Institute of Communications Research  
Doctoral Program in Communications and Media  
Program Evaluation Committee

Application for Advancement to Candidacy

The Graduate College requires that each department or unit offering a doctoral program have a formal system of review and evaluation for enrolled students. The Institute of Communications Research meets that requirement in two ways. First, students must complete an annual Year End Review Form (see https://media.illinois.edu/node/66/forms-and-guidelines). Second, students must complete an Application for Advancement to Candidacy as outlined in the following document.

Applications for Advancement to Candidacy are reviewed by a faculty Program Evaluation Committee. The function of this committee is to verify that doctoral candidates’ programs comply with general requirements of the Graduate College and the Institute of Communications Research, and also to insure that students obtain a broad understanding of the issues, problems, and research that constitute the field.

During the first year in the doctoral program, a student should select an adviser if possible. Otherwise the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) can act as de facto adviser. In consultation with the adviser, the student should devise a tentative program of study, which is to be submitted to the Program Evaluation Committee. The Committee will review the program and either approve it or recommend modifications.

Occasionally, a tentative program of study changes because of, for example, unavailability of courses. Any modifications of a program must be submitted to the Committee for review. The Committee’s deliberations are facilitated if the student appends a short statement explaining why the changes are being made.

ICR students must submit and obtain approval of this Application for Advancement to Candidacy before they will be allowed to take their Preliminary Examinations.

Students are invited to consult the “Graduate College Handbook of Policy and Requirements for Students, Faculty and Staff” available on the Graduate College website.
Authorization of Petition--

Students petitioning for Advancement to Candidacy must have the student's adviser read and approve the petition. The petition therefore should be signed by the student's adviser and (if the adviser chooses) accompanied by comments. This means that a student should have selected and consulted with an adviser in preparing the petition (or with the DGS if the student has not yet selected an adviser).

Adviser signature:

Adviser comments [optional]:
Name: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________

Semester and year in which you began Ph.D. course work: ___________________________
Date if you submitted a Candidacy application previously: ___________________________

I GRADUATE WORK (IF ANY) BEFORE YOU ENTERED THE PH.D. PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA:

Institution: ___________________________
Dates in attendance: ___________________________
Degree: ___________________________
Major: ___________________________
Minor(s): ___________________________
Title of thesis (if any): ___________________________

II Whom have you selected as your adviser? If you have not yet formally selected one, who has been advising you since your admission to the Ph.D. program?

III In a few sentences, indicate the area of your proposed dissertation -- that is, its substance and content, not its title.

IV Please write a statement assessing your background and your reasons for pursuing a Ph.D. in communications and media. (Continue on a separate sheet, if necessary.)
V PROPOSED PROGRAM OF STUDY

To earn the Ph.D. in communications and media, you are required to complete (beyond the Bachelor's degree) a minimum of 64 credit hours of course work. Of these 64 hours, 48 must be in the major field, although not all 48 of these need to be courses with a “MDIA” number and title. The minor consists of at least 16 hours (or 24 hours if a split minor is involved). Included in the 64 hours must be MDIA 571 and 572 (Proseminar I and II), as well as at least 8 hours of research methodology (one quantitative and one qualitative methods course). Your program also should include overview courses, as described on the Graduate College website at http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/communications/#doctoratetext.

If you have done relevant graduate work elsewhere, you may wish to propose that a portion of that course work be accepted for credit toward the 64 credit hours required for the doctoral degree in communications and media. There are guidelines that govern whether graduate work taken prior to admission to the doctoral program will be accepted for credit (see below). In general, no credit will be awarded for a Master’s thesis, a course taken on a pass/fail basis, or a professional course. Courses from prior graduate work that you are proposing for credit must be so identified on the subsequent pages as to where they were taken. You should append a copy of the course syllabus as well. Necessarily, any course proposed for credit must be relevant to your present program of study and make a substantive contribution to it. A further rule of thumb is that at least 48 of the 64 credit hours required for the doctoral degree be taken at the University of Illinois.

In the appropriate sections on the following pages, list the courses (a) completed, (b) in progress, and (c) planned, that you are proposing for your program of study. In listing any Independent Study or MDIA 590 courses, be sure to give the specific title of the content, rather than just the generic name.

You must develop your program in consultation with your adviser (or DGS), who should initial it before you forward it to the Program Evaluation Committee.
What do you consider your major field of interest within the Ph.D. program?

List at least 48 credit hours that you offer for the major (include MDIA 571 and 572).

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<th>Department</th>
<th>Course Number and Title</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester and Year Taken</th>
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a. Completed

b. In progress

c. Planned
Briefly explain how these courses contribute to a body of knowledge appropriate to your major area of inquiry.
What do you consider your minor field(s) of interest within the Ph.D. program?

List at least 16 credit hours that you offer for the minor.

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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Course Number and Title</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Semester and Year Taken</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Completed</td>
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</table>

b. In progress

c. Planned

Briefly explain how these courses contribute to a body of knowledge appropriate to your minor area(s) of inquiry.
Included in the 64 credit hours of course work you listed must be at least 8 credit hours of research methodology; four must be quantitative methods, and another four must be qualitative methods. Indicate below the courses you are proposing to satisfy this requirement. Briefly explain how these methodology courses bear on your proposed dissertation.

Identify the overview courses that are part of your program.

Briefly explain why you believe you can successfully carry out the dissertation research with the knowledge of language(s) you now have.