addition of another Communication doctorate program.

## References

- National Communication Association. (2016a). *A profile of the communication doctorate IV: The 2015 National Science Foundation's Survey of Earned Doctorates*. Washington, DC: Author.
- National Communication Association. (2016b). *2015 academic job listings in communication report*. Washington, DC: Author.

## E. Regional/State/National Factors

Five doctoral programs in communication are located within 50 miles to the north of the UD campus in Pennsylvania. Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University are located in Philadelphia while there are two separate Ph.D. programs in Communication at Pennsylvania State University in University Park. The Ph.D. in Communication, Culture, and Media at Drexel University focuses on the communication of cultural ideas while the Ph.D. in Media and Communication at Temple University offers the students the opportunity to focus in areas such as communication history, media institutions, and cultural studies. These two programs would be dissimilar in their overall scope and would not necessarily attract the same population of students as the proposed University of Delaware Ph.D. in Communication.

Pennsylvania State University's College of Communications offers a Ph.D. in Mass Communications for students who have previously completed a master's degree and which requires 36 credits of doctoral coursework over two years, with at least an additional year for comprehensive exams and doctoral dissertation. Pennsylvania State University's Department of Communication Arts and Sciences offers a Ph.D. that allows students to potentially focus on Interpersonal and Family Communication. This degree is also for students who have previously completed a master's degree and requires 36 credits of coursework beyond the master's degree over two years, with at least an additional year for completion of comprehensive exams and a doctoral dissertation. The Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania offers a Ph.D. in Communication that allows students to potentially focus on content areas such as media and communication effects or political communication. This degree requires a five year commitment by a student, with 20 required classes to be completed in seven semesters of coursework and the remainder of the time being used for dissertation research.

The proposed Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Delaware will allow students to focus on Interpersonal, Media (Mass), or Political Communication but will also require students to be exposed to content and research from the other two. This program will prepare students to be academic researchers and faculty for positions in academic settings as well as positions in related industry areas such as public opinion research or market analysis. As seen in the previous section there is a need for doctoral graduates in the field of Communication to just keep up with the demand of academic positions.

Four other Ph.D. in Communication programs are located within 100 miles of the UD campus: two in the District of Columbia (Howard University and American University), one in New Jersey (Rutgers University), and one in Maryland (University of Maryland). The proposed Ph.D. program in Communication at the University of Delaware will offer the unique combination of interpersonal and media (mass) communication with the added concentration of political communication for a student to potentially focus their studies.



Based on information from the National Communication Association, there currently exist 79 doctoral programs in the United States that offer a Ph.D. in the discipline (2017). Furthermore the National Communication Association breaks down the list of these 79 doctoral programs by 16 different research specialties. Of these 79 programs 50 feature a concentration in Mass Communication-Media Studies, 28 programs feature a concentration in Interpersonal-Small Group Communication, and 15 programs feature a concentration in Political Communication. Of the 79 doctoral programs only three currently feature all three research specialties proposed in the University of Delaware's Ph.D. in Communication: Pennsylvania State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Oklahoma. Our proposed Ph.D. will place the University of Delaware in a unique position within the field of Communication to be a leader in all of these areas and to assist in producing the doctoral graduates needed at academic institutions nationally.

#### References

National Communication Association. (2017). *NCA's doctoral program guide*. Retrieved from <https://www.natcom.org>

#### F. Other Strengths

The Department of Communication has several strengths that demonstrate the exceptional quality of its faculty as well as the uniqueness and rigor of their research.

The Department of Communication offers a rich environment conducive to the mentoring and socialization of students. Among the faculty are three that have been recognized by the Faculty Senate at the University of Delaware for their Excellence in Teaching – Associate Professors Dr. Scott Caplan, Dr. Steven Mortenson, and Dr. Dannagal Young. In addition Dr. Lindsay Hoffman, Associate Professor and Associate Director of the Center for Political Communication, has been honored with the Undergraduate Advising and Mentor Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Award for Excellence, and Dr. Lydia Timmins, Assistant Professor, has won advising awards from the Delaware Press Association.

Dr. Nancy Signorielli, Professor Emerita, has been repeatedly acknowledged for her outstanding research and scholarship. She has been named a Distinguished Scholar by the Broadcast Education Association, a Centennial Scholar by the Eastern Communication Association, and has earned an Outstanding Scholar Award from the University of Delaware. Dr. Elizabeth Perse, Professor Emerita, has been named in the top 1% of productive communication scholars between 1996 and 2001, and the 36<sup>th</sup> most prolific active communication scholar between 1915 and 1995. Both Dr. Perse and Dr. Signorielli were named to the list of the most prolific active women scholars in communication since 1915, with Dr. Perse listed 13<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Signorielli listed 18<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, Dr. John Courtright, Professor and Department Chair, has been named a Distinguished Research Fellow by the Eastern Communication Association and has served as that organization's president. Also, Dr. Paul Brewer, Professor and Research Director of the Center for Political Communication, has received a College of Arts and Science award for Excellence in Scholarship.

The faculty of the Department of Communication has also actively contributed to the scholarship in the field, serving as journal editors and journal editorial board members. Dr. Paul Brewer currently serves as the editor for the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. Dr. Courtright has served as editor for both *Human Communication Research* and *Communication Quarterly* while Dr. Juliet Dee has previously served as editor of the *Free Speech Yearbook*, now known as *First Amendment Studies*. Members of the faculty have also served on the editorial boards of numerous journals including:

- *Journal of Communication*
- *Human Communication Research*
- *Communication Research*
- *Communication Theory*
- *Communication Monographs*
- *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*
- *Communication Quarterly*
- *Media Psychology*
- *Journal of Computer-Media Communication*
- *Communication and Sport*
- *Public Opinion Quarterly*
- *Small Group Research*
- *Mass Communication and Society*
- *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*
- *First Amendment Studies*
- *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*
- *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*
- *Health Communication*
- *International Journal of Press/Politics*

Faculty research in the Department of Communication is based in social science and represents many of the different content and research areas of the discipline. Research has been in the areas of interpersonal communication, political communication, health communication, communication and sports, media effects, science communication, media law and policy, advertising, game studies, and human-computer interaction.

In addition interdisciplinary research is gaining momentum in the research programs of many of the Communication Department faculty.

Dr. Lindsay Hoffman's extensive research with faculty in the many different departments across the University of Delaware are prime examples of this interdisciplinary research. Dr. Hoffman has earned a grant with Dr. Hui Fang in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Delaware Cybersecurity Initiative while also publishing with Dr. Fang on the topic of political behavior and mobile devices. Dr. Hoffman has also earned a grant with Dr. Dannagal Young and various members of the faculty of the Department of Political Science and International Relations from the Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Center to study political engagement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and a grant from the National Academy of Engineering/National Science Foundation with a consortium of faculty from Philosophy, Geology, Materials Science, Computer & Information Sciences, Linguistics & Cognitive Science, and the School of Education to study online ethics for engineering and science. Dr. Hoffman has also published with Dr. Eric Hehman, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Ryerson University, on a content analysis of photographs of past American Presidents.

Dr. Scott Caplan's research on Problematic Internet Use has crossed disciplines and international borders, collaborating with Portuguese and British researchers from the International Gaming Research Unit at Nottingham Trent University in the United Kingdom. In addition Dr. Caplan has worked with Italian Health Science researchers and Dutch psychology researchers in continuing his program of research.

Dr. Danangal Young has worked with Dr. Philip Jones in the Department of Political Science and International Relations in her examination of politics and humor. Dr. Young has also collaborated with Dr. Matthew Baum, a Professor of Global Communication at Harvard University, on the development of an online political engagement game called vmobilize.

Dr. Paul Brewer has also worked on research with Dr. Philip Jones, including an investigation of perceptions of political candidates' authenticity. Dr. Brewer, Dr. Jones, Dr. Hoffman, Dr. Young, and Dr. Jennifer Lambe have investigated public opinion about transgender rights and transgender candidates for public office. Dr. Brewer has also worked with Dr. David Wilson, College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean for the Social Sciences and Associate Professor of Political Science, on projects looking at public opinion about voted ID laws and public opinion about gay marriage. Dr. Brewer's interdisciplinary work also extends to work with faculty at other institutions, including working with Dr. Kimberly Gross, Associate Professor of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University, and Dr. Tim Vercellotti, Director of Polling Institute and Professor of Political Sciences at Western New England University, in an investigation of public trust in international institutions.

Dr. James Angelini has collaborated throughout his research program with Dr. Andrew Billings, Professor at the University of Alabama, in examining portrayals of sex, race, and nationality in sports megaevents such as the Olympics. Dr. John Courtright has collaborated with Illene Courtright, from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the College of Health Sciences, in studies examining language intervention strategies. Dr. Charles Pavitt has worked with Dr. Kyle Emich, Assistant Professor of Management in the Department of Business Administration of the Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics, in studying the prerequisites for group cooperation. Dr. Juliet Dee has also engaged in interdisciplinary work through her engagement in the University of Delaware's Games Studies Research Group. Dr. Dee has collaborated on video game research with faculty members in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences, the Department of Art, the Department of English, and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Culture.

In further extending the spirit of interdisciplinary work and reach within the Department of Communication a number of Ph.D. faculty members hold joint appointments with other departments, are affiliated with interdisciplinary research centers, or participate in interdisciplinary teaching programs. Dr. Paul Brewer and Dr. Barbara Ley each carry a joint appointment where they carry a 75% workload responsibility to the Department of Communication and a 25% workload responsibility to another department at the University of Delaware – Dr. Brewer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations and Dr. Ley in the Department of Women and Gender Studies. In addition Dr. Lindsay Hoffman and Dr. James Angelini each hold a joint appointment, with no workload responsibilities, respectively in the Department of Political Science and International Relations and the Department of Women and Gender Studies.

The Department of Communication also actively participates in a number of interdisciplinary minors. Dr. Jennifer Lambe and Dr. Juliet Dee actively teach in the Legal Studies Program. Dr. Dee also is an active participant in the Game Studies program. Dr. Ley teaches within the Interactive Media Minor while Dr. Lydia Timmins is an active teacher in the Journalism program. A number of Ph.D. faculty in the Department of Communication are affiliated faculty within the Center for Political Communication (CPC). Dr. Lindsay Hoffman serves as the Associate Director of the CPC while Dr. Paul Brewer serves as the Research Director. Other affiliated faculty include Dr. Jennifer Lambe, Dr. Elizabeth Perse, Dr. Lydia Timmins, and Dr. Dannagal Young. A number of these faculty members teach courses within the political communication minor, with Dr. Hoffman as its director.

The Communication Department Faculty has been successful in publishing data-based manuscripts in a variety of peer-reviewed journals. From 2013-2016 the Ph.D. faculty of the Department of Communication published 76 refereed journal articles and more than 10 books and book chapters. (See Table 1)

**Table 1**

	<b>FY 2016<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>FY 2015<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>FY 2014<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>FY 2013<sup>b</sup></b>
Refereed Journal Publications	14	16	18	18
Books, Book Chapters	4	0	7	2
Other Academic Publications (encyclopedia entries, book reviews, etc.)	0	0	10	3

<sup>a</sup> Data taken from Department of Communication Annual Faculty Reports (2014-2016)

<sup>b</sup> J. Angelini reviewed raw data from faculty CVs (2013)

The Department of Communication has built a significant and productive research program among its faculty. As noted in the Department of Communication's 2015 Academic Program Review report, "The research productivity of the faculty members in this department is truly remarkable for a program of this size." In addition this report noted that "Academic Analytics data place the majority of tenure-track faculty members in the first or second quintiles of research output for communication programs at AAU universities." With the addition of a new departmental chair for academic year 2018-2019 and the subsequent faculty hires, the Department of Communication looks to further expand its already productive research capabilities and increase the impact it has on the discipline. The addition of this proposed Ph.D. program will only serve to further build upon the department's research reputation while educating and nurturing the next generation of communication scholars and highly motivated students who would follow on the same scholarly path.

### III. Enrollment, Admissions, and Financial Aid

#### A. Enrollment Limitations/Criteria

The number of students accepted each year will depend upon available funding, faculty research, and faculty resources for advising. Based on resources and interest in the program, it is anticipated that a cohort of students will be admitted once each year with a fall semester start. Full-time enrollment in the program is preferred but part-time enrollment will be considered. The minimum and maximum number of students is projected to be between 6 and 10 students per cohort.

## B. Admission Requirements/Criteria

Admission to the Ph.D. program is competitive. Those who meet standard minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer appropriate strengths and skills.

Applicants will adhere to the University's Office of Graduate and Professional Education procedures using the online admission process accessible at <http://grad.udel.edu/apply/>.

Admission decisions will be made by the Graduate Committee of the Department of Communication. Students will be admitted to the program based on enrollment availability and their ability to meet the following minimum entrance requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, in communication or an allied discipline, with an accompanying transcript from that institution.
- A master's degree in communication or other related discipline from an accredited college or university, with an accompanying transcript from that institution, is optional.
- A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score is required, with a combined score of 300 for the verbal and quantitative reasoning sections expected. Also expected is a minimum score of 4.5 for the analytical writing portion of the GRE. Scores should be forwarded to the University of Delaware, school code 5811. There is no department code required for the Department of Communication. GRE scores must have been earned within the last 5 years.
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher as well as a within major minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. If the applicant has earned a master's degree, a minimum GPA of 3.5 is required for that degree.
- A written statement of goals and objectives (the personal statement) that clearly identifies the applicant's research and curriculum interests and describes how admission to the program will facilitate their professional objectives. The statement should indicate how the applicant's research interest is consistent with the research expertise of the department's faculty.
- Three letters of recommendation from an academic, employer, and/or other professional source who can address the scholarship potential of the applicant. All letters of recommendation will be submitted online per the Office of Graduate and Professional Education admission policy. See <http://grad.udel.edu/apply/> for details.
- Official results from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam taken within the last 2 years (for non-native English speaking applicants only). For the TOEFL a score of at least 650 for the paper based exam, 280 for the computer based exam, or 114 for the internet based exam is required. For the IELTS exam a minimum score of 8.5 is expected. All scores must be received before an admissions decision can be rendered.

- A curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé.
- A critical writing sample is required. This may be an essay, a research project manuscript, or other piece of writing the applicant believes is a good example of their writing. The same should be no longer than 25 double spaced pages.
- A video essay, not to extend beyond one minute, based on the topic, “Why are you interested in the University of Delaware’s Department of Communication’s graduate program?”
- Applicants applying for admission and a graduate assistantship should have their complete application submitted by February 1 for admission in the fall semester. Applicants applying for admission only should have their complete application submitted by May 1 for admission in the fall semester. Students are not typically admitted to begin their studies during the spring semester.

Completed applications (application form, official transcript(s), GRE scores, TOEFL or IELTS scores (if required), letters of recommendation, CV/résumé, statement of purpose, writing sample, and video essay will be compiled by the Department of Communication’s Director of Graduate Studies. This information will be disseminated for review by members of the department’s Graduate Committee.

### C. Transfer Policy

Graduate credit earned at another institution will be evaluated at the written request of the student. Such a request will be evaluated by the Department of Communication’s Graduate Committee. In order for the transfer to be considered the following are required:

- The grade earned in the course is no less than a B-.
- The course was completed at an accredited college or university.
- The original course syllabus must be submitted with the written request.
- The course must have an equivalent course in the Department of Communication’s course inventory.
- The course was completed in the last five years.
- Transferred courses may not have been used in the completion of another degree.

If approved by the Graduate Committee the credits, but not the grades or quality points, are transferable to the University of Delaware graduate records. Credits earned at another institution while the student was classified as a continuing education student at that institution are not eligible to be transferred toward a graduate degree at the University of Delaware. Credits from institutions outside of the United States are generally not transferable to the University of Delaware.

### D. Retention Policy

Students are expected to complete the Ph.D. program in four years. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 to stay in good standing.

## E. Student Expenses and Financial Aid

### 1. Extraordinary Expenses

No extraordinary expenses are anticipated.

### 2. Sources of Financial Support

- Most students in the program will be supported by graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs) provided by the Department of Communication and the College of Arts and Sciences.
- When available students in the program will be supported by graduate research assistantships provided by external grants through Department of Communication faculty members.
- Assistantships are awarded on the basis of merit based upon student admissions applications and nominations from the department. Awards are granted to full-time students in good academic standing with regular status.
- The university-wide application deadline for these merit-based awards is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Applicants are encourage to apply early and contact the major instructional department for additional application information and for any potential deadlines earlier than February 1<sup>st</sup>. The award is valid only for the term designated.
- Application for fellowship, tuition scholarship, or assistantship final aid is a part of the admission application form and is made at the time of application. Electronic application is require using the web address <http://grad.udel.edu/apply/>. U.S. applicants are also strongly encouraged to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form.

## IV. Curriculum Specifics

### A. Degrees Awarded

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

### B. Curriculum

The Doctor of Philosophy in Communication requires 60 credits including 45 credits of graduate level coursework, 6 credits of graduate research (to be completed in the second year), and 9 credits of dissertation for students entering the program with a baccalaureate degree. The program is designed to be completed in four years (three years of coursework and candidacy exams, one year of candidacy for dissertation completion). See Appendix B for proposed communication courses with descriptions.



**No class may be used to fulfill more than one requirement.****Required Core Courses (15 credits)**

COMM601	Epistemology and Theory in Communication	3
COMM603	Communication Research Methods – Procedures	3
COMM604	Communication Research Methods – Analysis	3
COMM630	Interpersonal Communication Theory	3
COMM670	Media Theory	3

**Research Competency Courses (6 credits)**

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

***Choose one of the Following 3 credit Research Methodology Courses***

COMM624	Media Message Analysis	3
COMM685	Analysis of Face-to-Face Communication	3
COMM803	Topics in Communication Research Methods	3
COMM815	Proseminar in Media Effects	3
COMM832	Proseminar in Political Communication	3
COMM841	Proseminar in Interpersonal Communication	3
EDUC862	Design and Analysis of Experiments	3
HDFS615	Research Methods	3
HDFS815	Research Issues and Designs	3
SOCI605	Data Collection and Analysis	3
SOCI606	Qualitative Methodology	3
SPPA808	Qualitative Research Methods	3
UAPP702	Research Methods in Urban and Public Policy	3
UAPP718	Survey Research Methods	3

***Choose one of the Following 3 credit Statistical Methods Courses***

EDUC665	Elementary Statistics	3
EDUC812	Regression and Structural Equation Modeling	3
EDUC865	Educational Management Theory	3
POSC815	Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science	3
PSYC860	Psychological Statistics	3
PSYC861	Psychological Statistics II	3
PSYC878	Hierarchical Linear Modeling	3
PSYC879	Structural Equation Modeling	3
SOCI614	Advanced Data Analysis	3
STAT609	Regression and Experimental Design	3
STAT611	Regression Analysis	3
STAT615	Design and Analysis of Experiments	3
STAT616	Advanced Design of Experiments	3
STAT675	Logistic Regression	3
UAPP691	Quantitative Analysis in Public and Nonprofit Sectors	3

### **Second-Year Graduate Research (6 credits)**

In addition to coursework, during their second year, students enroll in *COMM868: Research*. They are to enroll in 3 credits during their fall semester and 3 credits during their spring semester. The student is to develop, design, and implement a piece of original research, with guidance from a faculty committee of the student's choosing. Once the faculty committee is chosen, with one faculty committee member designated as its chair, the student and the chair will work together to develop the idea behind the research project and write a proposal to be presented to the entire faculty committee. The student will meet with the faculty committee to defend the proposal and the faculty committee will evaluate the proposal, make suggestions on how to improve the proposal research project. The proposal should be defended during the first semester of the student's second year in the program.

Once the proposal is completed the student will then proceed to collect all necessary data and write a written report based on their findings. The written report should include an abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited section. This research will serve as the basis for an oral during the spring semester of their second year, after the written report is submitted to the faculty committee. The research project, including the oral defense and presentation, should be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. If revisions of the written report are required by the faculty committee, they are due by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Upon successful completion of their Second-Year Research, all students should receive an official confirmation letter confirming this passing of a major program milestone from their faculty committee's chair. A copy of the letter should be provided to the Department of Communication's Director of Graduate Studies. A template for the letter will be posted on the Department of Communication's shared drive.

A document based on original research that served as a basis for a student's Second-Year Graduate Research can be submitted to the University Graduate College as a Thesis to obtain the Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Communication. The MA is optional for each student, and does not advance a student in the program. The written report must be formatted according to the University Graduate College standards. The Master's Thesis requires the signatures of the student's advisor (research committee chair), the Chair of the Department of Communication, the College of Arts and Sciences Dean, and the Dean of the Graduate College. The minimum number of credits required for the MA Degree in Communication with thesis is 24 semester credit hours plus 6 hours of *COMM869: Master's Thesis*.

### **Concentration Courses (15 Credits)**

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 three concentration courses (9 credits) from their chosen concentration. Students must also complete one 3 credit course from each of their non-chosen concentrations (6 total credits).

*Concentration 1 – Interpersonal Communication*

COMM610	Organizational Communication Theory	3
COMM617	Communication and Management Conflict	3
COMM621	Intercultural Communication	3
COMM640	Topics in Interpersonal Communication	3
COMM643	Communication and Emotion	3
COMM652	Communication and Persuasion	3
COMM653	Health Communication	3
COMM656	Communication in Organizations	3
COMM676	Social Media and Communication	3
COMM685	Analysis of Face-to-Face Communication	3
COMM811	Communication and Ethics	3
COMM841	Proseminar in Interpersonal Communication	3

*Concentration 2 – Media Communication*

COMM618	Topics in Media Communication	3
COMM623	Communication, Advertising, and the Consumer	3
COMM652	Communication and Persuasion	3
COMM653	Health Communication	3
COMM654	Children and the Media	3
COMM658	Science Communication	3
COMM676	Social Media and Communication	3
COMM808	Media Law and Policy	3
COMM811	Communication and Ethics	3
COMM814	Communication Campaigns	3
COMM815	Proseminar in Media Effects	3
UAPP715	Media, Citizenship, & Public Policy	3

*Concentration 3 – Political Communication*

COMM621	Intercultural Communication	3
COMM625	Advanced Topics: Politics and Broadcast Journalism	3
COMM631	Entertainment and Politics	3
COMM633	Topics in Political Communication	3
COMM652	Communication and Persuasion	3
COMM658	Science Communication	3
COMM676	Social Media and Communication	3
COMM808	Media Law and Policy	3
COMM811	Communication and Ethics	3
COMM814	Communication Campaigns	3
COMM832	Proseminar in Political Communication	3
COMM836	Digital Technology in Politics	3
POSC807	American Political Behavior	3
POSC847	Political Psychology	3
POSC848	Race, Ethnicity, and Politics	3
UAPP715	Media, Citizenship, & Public Policy	3

**Elective Courses (9 Credits)**

Students must take nine additional course credits over the course of their program. Students may take no more than one 3-credit independent study (COMM866). If a student would like to take a course from outside of the Communication Department they may with prior approval by their academic advisor and the Department of Communication's Graduate Director.

**Communication Colloquium (0 credits)**

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

**Dissertation (9 credits)**

COMM964 Pre-Candidacy Study

(3-12 until  
candidacy achieved)

COMM969 Doctoral Dissertation

9

**Ph.D. in Communication Sample Curriculum for Students Admitted with a Baccalaureate Degree****Year 1 – Fall**

COMM601 (3)

COMM630 (3)

COMM670 (3)

COMM890 (0)

**Year 1 – Spring**

COMM603 (3)

COMM604 (3)

Concentration Course/Elective (3)

COMM890 (0)

*By the start of the first semester of their second year students must declare a concentration.*

**Year 2 – Fall**

2 Concentration Courses/Research

Competency/Elective (6 total)

COMM868 (3)

COMM890 (0)

**Year 2 – Spring**

2 Concentration Courses/Research

Competency/Elective (6 total)

COMM868 (3)

COM890 (0)

**Year 3 – Fall**

3 Concentration Courses/Research

Competency/Elective (9 total)

COMM890 (0)

**Year 3 – Spring**

2 Concentration Courses/Research

Competency/Elective (6 total)

COM890 (0)

*Throughout Year 3 students are to be working on their dissertation proposal with dissertation chair.*

*The written portion of the Candidacy Exams is to be held in July prior to Year 4. The oral portion of the Candidacy Exams is to be held in August prior to Year 4.*

**Year 4 – Fall**

COMM964 (if proposal isn't defended)  
or COMM969 (if proposal is defended)  
(9 total)

**Year 4 – Spring**

UNIV999 – Dissertation Sustaining

**Ph.D. in Communication Curriculum for Students Admitted with a Masters Degree**

Students will follow an individualized plan of study as set by the Graduate Director and the Department of Communication's Graduate Committee. The individualized program will require a *minimum* of 33 credits of coursework and 9 credits of COMM969 in order to earn the Ph.D. in Communication.

**C. Consequences for Failure to Make Satisfactory Progress**

Each student's progress to degree will be reviewed at the end of every academic year. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to remain in good standing. In addition students must achieve, at minimum, a B in each of the five core courses. If a minimum of B is not achieved the course may be retaken a maximum of once in an effort to achieve the required grade.

Students who fail to progress in course work as planned will be notified in writing of their progress by the Department of Communication's Director of Graduate Studies. Students are required to submit a written revised plan to continue their plan of study. This revised plan must be approved by the Director of Graduate Study and the Graduate Committee. Each student will be evaluated on an individual basis for extenuating circumstances influencing their progress toward degree completion.

Students who fail to make progress necessary to achieve the required cumulative GPA of 3.0, or whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0, will be dismissed from the program.

**D. Candidacy**

Upon the recommendation of the doctoral student's dissertation committee and the Department of Communication's Director of Graduate Studies, students may be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The stipulations for admission to doctoral candidacy are that the student has (1) had a program of study approved and course work completed, (2) completed one academic year of full-time graduate study in resident at the University of Delaware, (3) successfully completed candidacy examinations, (4) had a dissertation proposal accepted by their dissertation committee, and (5) if the dissertation requires human participants, received approval by the Institutional Review Board. The deadline for admission to candidacy for the fall semester is August 31. The deadline for admission to candidacy for the spring semester is January 31. Responsibility for seeing that admission to candidacy is secured at the proper time rests with the student.

## E. Candidacy Examinations

Written and oral comprehensive candidacy examinations will evaluate knowledge in three areas of content at completion of all course work. These areas are communication theory, research methods and analysis, and area of concentration. Students will be required to identify three faculty members to serve on their candidacy examination committee with the assistance of the student's academic advisor by the start of their sixth semester (first semester of Year 3). One faculty member will be responsible for administering the exam for only one of the three content areas. The academic advisor will serve as chair of the examination committee and may be one of the three individuals who administer the questions for one of the exam's content areas. All other faculty members of the examination committee must be approved by the student's academic advisor and be a member of the Department of Communication's approved Ph.D. faculty (see Appendix C). The committee will include representation of faculty members who have taught the required content areas being tested.

These exams will be offered over three nonconsecutive days with each day's examination lasting four hours. Successful completion of the written examination is required prior to scheduling the oral defense. Students are required to pass candidacy examinations. The results of this examination will be one of the following:

- Pass: Students may proceed to the next stage of their degree requirements.
- Conditional Pass: If the examination committee determines that the student's performance was generally acceptable but with a specific deficiency, condition(s) will be specified that the student must satisfy to achieve a pass and remain in the program. These conditions may include re-examination of one or more question areas to be completed within 3 months.
- Re-examination: This result is appropriate for a student whose performance was unsatisfactory but who displayed evidence of the potential to complete doctoral degree education. Re-examination must be completed within 3 months. The possible outcomes of this re-examination are pass or failure. The student may not take the exams a third time.

The advisor and examination committee will determine on a case by case basis the composition of re-examinations.

- Failure: This result indicates that the student is not capable of completing the requirements for the doctoral degree and the student would be recommended for dismissal from the program

Students may appeal the decision based upon the comments received about the student's exam answers from candidacy exam committee members. Written appeals from the student will be evaluated by the Department of Communication's Graduate Committee. If members of the Graduate Committee were also members of the student's candidacy

exam committee other members of the Department of Communication's Ph.D. faculty may serve on the appeals board. A minimum of three faculty members are required to serve on the appeals board.

#### F. Dissertation Committee and Proposal

##### 1. Dissertation chair and committee selection

Students will select a dissertation chair upon approval of their academic advisor (who may be the same individual) and with approval of the Department of Communication's Graduate Committee. The student and their dissertation chair will create a dissertation committee at the time the student begins to develop the dissertation proposal. The dissertation committee shall include at least two faculty members from within the Department of Communication's Ph.D. faculty. Students must also name at least one dissertation committee members from outside of the Department of Communication's Ph.D. faculty with approval of their dissertation chair and the Department of Communication's Director of Graduate Studies. A dissertation committee may have no more than six total members. All Ph.D. dissertation committee members must hold a doctoral degree.

##### 2. Defense of the dissertation proposal

A copy of the dissertation proposal must be available to faculty dissertation committee members at least two weeks in advance of the proposal defense. The dissertation proposal defense will be schedule only after a majority of members of the dissertation committee have determined that a defense is appropriate. The dissertation proposal defense will be open to the public, and invitations will be sent to all Department of Communication faculty and graduate students at least one week prior to the defense date.

#### G. Defense of the Dissertation

The format of the dissertation must adhere to the guidelines specified by the University's Thesis and Dissertation Manual. The manual is available electronically on the internet at <http://www1.udel.edu/gradoffice/forms/thesismanual.pdf>

The dissertation defense will be scheduled only after the dissertation chair has determined that a defense is appropriate. The dissertation defense will be open to the public, with invitations send to all Department of Communication faculty and graduate students at least two weeks prior to the defense date. A copy of the dissertation must be made available to faculty dissertation committee members at least two weeks prior to the dissertation defense. The dissertation is expected to reflect the results of original and significant research written in a scholarly and literate manner worthy of publication. The dissertation must be approved by the dissertation chair, the Chairperson of the

Department of Communication, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Dean of the Graduate College.

## V. Resources Available

### A. Learning Resources

The Ph.D. in Communication will be supported by the excellent resources—both print and electronic—made available through the Morris Library, the Faculty Commons, computing resources, the Multimedia Design Center, and the Graduate Student Writing Center.

The Morris Library holds electronic versions (and some older, print versions dating back many decades) of literally all of the primary and secondary scholarly journals in the discipline of Communication. Similarly, their collection of print monographs (books) covering numerous topics in social science theory and research is quite extensive. In addition, there are several important databases (e.g., Nexis-Lexis, Mass Communication Complete) that could potentially be useful to doctoral students. Finally, the interlibrary loan service is outstanding. The current faculty in the Department of Communication finds these holdings to be more than satisfactory, so there is little doubt that they will be sufficient for the proposed Ph.D. program.

Because this proposed Ph.D. program is designed to be heavily empirical in its orientation, the availability of high-powered statistical software is a must. Fortunately, IT User Services provides ready access a variety of mainframe based software such as SPSS, SAS, and Stata. Also, JMP is a statistical program for both PCs and Macs that is available to the entire campus.

Because the vast majority of the students in the program will be TAs, the Faculty Commons will serve as an important source for information and assistance. Graduate students serving as TAs will certainly benefit from the expert guidance on course management software such as Canvas or Sakai.

Located in the basement of the Morris Library, the Multimedia Design Center offers a variety of services for students wishing to include multimedia in their research projects. Also, a frequently overlooked feature is that the Center provides several, high-quality scanners, thus allowing students to digitize articles and book chapters rather than incurring the expense of photocopies.

Also located in the Morris Library, the Graduate Student Writing center provides one-on-one guidance to graduate students with theses, dissertations, articles, or any other type of writing. This assistance includes the Dissertation Boot Camp which offers graduate student various services designed to promote and facilitate the completion of their dissertation.

A support letter from University Library Services can be found in Appendix D.



## B. Faculty / Administrative Resources

The ultimate responsibility for this proposed Ph.D. program resides with the Chair of the Department of Communication. Much of the day to day administration, however, will be delegated to the Director of Graduate Studies. This position currently exists and is described in detail on the Department's bylaws.

The Director also serves as the Chair of the Departmental Graduate Committee, whose members include the Department Chair and four faculty members elected by the Department faculty. The Graduate Committee is responsible for graduate curricular issues, including but not limited to maintaining the quality of instruction, evaluating and proposing revisions to programs of study, graduate student recruitment, admission decisions, and funding decisions, and other issues relevant to graduate education in the Department.

Faculty members in the Department of Communication who have expressed interest in teaching and advising in the Ph.D. program are listed in Appendix C.

## C. External funding

Most of the faculty in the Department has never felt the need to pursue external funding to support their research activities. That will change with the advent of the Ph.D. program, because some graduate students will need to be funded by faculty grants. Obtaining external funding will be greatly emphasized when hiring new faculty.

The following grants have been obtained by Professor Lindsay Hoffman.

**University of Delaware Cybersecurity Initiative**, \$30,000, 2016-2019 for developing an integrative analytic tool for social media, with Hui Fang, Engineering.

**National Academy of Engineering / National Science Foundation**, \$209,241, 2014–2020, for “Online Ethics Center for Engineering and Science” with Thomas Powers, William Ullman, Michaela Taufer, S. Ismat Shah, Mark Greene, Robin Andreasen, Stephen Taylor, and Zoubeida Dagher.

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**, \$300,000, May 2010–June 2012, for “National Agenda Public Opinion Research Initiative” with Ralph Begleiter and David C. Wilson.

**Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Center**, \$50,000, University of Delaware, November 2009, for “Political Communication and Engagement in the 21st Century: Cross-Disciplinary Intersections” with Philip E. Jones, Julio Carrion, Dannagal G. Young, and David C. Wilson.

## VI. Resources Required

### A. Learning Resources

No new learning resources are required to implement this program. The resources previously outlined in section V are more than adequate to support this proposed Ph.D. program.

### B. Personnel Resources

Concurrent with the submission of this proposal, the Department of Communication is conducting an external search for a new Chair. The expectation is that the Chair will oversee the expansion of the current proposal by submitting for approval two or three additional concentrations. The goal is that these additional concentrations will reflect state-of-the-art, cutting edge topics that will be attractive to potential graduate students from around the country and world.

For the program proposed in this document, the Department does not require additional faculty. The current faculty has the requisite expertise and is sufficient in number to mount and sustain the program described herein. As proposals for expansion (i.e., new concentrations with new courses) are approved by the University Faculty Senate, additional faculty with the necessary expertise will be required. We have been assured by the Arts and Sciences Dean's Office that these positions will be provided (see Appendix E for the Deans letter of support).

Although the currently proposed Ph.D. program requires no additional faculty, it will definitely require additional TA funding. We estimate that 10 additional TAs will be needed, bring the total TA count for the Department to 20. First, this funding will be required to attract quality students to the new program. The fact that very few students will not come without funding should not be a surprise. Second, these TAs will eventually teach a variety of undergraduate Communication courses, thus freeing faculty to teach and advise in the Ph.D. program

Finally, the addition of a Ph.D. program will require a second, full time administrative assistant to work with the Director of Graduate Studies to administer the program.

### C. Budgetary Needs

In addition to the personnel resources outlined previously, the Department will also need a small budget (estimated at \$10,000) to attract and recruit quality students from around the country. This budget will fund various types of promotional materials, travel for admitted students to see the Department and campus and funding for the travel of a faculty member to selected scholarly conferences to interact with and recruit students.

## VII. Implementation and Evaluation

### A. Implementation Plan

2017-2018

- Submission and approval of this proposal, as well as new course proposals needed to complete the curriculum as proposed.

2018-2019

- New Chair arrives
- Efforts to recruit quality graduate students begin
- Additional concentrations in the Ph.D. program are thoroughly discussed and approved by the faculty.
- New Chair works with Dean on hiring plans for future years

2019-2020

- First cohort of graduate student is admitted and begins program
- Searches for new faculty underway
- Proposals for additions and expansions to program are submitted for approval.

### B. Assessment Plan

The Graduate Committee will be responsible for the quality of this new Ph.D. program. Both formative and summative methods will be used to assess achievement of the program's learning outcomes. The successful completion and oral defense of a doctoral dissertation is the culmination of all learning outcomes. Each course in the curriculum contributes to this final outcome. Each course will be evaluated by students after completion of the course. Course evaluation summaries identifying strengths, weaknesses, and suggested revisions will be completed annually by the faculty members who have taught them. These summaries will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee so that an overall evaluation of the curriculum will take place annually. The Director of Graduate Studies will communicate with faculty in those departments in which the doctoral students are taking statistics and/or cognate courses to assure that their content remains germane to the program.

# APPENDIX A

## SUPPORT LETTERS FROM OTHER ACADEMIC UNITS



*College of Arts and Sciences*

**Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice**

322 Edward Laurence Smith Hall  
University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware 19716-2580  
(302) 831-2581, PH; (302) 831-2607, FAX

Elizabeth M. Perse, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Communication  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716

August 1, 2017

Professor Perse. Thank you for contacting the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice about your proposed PhD program in Communications. As stated, the proposed program will have three main tracks- Interpersonal Communication, Media Communication, and Political Communication- with a strong grounding in methods and analysis. As a result, you see enrolled students having interest in graduate courses offered in our graduate program, in an effort to fill their requirements. Specifically you listed the following:

SOCI605 - Data Collection and Analysis

SOCI606 - Qualitative Methodology

SOCI614 - Advanced Data Analysis

This letter serves to notify you that the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice supports your request to have these courses listed in your PhD program proposal and, if approved, included in the Communications PhD curriculum. If I can provide additional information, let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Parker".

Karen F. Parker, Professor &  
Chair



School of Public Policy & Administration

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH & SERVICE

CENTER FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

CENTER FOR APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY & SURVEY RESEARCH

184 Graham Hall  
Newark, DE 19716-7300  
Phone: 302.831.1507  
Fax: 302.831.5296  
Email: [ppa@udel.edu](mailto:ppa@udel.edu)

TO: Betsy Perse, Professor and Chair  
Department of Communication

FROM: Maria Aristigueta, Director *Maria P. Aristigueta*

DATE: July 26, 2017

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for proposed Communication Doctoral Program

I am pleased to offer my support to the proposed Communication Doctoral Program.

From a School perspective, we are happy to have the classes listed below included in the list of possible electives for students to fulfill their requirements:

UAPP691 - Quantitative Analysis in Public and Nonprofit Sectors  
UAPP702 - Research Methods in Urban Policy  
UAPP715 - Media, Citizenship, and Public Policy  
UAPP718 - Survey Research Methods  
UAPP808 - Qualitative Methods for Program Evaluation

It is understood that SPPA is not the administrative home of the Communication Doctoral Program and is not responsible for the recruitment and advisement of students.

We look forward to welcoming future Department of Communication doctoral students into our classes.



Robert F. Simons, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair



James Angelini <angelini@udel.edu>

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## Request to include your courses in proposed curriculum

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David Redlawsk <redlawsk@udel.edu>

Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 2:22 PM

To: "Perse, Elizabeth M" <eperse@udel.edu>

Cc: "Courtright, John A" <johnc@udel.edu>, "Angelini, James Reynolds" <angelini@udel.edu>, Claire <cerasmus@udel.edu>

Hi Betsy,

Thanks to you and James for meeting with us yesterday. Our discussion helped make clear that may well be opportunities to collaborate as you move to develop your Ph.D. program and we realign our program. We look forward to further discussions on this.

Meanwhile, we are happy to agree to having you include the following two courses as options in your program Ph.D. program:

[POSC807 - American Political Behavior](#)

[POSC815 - Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science](#)

Best,

Dave

At 11:49 AM 7/26/2017, Perse, Elizabeth M wrote:

Dear David,

The Department of Communication will be proposing a new doctoral program this year. We have administrative support for our work. If the proposal is approved, we expect to be admitting our first cohort in Fall, 2019. The program initially will have three tracks: Interpersonal Communication, Media Communication, and Political Communication. We also expect our students to have a strong grounding in methods and analysis. I have attached a copy of the proposed curriculum to this email.

We have identified several courses in your program that we would like to include among a set of courses to fill requirements. None of the courses themselves will be required, but we would like to be able to include courses in your program among those students could choose.

[POSC807 - American Political Behavior](#)

[POSC815 - Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science](#)

We expect to have about 6 – 10 students per cohort. Students would not be enrolling in these courses until Spring 2020 at the earliest.

I am requesting your assistance in obtaining approval of this new doctoral program proposal by the UD Faculty Senate. Therefore, will you please prepare a brief letter or email message, stating your consent and approval to allow us to include these courses in our proposal, and send it to me as soon as possible. We hope to include a copy of your letter or email message with the proposal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



Betsy

Elizabeth M. Perse, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Communication  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716  
302.831.8041  
[www.communication.udel.edu](http://www.communication.udel.edu)

~~~~~  
David P. Redlawsk, Ph.D.  
Twitter: @DavidRedlawsk  
Email: [redlawsk@udel.edu](mailto:redlawsk@udel.edu)

James R. Soles Professor and Chair  
Department of Political Science and International Relations  
University of Delaware  
344 Smith Hall, 18 Amstel Ave.  
Newark, DE 19716  
302-831-2357



James Angelini <angelini@udel.edu>

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## Request to include courses in proposed curriculum

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**Bahira Trask** <bstrask@udel.edu>

Wed, Jul 26, 2017 at 4:22 PM

To: "Perse, Elizabeth M" <eperse@udel.edu>

Cc: "Courtright, John A" <johnc@udel.edu>, "Angelini, James Reynolds" <angelini@udel.edu>

Hello Betsy,

HDFS is very supportive of the new doctoral program and we are happy to have HDFS 615 and HDFS 815 be potential destination courses for your doctoral students should they decide to enroll in them.

Best wishes for a successful program!

Bahira

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Bahira Trask, Ph.D.  
Professor & Chair  
HDFS / 111 Alison Hall  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19176

Tel. (302) 831-1030  
[bstrask@udel.edu](mailto:bstrask@udel.edu)

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

<COMM PhD proposed curriculum.pdf>

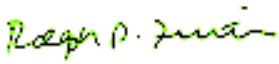


College of Education  
& Human Development  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Willard Hall  
Newark, DE 19716-2922  
Phone: 302-831-8695  
Fax: 302-831-4110

August 7, 2017

TO: Professor Elizabeth M. Perse  
Chairperson, Department of Communication

FROM: Ralph P. Ferretti   
Director, School of Education

RE: Proposal for New PhD Program in Communication

I was pleased to learn that the Department of Communication is proposing a new PhD program in Communications with tracks in Interpersonal Communication, Media Communication, and Political Communication. I understand that you expect your students to have a strong grounding in research methods and statistical analysis, and that you wish to include the following methodology courses from the School of Education as options for your students:

EDUC665 - Elementary Statistics  
EDUC812 - Regression and Structural Equation Modeling  
EDUC862 - Design and Analysis of Experiments  
EDUC865 - Educational Management Theory

My colleagues and I are pleased to support your request and wish you the greatest success in establishing the program.



August 16, 2017

To: Elizabeth M. Perse, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Communication

From: Thomas W. Ilvento, Chair, Department of Applied Economics and Statistics

Re: Request to have STAT courses as options for newly proposed Communications Ph.D.

Per your request (see below) The Department of Applied Economics and Statistics approves the inclusion of STAT609, STAT611, STAT615, STAT616, and per our telephone call, STAT675 as options to your proposed Ph.D. in Communications. We will make room in our courses for your students. I would also note that STAT 611, STAT615, And STAT675 will be offered on-line in the future which will mean more options for your students during the school year and summer.

**Request on July 26, 2016 from Elizabeth Perse**

*Dear Professor Ilvento,*

*The Department of Communication will be proposing a new doctoral program this year. We have administrative support for our work. If the proposal is approved, we expect to be admitting our first cohort in Fall, 2019. The program initially will have three tracks: Interpersonal Communication, Media Communication, and Political Communication. We also expect our students to have a strong grounding in methods and analysis. I have attached a copy of the proposed curriculum to this email.*

*We have identified several courses in your program that we would like to include among a set of courses to fill requirements. None of the courses themselves will be required, but we would like to be able to include courses in your program among those students could choose.*

*STAT609 - Regression and Experimental Design*

*STAT611 - Regression Analysis*

*STAT615 - Design and Analysis of Experiments*

*STAT616 - Advanced Design of Experiments*

*We expect to have about 6 – 10 students per cohort. Students would not be enrolling in these courses until Spring 2020 at the earliest.*

*I am requesting your assistance in obtaining approval of this new doctoral program proposal by the UD Faculty Senate. Therefore, will you please prepare a brief letter or email message, stating your consent and approval to allow us to include these courses in our proposal, and send it to me as soon as possible. We hope to include a copy of your letter or email message with the proposal.*

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.*

*Thank you,*

*Betsy Perse*

*Elizabeth M. Perse, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Communication  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716  
302.831.8041  
[www.communication.udel.edu](http://www.communication.udel.edu)*



**James Angelini** <angelini@udel.edu>

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## POSC courses

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**David Redlawsk** <redlawsk@udel.edu> Sun, Sep 6, 2020 at 2:51 PM

To: James Angelini <angelini@udel.edu>

Cc: Kami Silk <kamisilk@udel.edu>, "Miller, Joanne" <jomiller@udel.edu>

Hi James,

An email should take care of it, so here it is.

Political Science and International Relations approves the inclusion of POSC833 and POSC834 as courses to be listed as electives in the Political Communication concentration of the Communication Ph.D.

Best wishes,

Dave Redlawsk

[Quoted text hidden]

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David P. Redlawsk, Ph.D.

(his/he)

Twitter: @DavidRedlawsk

Email: [redlawsk@udel.edu](mailto:redlawsk@udel.edu)

Web: [www.poscir.udel.edu](http://www.poscir.udel.edu)

James R. Soles Professor and Chair

Department of Political Science and International Relations

University of Delaware

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**APPENDIX B**  
**PROPOSED NEW COMMUNICATION COURSES WITH DESCRIPTIONS**

|         |                                          |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COMM631 | Entertainment and Politics               | 3 credits | This course considers the theoretical foundations of the link between politics and entertainment. Examined will be its causes and effects, the psychological mechanisms involved in processing entertainment content, the normative implications for citizenship, and the healthy functioning of democracy. |
| COMM633 | Topics in Political Communication        | 3 credits | Significant areas of theory and research in political communication. Topics may include news & politics, public opinion, or freedom of expression.                                                                                                                                                          |
| COMM803 | Topics in Communication Research Methods | 3 credits | Further examination of the research methodologies utilized in communication research. Topics may include experiments, surveys, or social scientifically based qualitative research methods.                                                                                                                 |
| COMM808 | Media Law and Policy                     | 3 credits | Survey normative foundations for protecting freedom of expression, including examination of legal theorists. Review seminal U.S. case law, and administrative policies impacting free speech and press. Learn the basic methods of legal research.                                                          |
| COMM811 | Communication and Ethics                 | 3 credits | Application of classic ethical theory to current communication ethical dilemmas, including both interpersonal and media communication. Topics will include truth and deception, privacy, and persuasion. Emphasis on digital communication.                                                                 |
| COMM814 | Communication Campaigns                  | 3 credits | Study of public communication campaigns. Specific emphasis on the role of the media in influencing attitudes and behavior related to social, political, or health issues.                                                                                                                                   |
| COMM815 | Proseminar in Media Effects              | 3 credits | Covers critical issues and research in media effects. Survey of research topics and methodologies in the current literature related to the topic of interest.                                                                                                                                               |
| COMM832 | Proseminar in Political Communication    | 3 credits | Covers critical issues and research in political communication. Survey of research topics and methodologies in the current literature related to the topic of interest.                                                                                                                                     |
| COMM836 | Digital Technology in Politics           | 3 credits | Graduate seminar examining current directions in theory, philosophy, and practice in the intersection of technology and politics.                                                                                                                                                                           |

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| COMM841 | Proseminar in Interpersonal Communication<br>Covers critical issues and research in interpersonal communication. Survey of research topics and methodologies in the current literature related to the topic of interest. | 3 credits    |
| COMM866 | Special Problem                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1-12 credits |
| COMM890 | Communication Colloquium<br>The Communication colloquia feature faculty, student, and guest presentation of recent research.                                                                                             | 0-3 credits  |
| COMM964 | Pre-Candidacy Study<br>Research and readings in preparation of dissertation topic and/or qualifying examinations for doctoral students before admission to candidacy but after completion of all required course work.   | 3-12 credits |
| COMM989 | Doctoral Dissertation                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1-12 credits |



**APPENDIX C**  
**Ph.D. IN COMMUNICATION APPROVED FACULTY**

| <b>Faculty Member</b> | <b>Rank</b>         |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| James Angelini        | Associate Professor |
| Amy Bleakley          | Professor           |
| Paul Brewer           | Professor           |
| Scott Caplan          | Professor           |
| John Courtright       | Professor           |
| John Crowley          | Assistant Professor |
| Juliet Dee            | Associate Professor |
| Morgan Ellithorpe     | Assistant Professor |
| Beth Haslett          | Professor Emerita   |
| Lindsay Hoffman       | Associate Professor |
| Tracey Quigley Holden | Assistant Professor |
| Jennifer Lambe        | Associate Professor |
| Barbara Ley           | Associate Professor |
| Steven Mortenson      | Associate Professor |
| Charles Pavitt        | Professor Emeritus  |
| Elizabeth Perse       | Professor Emerita   |
| Nancy Signorielli     | Professor Emerita   |
| Lydia Timmins         | Associate Professor |
| Danna Young           | Associate Professor |

APPENDIX D  
SUPPORT LETTER FROM  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SERVICES



University of Delaware Library

VICE PROVOST FOR LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS  
AND MAY MORRIS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

184 South College Avenue  
Newark, DE 19717-5267  
Phone: 302-831-2231  
Fax: 302-831-1067

September 1, 2017

Memorandum

To: John A. Courtright  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Communication

From: Trevor A. Dawes  
Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums  
and May Morris University Librarian

I am responding to your department's request to supply information about the capability of the University of Delaware Library to support the proposed PhD in Communication.

The University of Delaware Library with its strong social sciences, interdisciplinary and electronic collections is well able to support this program. Enclosed is a description of collections, resources and services available for this purpose.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions.

/nb  
Enclosure

- c: University of Delaware Library  
Susan A. Davi, Associate Librarian and Head, Collection Management and Licensed  
Electronic Content Department  
M. Dina Giambi, Associate University Librarian for Budget and Collections  
Dianna L. McKellar, Librarian, Reference and Instructional Services Department  
Sandra K. Millard, Deputy University Librarian  
Nancy R. Nelson, Head, Access Services Department, and Interim Head, Reference and  
Instructional Services Department



University of Delaware Library  
VICE PROVOST FOR LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS  
AND MAY MORRIS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

181 South College Avenue  
Newark, DE 19717-8200  
Phone: 302-831-2231  
Fax: 302-831-1006

September 1, 2017

Report on Library Services and Collections in Support of the  
Proposed PhD in Communication

General Description

The University of Delaware Library includes the Hugh M. Morris Library, where the main collection is housed; two branch libraries located on the Newark campus, the Chemistry Library and the Physics Library; and a third branch library, the Marine Studies Library, located in Lewes, Delaware. The Library collections parallel the University's academic interests and support all disciplines. The proposed graduate program is directly supported by the Library's strong collections in communication, education, human development, public policy and other related social sciences.

Books, full-text electronic journals and electronic books, databases, periodicals, microforms, government publications, maps, manuscripts and media provide a major academic resource for the University of Delaware, the surrounding community, the state of Delaware and the nation. Library staff members provide a wide range of services.

The University of Delaware Library is a U.S. depository library and a U.S. patent depository library and contains the complete file of every patent issued by the U.S. Office of Patents and Trademarks.

The online catalog, DELCAT Discovery, provides access to millions of items by author, title, subject and keyword.

Library collections number over 2,790,000 and are broadly based and comprehensive. In 2016/2017, the Library Web <[library.udel.edu](http://library.udel.edu)> received over 3,900,000 page views.

Specific Support for Communication

The Library's collections are strong and are well able to support the PhD program in Communication. For many years, the Library has supported related graduate and undergraduate programs in education, human development, business and economics, operations research, psychology, political sciences, sociology, statistics and public policy. The collections in these areas are excellent and continue to grow. Funds are designated at the beginning of each fiscal year for the support and strengthening of the collections.

An experienced librarian, Dianna McKellar, Librarian, Reference and Instructional Services Department, serves as the Library liaison to the faculty in the Department of Communication. As



Library liaison, Ms. McKellar works with the Department of Communication to:

- Further develop Library collections, both print and electronic to support the teaching, learning and research needs of the department and its programs
- Provide research support for faculty and students in a consultation setting
- Provide instruction in a classroom setting
- Serve as a resource for the information needs of the Department of Communication as they relate to the Library, Scholarly Communication, Open Access and other topics

More than 250 research guides <[guides.lib.udel.edu/](http://guides.lib.udel.edu/)> in all subject areas have been developed and are maintained by Library liaisons. These research guides describe Library resources and assist students in the research process. In this context, Ms. McKellar maintains the research guide for communication. These guides introduce students to a wide array of useful resources including databases, eJournals, eBooks, reference materials, visual material and more. Ms. McKellar is also available to work with faculty to develop research guides for specific courses within this program. Research guides, developed by other subject librarians, address the topics of education, psychology, human development and family sciences, sociology, public policy & administration, political science, and applied economics and statistics.

In addition to its extensive print-based collections, the Library provides access to more than 85,000 electronic journals <[library.udel.edu/ejournals/](http://library.udel.edu/ejournals/)> and more than 580,000 electronic books <[library.udel.edu/ebooks/](http://library.udel.edu/ebooks/)>. Within the Library's eJournal collection, communication, education, sociology, public policy and related social sciences are very strong, including almost all the journals published by Taylor & Francis, Sage, Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, and the archival journals provided by JSTOR. Many full-text journals are included in the *Communication & Mass Media*, *Business Source Premier*, and *Education Source* databases. Information from current newspapers is available from *LexisNexis Academic* and *ProQuest Newsstand*. Access to *The New York Times* is available from [NYTimes.com](http://NYTimes.com). Within the eBook collection, online access to most books published by Springer, now including Palgrave Macmillan, from 2010-present is of particular importance. Other eBooks related to this program are available from Books at JSTOR, ebrary, and EBSCOhost eBooks.

The Library subscribes to more than 400 online databases <[library.udel.edu/databases/](http://library.udel.edu/databases/)> which support research in all areas. A wide range of databases support the study, research, and teaching of communication. Among the most important are: *Communication & Mass Media Complete*, *Business Source Premier*, *Education Source*, *PsycINFO*, *Scopus*, and *Web of Science*. In addition to these A&I databases, the Library also provides access to *Academic Video Online*, *Docuseek2*, and *Kanopy* – streaming video collections which include material in media studies, politics and current affairs, psychology and more. Thousands of images are available in *AP Images*, a database of photographs, sound bites, graphics and text from the Associated Press, one of the oldest and largest news organizations in the world. The Library provides access to *iPoll* (public opinion data from the Roper Center) and *PolicyMap* (a data and mapping platform) which will be important to students in this program.

The Library also subscribes to *RefWorks*, a web-based citation management tool that can be used with most databases.

The Library has strong collections of film and video <[library.udel.edu/filmandvideo/](http://library.udel.edu/filmandvideo/)> which support study and teaching in all subject areas.

The Library has a nationally recognized Student Multimedia Design Center <[library.udel.edu/multimedia/](http://library.udel.edu/multimedia/)> which provides access to equipment, software, and training related to the creation of multimedia projects. The Student Multimedia Design Center includes over 80 workstations, six studios, and two classrooms focused on multimedia creation and delivery of oral presentations. University of Delaware users also may borrow a wide variety of multimedia equipment. Through its Multimedia Literacy program, the Student Multimedia Design Center provides instructional support for faculty seeking to incorporate multimedia into their assignments.

The Library also maintains an Institutional Repository <[udspace.udel.edu/](http://udspace.udel.edu/)>, which archives research reports, documents, and other resources produced by University of Delaware faculty and students.

In response to graduate student comments, the Library has created a Graduate Student Research Room, a space accessible only to graduate students via their UD ONEcard. This room provides space for graduate students to work collaboratively or individually.



Trevor A. Dawes  
Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums  
and May Morris University Librarian



APPENDIX E  
SUPPORT LETTER FROM  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
DEAN'S OFFICE



College of Arts & Sciences  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Therese W. Watson  
Newark, DE 19716  
Phone: 302-831-2793  
Fax: 302-831-6398

10 October 2017

As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), I wish to express my support for the Department of Communication's (COMM) proposal to establish a doctorate of philosophy (PhD) program. With a prominent faculty who undertake excellent and consequential scholarship, COMM is well positioned to start a PhD program, one that we believe will enhance the scholarly reputation of the University of Delaware.

CAS values excellence in teaching and research, diversity, and social responsibility as it pursues strategic goals of developing an outstanding faculty; advancing critical thinking, open inquiry, and full participation; leading the way in student learning and engagement; and engaging local, national, and global communities. The proposed COMM PhD program supports these values and strategic goals through excellence in research, applied learning, and rigorous courses focusing on the study of mass, interpersonal, and political communication.

We believe a PhD in COMM will lead to more interdisciplinary graduate degree programs, and engage our current faculty, as well as attract top-notch scholars, interested in advancing scholarship and supporting students. We are committed to working with COMM to enhance its graduate student recruitment efforts, offer competitive financial support, and invest in additional faculty.

Again, we strongly support the PhD in COMM, and look forward to helping the department create an outstanding graduate degree program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Watson'.

George H. Watson, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences