

Communication

This section presents the requirements for programs in:

- **M.A. Communication**
- **M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Climate Change**
- **M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Latin American and Caribbean Studies**
- **M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in African Studies**
- **M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Data Science**
- **Ph.D. Communication**
- **Ph.D. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Political Economy**

Program Requirements

M.A. Communication (5.0 credits)

Each student, in consultation with the supervisor of graduate studies, will be required to follow a thesis, research essay or a coursework program for a total of 5.0 credits. Students in the M.A. program are restricted to one directed studies course, COMS 5808. Students may take one optional course (0.5 credit) outside the program, with permission of the supervisor of graduate studies.

Requirements - Thesis pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0] Foundations of Communication Studies	
2. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5] Approaches to Communication Research	
3. 2.0 credits in:	2.0
COMS 5909 [2.0] M.A. Thesis	
4. 1.5 credits from the list of optional courses below	1.5
Total Credits	5.0

Requirements - Research Essay pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0] Foundations of Communication Studies	
2. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5] Approaches to Communication Research	
3. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 5908 [1.0] Research Essay	
4. 2.5 credits chosen from the list of optional courses	2.5
Total Credits	5.0

Requirements - Coursework pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0] Foundations of Communication Studies	
2. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5] Approaches to Communication Research	

3. 3.5 credits chosen from the list of optional courses	3.5
Total Credits	5.0

Optional Courses

COMS 5200 [0.5]	Civic Media
COMS 5202 [0.5]	Persuasion
COMS 5203 [0.5]	Communication, Technology, Society
COMS 5206 [0.5]	Communication, Culture, Regulation
COMS 5207 [0.5]	Communication and Racialization
COMS 5208 [0.5]	Audiences, Consumption, Reception
COMS 5212 [0.5]	History, Time, Memory
COMS 5214 [0.5]	The Local and the Global
COMS 5218 [0.5]	Special Studies of Media and Communication
COMS 5219 [0.5]	Regional Studies of Media
COMS 5220 [0.5]	Visual Culture
COMS 5221 [0.5]	Science and the Making of Knowledge
COMS 5222 [0.5]	Cultural Intersections
COMS 5223 [0.5]	Work in the Contemporary Media Environment
COMS 5224 [0.5]	Internet, Infrastructure, Materialities
COMS 5225 [0.5]	Critical Data Studies
COMS 5509 [0.5]	Gender, Sexuality, Culture
COMS 5808 [0.5]	Directed Studies

Note: students may take up to 0.5 credit outside the program with permission of the supervisor of graduate studies.

M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Climate Change (5.0 credits)

Requirements - Research essay pathway:

1. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
CLIM 5000 [1.0] Climate Collaboration	
2. 0.0 credit in:	
CLIM 5800 [0.0] Climate Seminar Series	
3. 1.5 credits in:	1.5
COMS 5101 [1.0] Foundations of Communication Studies	
COMS 5605 [0.5] Approaches to Communication Research	
4. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 5908 [1.0] Research Essay (in the specialization)	
5. 1.5 credits from the list of optional courses	1.5
Total Credits	5.0

Requirements - Thesis pathway:

1. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
CLIM 5000 [1.0] Climate Collaboration	
2. 0.0 credit in:	
CLIM 5800 [0.0] Climate Seminar Series	
3. 1.5 credits in:	1.5
COMS 5101 [1.0] Foundations of Communication Studies	

COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	
4. 2.0 credits in:		2.0
COMS 5909 [2.0]	M.A. Thesis (in the specialization)	
5. 0.5 credit from the list of optional courses		0.5
Total Credits		5.0

M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (5.0 credits)

Requirements - Research essay pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
LACS 5000 [0.5]	Interdisciplinary Approaches to Latin American and Caribbean Studies	
2. 0.0 credit in:		
LACS 5800 [0.0]	Scholarly Preparation in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	
3. 1.0 credit in:		1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0]	Foundations of Communication Studies	
4. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	
5. 1.0 credit in:		1.0
COMS 5908 [1.0]	Research Essay (in the specialization)	
6. 2.0 credits from the list of optional courses		2.0
Total Credits		5.0

Requirements - Thesis pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
LACS 5000 [0.5]	Interdisciplinary Approaches to Latin American and Caribbean Studies	
2. 0.0 credit in:		
LACS 5800 [0.0]	Scholarly Preparation in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	
3. 1.0 credit in:		1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0]	Foundations of Communication Studies	
4. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	
5. 2.0 credits in:		2.0
COMS 5909 [2.0]	M.A. Thesis (in the specialization)	
6. 1.0 credit from the list of optional courses		1.0
Total Credits		5.0

M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in African Studies (5.0 credits)

Requirements - Research Essay pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
AFRI 5000 [0.5]	African Studies as a Discipline: Historical and Current Perspectives	
2. 0.0 credit in:		0.0
AFRI 5800 [0.0]	Scholarly Preparation in African Studies	
3. 1.0 credit in:		1.0

COMS 5101 [1.0]	Foundations of Communication Studies	
4. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	
5. 1.0 credit in:		1.0
COMS 5908 [1.0]	Research Essay	
6. 2.0 credits chosen from the list of optional courses.		2.0
Total Credits		5.0

Requirements - Thesis pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
AFRI 5000 [0.5]	African Studies as a Discipline: Historical and Current Perspectives	
2. 0.0 credit in:		0.0
AFRI 5800 [0.0]	Scholarly Preparation in African Studies	
3. 1.0 credit in:		1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0]	Foundations of Communication Studies	
4. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	
5. 2.0 credits in:		2.0
COMS 5909 [2.0]	M.A. Thesis	
6. 1.0 credits from the list of optional courses.		1.0
Total Credits		5.0

M.A. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Data Science (5.0 credits)

Requirements - Coursework pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
DATA 5000 [0.5]	Introduction to Data Science	
2. 1.0 credit in:		1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0]	Foundations of Communication Studies	
3. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	
4. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
COMS 5225 [0.5]	Critical Data Studies	
5. 0.5 credit from:		0.5
COMS 5203 [0.5]	Communication, Technology, Society	
COMS 5221 [0.5]	Science and the Making of Knowledge	
COMS 5224 [0.5]	Internet, Infrastructure, Materialities	
6. 2.0 credits in electives		2.0
Total Credits		5.0

Requirements - Research essay pathway (5.0 credits)

1. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
DATA 5000 [0.5]	Introduction to Data Science	
2. 1.0 credit in:		1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0]	Foundations of Communication Studies	
3. 0.5 credit in:		0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	

4. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
COMS 5225 [0.5] Critical Data Studies	
5. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 5908 [1.0] Research Essay	
Research Essay on a Data Science topic approved by the Advisory Board representative from Communication in consultation with the graduate Committee of the Institute of Data Science.	
6. 1.5 credits in electives.	1.5
Total Credits	5.0
Requirements - Thesis pathway (5.0 credits)	
1. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
DATA 5000 [0.5] Introduction to Data Science	
2. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 5101 [1.0] Foundations of Communication Studies	
3. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5] Approaches to Communication Research	
4. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
COMS 5225 [0.5] Critical Data Studies	
5. 2.0 credits in:	2.0
COMS 5909 [2.0] M.A. Thesis	
M.A. Thesis on a Data Science topic approved by the Advisory Board representative from Communication in consultation with the Graduate Committee of the Institute of Data Science.	
6. 0.5 credit in electives	0.5
Total Credits	5.0

Ph.D. Communication (5.0 credits)

Requirements:

1. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 6000 [1.0] Doctoral Seminar in Communication Studies	
2. 2.0 credits from the list of electives below; up to 0.5 credit may be taken in a relevant discipline outside of the School; students in the Ph.D. program are restricted to one (0.5 credit) directed studies course:	2.0
COMS 6010 [0.5] Directed Studies	
3. 2.0 credits in:	2.0
COMS 6101 [0.5] Comprehensive Exam: Field I	
COMS 6102 [0.5] Comprehensive Exam: Field II	
COMS 6908 [1.0] Ph.D. Thesis Proposal	
4. 0.0 credits in:	0.0
COMS 6909 [0.0] Ph.D. Thesis (must be successfully defended at an oral examination)	
Total Credits	5.0

Ph.D. Communication with Collaborative Specialization in Political Economy (5.0 credits)

Requirements:

1. 1.0 credit in:	1.0
COMS 6000 [1.0] Doctoral Seminar in Communication Studies	

2. 1.0 additional credit from the list of optional courses below: up to 0.5 credit may be taken in a relevant discipline outside of the School; students in the Ph.D. program are restricted to 0.5 credit in directed studies: COMS 6010 Directed Studies

3. 2.0 credits in:	2.0
COMS 6101 [0.5] Comprehensive Exam: Field I	
COMS 6102 [0.5] Comprehensive Exam: Field II	
COMS 6908 [1.0] Ph.D. Thesis Proposal	
4. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
PECO 6000 [0.5] Political Economy: Core Concepts	
5. 0.5 credit in:	0.5
A relevant political economy course from the approved list.	
6. 0.0 credits in:	0.0
COMS 6909 [0.0] Ph.D. Thesis (In the Specialization. Must be successfully defended at an oral examination.)	
Total Credits	5.0

Elective Courses

All doctoral candidates must complete 2.0 additional credits from the list of electives below; 0.5 credit may be taken in a relevant discipline outside of the School, particularly those that address central theoretical and/or methodological issues within the student's chosen field of concentration. Students in the Ph.D. program are restricted to one (0.5 credit) directed studies course (COMS 6010 Directed Studies).

COMS 5200 [0.5]	Civic Media	0.5
COMS 5202 [0.5]	Persuasion	0.5
COMS 5203 [0.5]	Communication, Technology, Society	0.5
COMS 5206 [0.5]	Communication, Culture, Regulation	0.5
COMS 5207 [0.5]	Communication and Racialization	0.5
COMS 5208 [0.5]	Audiences, Consumption, Reception	0.5
COMS 5212 [0.5]	History, Time, Memory	0.5
COMS 5214 [0.5]	The Local and the Global	0.5
COMS 5218 [0.5]	Special Studies of Media and Communication	0.5
COMS 5219 [0.5]	Regional Studies of Media	0.5
COMS 5220 [0.5]	Visual Culture	0.5
COMS 5221 [0.5]	Science and the Making of Knowledge	0.5
COMS 5222 [0.5]	Cultural Intersections	0.5
COMS 5223 [0.5]	Work in the Contemporary Media Environment	0.5
COMS 5224 [0.5]	Internet, Infrastructure, Materialities	0.5
COMS 5225 [0.5]	Critical Data Studies	0.5
COMS 5509 [0.5]	Gender, Sexuality, Culture	0.5
COMS 5605 [0.5]	Approaches to Communication Research	0.5
COMS 6001 [0.5]	Selected Topics in Communication	0.5
COMS 6005 [0.5]	Communication and History	0.5
COMS 6006 [0.5]	Political Economy of Communication	0.5
COMS 6007 [0.5]	Communication, Discourse, and Representation	0.5

COMS 6010 [0.5]	Directed Studies	0.5
JOUR 5401 [0.5]	Journalism Law	0.5

Comprehensive Examinations

In addition to their course requirements, doctoral students are required to pass a comprehensive examination.

The comprehensive examination (COMS 6101 and COMS 6102) tests the student's in-depth knowledge of two fields within communication and media studies. Fields to be examined are determined in consultation with their supervisor, with at least one being selected from a list pre-approved by the program. The exam consists of written answers to questions set by the student's supervisor and advisory committee and an oral defence.

Before taking the comprehensive examination, students must have completed all course work and earned a CGPA of 9.0 or higher. The comprehensive exam must be completed no later than six terms after initial full-time registration, or 15 terms after initial part-time registration. Students who do not fulfill this requirement within the prescribed time may be asked to withdraw from the program.

Regulations

See the General Regulations section of this Calendar.

A standing of B- or better must be obtained in each credit counted towards the master's degree.

Regulations

See the General Regulations section of this Calendar.

A standing of B- or better must be obtained in each course counted towards the Ph.D. degree.

Admission

The minimum requirement for admission to the master's program is a B.A.(Honours) degree or the equivalent, with high honours standing in communication or a related discipline. Related disciplines may include sociology, political science, film studies, and Canadian studies.

Applicants without a background in communication studies may be required to take certain designated courses from the undergraduate Communication program in addition to their regular program.

Possession of the minimum entrance standing is not in itself, however, assurance of admission into the program.

Applicants who lack an Honours degree but who have a 3-year degree with honours standing (a minimum B standing overall) may be considered for admission to a qualifying-year program. Students who complete the qualifying year with high honours standing may be considered for admission to the master's program in the following year. Refer to the General Regulations section of this Calendar for regulations governing the qualifying year.

Admission

The normal requirement for admission into the doctoral program is a master's degree (or the equivalent) in communication or a cognate field such as journalism studies, with an overall average of B+ or better.

Applicants who have deficiencies in certain areas may be admitted to the Ph.D. Program, but will normally be required to complete additional course work.

Communication and Media Studies (COMS) Courses

COMS 5101 [1.0 credit]

Foundations of Communication Studies

Origins and traditions of modern communication studies with attention to theoretical and methodological aspects of developments and debates shaping current communication research.

COMS 5102 [0.5 credit]

Sound Studies

A critical examination of sound, listening, and audio reproduction technologies across a range of cultural and historical contexts. Topics can include the exploration of distinct listening cultures, audio media, policy, governance, and the politics of sound.

COMS 5200 [0.5 credit]

Civic Media

The role of communication in relation to the emergence, development, and problematization of citizenship within civil society and the public sphere. Topics to be covered include the communicative strategies of NGOs, the aesthetics of protest, and alternative forms of journalism, among others.

COMS 5202 [0.5 credit]

Persuasion

Examines various efforts to discover and apply techniques of successful persuasion from classical rhetoric to scientific public opinion research with attention to contemporary political, public information, and corporate campaigns.

COMS 5203 [0.5 credit]

Communication, Technology, Society

Critically examines the technological context of social communication in terms of human agency, medium theory, and the idea of progress.

COMS 5205 [0.5 credit]

Political Marketing

Using case studies and simulation exercises, the course will provide students with an understanding of political marketing strategy, market intelligence, consultation and participation, political product development and branding, and marketing practices in government.

Includes: Experiential Learning Activity

Also listed as POLM 5014.

Seminar

COMS 5206 [0.5 credit]**Communication, Culture, Regulation**

Contemporary and historical modes of regulating and governing media and communication, including policy-making, moral regulation, markets, code and so on. Topics may include the regulation of ownership, content, production, circulation, and consumption.

COMS 5207 [0.5 credit]**Communication and Racialization**

Provides theoretical and methodological foundations for graduate students studying the constructs of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity in communication and media contexts, particularly from a critical/cultural perspective.

COMS 5208 [0.5 credit]**Audiences, Consumption, Reception**

How audiences and users consume, interact with, deploy and shape media; how they receive and interpret information; and the impacts of these practices on social relations and institutions. Consumerism, entertainment, and “sites” of consumption, including information technologies, space, and built environments.

COMS 5209 [0.5 credit]**Climate Change and Communication**

The communication of climate change across a range of issues, which may include science, politics, popular culture, social movements, technology, food systems, Indigenous resurgence and societal transformation. Prerequisite(s): enrolment in MA or PhD Communication program, or Collaborative Specialization in Climate Change, or permission of the School of Journalism and Communication.

COMS 5212 [0.5 credit]**History, Time, Memory**

Interactions among notions of time, environments, media technologies and artifacts, and the production of memory and history. Topics may include practices of memorialization through historical monuments or museums, contemporary challenges of data storage and media archiving, issues of technological obsolescence and waste, and more.

COMS 5214 [0.5 credit]**The Local and the Global**

Communicative aspects of globalization in the context of the local. Among the areas to be addressed include global communication history, cultural imperialism, international regulation, transnational networking, cultural industries, media integration, diasporic communication, and the translocal circulation of content.

COMS 5218 [0.5 credit]**Special Studies of Media and Communication**

Examines a specific traditional or non-traditional medium or practice of communication. Topics will vary from year to year.

COMS 5219 [0.5 credit]**Regional Studies of Media**

An exploration of the media landscape of specific region or geographical/political territory. Attention will be given to understanding specific conditions of reception, the character of media industries, and the historical development of media forms. Topics will vary from year to year.

COMS 5220 [0.5 credit]**Visual Culture**

The role of image in (re)producing culture. Diverse practices of visual communication such as photography, built environments, screen culture, and image sharing through virtual social networks.

COMS 5221 [0.5 credit]**Science and the Making of Knowledge**

Issues related to science and communication. Topics may include: contemporary issues such as public health risks, climate change, science as ideology, the relationship between science and politics; historical considerations of the relationship between knowledge and expertise.

COMS 5222 [0.5 credit]**Cultural Intersections**

Critically examines the engagement of cultures with each other in contexts such as the constructions of self and other, settler-colonial relations, postcolonial discourses, multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism, communication between groups and across borders, and the roles of media in cultural intersections.

COMS 5223 [0.5 credit]**Work in the Contemporary Media Environment**

Modes of media work and labour. Topics may include studies of immaterial labour, emotional labour, user-generated content and active audiences, labour and labour relations in digitizing media industries.

COMS 5224 [0.5 credit]**Internet, Infrastructure, Materialities**

The internet as infrastructure; how the technical characteristics of the internet influence our experience and use of this medium. Questions addressing the physical structures, power and control, and ecological impacts of the internet are also considered.

COMS 5225 [0.5 credit]**Critical Data Studies**

Theoretical debates, research approaches and discursive regimes pertaining to the datafication of everyday life, data and living environments, and the quantified control of the future. Emphasis on the production of databased knowledge and the influence data have on the material and social world.

COMS 5509 [0.5 credit]**Gender, Sexuality, Culture**

Theoretical debates and current research in the production and reproduction of gender, sexual and sexualized relations through communication processes, practices and institutions.

COMS 5605 [0.5 credit]**Approaches to Communication Research**

Processes of conducting communication research in the context of writing a thesis or research essay. Topic selection, question framing, research design, the use of theory; specific methodologies such as content analysis, discourse analysis, survey research, ethnography, semiotics, and historical analysis.

Includes: Experiential Learning Activity

COMS 5808 [0.5 credit]**Directed Studies**

Directed research or readings on a topic area not covered in that year's course offerings.

COMS 5908 [1.0 credit]**Research Essay**

Includes: Experiential Learning Activity

COMS 5909 [2.0 credits]**M.A. Thesis**

Includes: Experiential Learning Activity

COMS 6000 [1.0 credit]**Doctoral Seminar in Communication Studies**

A seminar encompassing the program's three fields of concentration: the history of communication as object and field of study, the political economy of communication, and socio-cultural analysis of communication. Includes substantive summative assessment.

COMS 6001 [0.5 credit]**Selected Topics in Communication**

Examines a newly emerging issue, research method, or theory related to communication. Topic will vary from year to year.

COMS 6005 [0.5 credit]**Communication and History**

The history of communication and its conceptualization from various perspectives as well as the way in which historical events arise through communication.

COMS 6006 [0.5 credit]**Political Economy of Communication**

The history of political economy with attention to applications in the field of communication.

COMS 6007 [0.5 credit]**Communication, Discourse, and Representation**

The processes and practices of representation through which meanings arise.

Precludes additional credit for COMM 6007 (no longer offered).

COMS 6010 [0.5 credit]**Directed Studies**

Directed research or readings on a topic area not covered in that year's course offerings.

COMS 6101 [0.5 credit]**Comprehensive Exam: Field I**

Demonstration of in-depth knowledge of an area of inquiry related to communication and media studies. Examination conducted by supervisory committee on basis of written answers and an oral defence. Graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

Precludes additional credit for COMS 6900, COMS 6901.

COMS 6102 [0.5 credit]**Comprehensive Exam: Field II**

Demonstration of in-depth knowledge of an area of inquiry related to communication and media studies. Examination conducted by supervisory committee on basis of written answers and an oral defence. Graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

Precludes additional credit for COMS 6900, COMS 6901.

COMS 6900 [1.0 credit]**Comprehensive Examination I**

Examination normally conducted in May of each year in connection with COMS 6000 and covering the program's three fields of concentration: history of communication as object and field of study; political economy of communication; socio-cultural analysis of communication. Graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

COMS 6901 [1.0 credit]**Comprehensive Examination II**

Examination by the student's thesis supervisor and committee of an approved project related to a particular field of communication research; the field may or may not be related to the student's thesis. Graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

COMS 6908 [1.0 credit]**Ph.D. Thesis Proposal**

The production and oral defence of a written proposal for the student's thesis research.

Prerequisite(s): COMS 6101, COMS 6102.

COMS 6909 [0.0 credit]**Ph.D. Thesis**

Includes: Experiential Learning Activity