

# A Guide to the Doctoral Program in Communication & Rhetoric

Effective August 2017

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**AS YOU READ** this guide for the first time, you are just beginning the process it describes. Your goal in this process is to make a significant and original contribution to knowledge in communication and rhetoric, thereby achieving full collegial membership in an international community of scholars. This goal, which is itself only a beginning, may seem far off. The process of achieving it will be difficult and at times frustrating. But your work as a doctoral student should also prove satisfying in a way that makes it worth doing in itself, apart from the value of the outcome. We wish you the joy of graduate education within the Rensselaer community and beyond.

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

### OVERVIEW

This guide explains the requirements for the Ph.D. in Communication and Rhetoric at Rensselaer. Additional Institute policies applicable to graduate students are explained on the Office of Graduate Education's website <http://gradoffice.rpi.edu>. The Degree Progress Timetables at the end of this document will help you plan your progress through the Ph.D. program. They list the milestones by which your progress will be measured through an ideal full-time study period of eight to ten semesters.

### MISSION

The mission of the Ph.D. in Communication and Rhetoric at Rensselaer is to enable students to make a contribution with rigor, depth, and creativity on issues related to *Communication in Technologically Mediated Contexts*.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

While specific plans of study will vary to meet individual needs and interests, all students must meet the program requirements outlined in this section. Note that a course applied to fulfill one requirement cannot be used to satisfy a second requirement.

#### The Core

To provide a foundation for contributions on issues related to *Communication in Technologically Mediated Contexts*, students are required to take **two** core courses, each combining a horizontal disciplinary base in communication and rhetoric with depth on issues of communication in technological contexts:

- Communication Theory (currently Fall term annually)
- Rhetoric, Culture, and Technology (Spring term annually)

#### Directed Research

To enable students to prepare for the independent work of the dissertation, each student is required to take, under the direction of a dissertation advisor, **at least three credits** of directed research of the sort that might enable a student to satisfy the requirement for a public Formal Presentation/Publication (see below). These credits may be taken as a three-credit block in a single semester or as one- to two-credit blocks over several semesters.

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If a student completes project work under one advisor and subsequently changes advisors, the project work must be repeated under the new advisor.

### Application Courses

To enable the creative study, practice, and teaching of *Communication in Technologically Mediated Contexts*, students are encouraged to take up to three courses aimed at applying theory and research to design and practice in areas such as graphics, human-computer interaction, hypermedia, web design and development, or writing. To aid students in their selection of appropriate application courses see the *Courses* section for a list of current graduate course descriptions. Students are encouraged to consult with the Graduate Program Director and the Rensselaer catalog for updates to course offerings, descriptions and terms when offered.

### Outside Courses

To support the breadth of perspectives required to study *Communication in Technologically Mediated Contexts*, students are required to take **at least one** course at Rensselaer outside of the Department of Communication and Media. Students may use this course to identify an outside member of their dissertation committee.

Students may elect to take courses outside the Department as well, but at least **twenty-seven** of the thirty-six credit hours of required course work beyond the master's degree must be taken **within the Department**.

### Total Credit Hours

MS/PhD track    90 credit hours  
PhD track        60 credit hours

### Credit-Hour Requirements

The Ph.D. degree requires satisfactory completion of **ninety credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree**. Students who have completed (or are about to complete) an appropriate master's degree prior to entry into the Ph.D. program (for a Post-Master's Doctorate) will ordinarily have completed thirty of the required ninety credit hours. Students who enter the Ph.D. program without an appropriate master's degree (for a Post-Baccalaureate Doctorate) are required to fulfill the requirements for the master's degree. Students with an appropriate master's degree are required to complete an additional **thirty-six credit hours of course work at Rensselaer following completion of the master's degree**. Students without an appropriate master's degree are required to complete either the M.S. in Communication and Rhetoric or the M.S. in Technical

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Communication. They are also required to complete an additional thirty hours of course work at Rensselaer following completion of the master's degree. Students without an appropriate master's degree are not permitted to fulfill the M.S. requirement by completing the M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction without prior approval of the Graduate Program Director. Some plans of study may require additional course work beyond this thirty-six credit-hour minimum, typically not to exceed forty-two credits.

Ph.D.: [30 MS] + 36 + 24 = 90

M.S./ Ph.D.: 30 + 30+ 30 = 90

Course levels: at least **two-thirds of the total credit hours**, excluding thesis (dissertation credits), must be at the **6000 level**, with **no more than 21 credit hours of 4000 level courses** for a 90-credit doctorate.

### Transfer Credit

If you have taken additional graduate-level course work in an appropriate area prior to matriculating in the Ph.D. program, you may apply to the departmental Graduate Program Director for additional transfer credit, up to the **maximum of forty-five** of the required ninety credit hours. All transfer credits beyond the **thirty credit hours automatically granted for an M.S. or M.A.** will be counted as electives in place of dissertation credits unless approved by the Graduate Program Director as equivalent to one or more of the core courses or a specific elective course or courses as listed below. However the transfer credits are counted, you are still required to take a minimum of thirty-six credit hours of course work at Rensselaer. Credits taken as audits will not count toward fulfillment of the course requirement.

### M.S./Ph.D.

The Department admits qualified students with an appropriate bachelor's degree to the M.S./Ph.D. combination. In this case, **ninety credits** are required, with the first thirty credits counting as the M.S. degree.

To apply for the master's degree, **during the semester in which you will complete your first 30 credits:**

1. Draft a separate M.S. Plan of Study in addition to a new Ph.D. Plan of Study and obtain the appropriate approvals (Advisor and Graduate Program Director). You do not have to list your master's credits by course on this new Ph.D. Plan – simply note “M.S. CMRT earned at Rensselaer” and place “30” in the credit column.
2. Complete a Change of Status form, indicating that you would like to “Add Additional Degree Program” and obtain the appropriate approvals (Department Head and Advisor)

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3. Complete a Degree Application, indicating M.S. graduation at the end of that semester

For example, if you are finishing the remaining 3 credits of your initial 30 in the Spring semester of 2014, then you will have to file a degree application for May of 2014 (by the Degree Application deadline – usually early February) and submit items #1 and #2 to the Graduate Program Director (GPD) at the beginning of that semester.

### Formal Presentation/Publication Requirement

Ph.D. students are required to produce three examples of submitted, peer-reviewed professional presentation and writing and to attend one grant-writing workshop prior to completion of the Ph.D. degree. These requirements may be satisfied with different options. In all cases, students must (A) attend a grant-writing workshop sponsored by the Department or School or as approved by the advisor, (B) present a paper at an approved conference and (C) publish an article (or submit one under conditions below) in an approved publication. The one remaining presentation and writing requirement is up to the student and may be completed from categories (B), (C) or (D). Further specification of these options follows:

- A. Students must attend **one grant-writing workshop**
- B. **One or two single-authored, conference presentations** in venues outside of Rensselaer.
- C. **One or two published, in-press, or submitted scholarly articles or essays** in an edited book (sole or co-authored) to a publication approved by the advisor. Students are encouraged to review articles with their advisors prior to submission. If the student does not have a published paper, the submitted paper must be one that the advisor has reviewed and approved prior to submission.
- D. (Optional) One grant and/or fellowship proposal to sources outside of Rensselaer.

For example, a student could complete (A), one of (B), and two of (C). Or (A), one of (B), one of (C), and one of (D). Other combinations are possible. For more information, please consult *Presentations and Publications Guidelines (Effective December 2013 and updated August 2017)* below.

### Presentations and Publications Guidelines

**PhD students should consult with their advisor about where to submit their work or paper proposals, either during an annual review or at other times.** They should follow standard academic protocols, with emphasis upon substantive rather than formal characteristics, including public performance and peer review, and with the presumption that acceptable public presentations will also be appropriate vita entries. Examples include:

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- Presentation at conferences or meetings of academic or professional organizations (e.g., Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, International Communication Association, International Society for the History of Rhetoric, National Communication Association, National Council of Teachers of English, Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric Society of America, Society for Technical Communication, Association of Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group in Computer-Human Interactions (ACM-SIGCHI) and Design of Communication (ACM-SIGDOC), etc.)
- Manuscript accepted for publication in a refereed book chapter or academic or professional journal (e.g., *College Composition and Communication*; *College English*; *Communication Theory*; *Human Communication Research*; *Human-Computer Interaction*; *Journal of Communication*; *Quarterly Journal of Speech*; *Rhetoric Review*; *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*; *Rhetorica*; *Technical Communication*; *Technical Communication Quarterly*; *International Journal of Design*; *Design Issues*; *Visible Language*; *Visual Communication*; *Journal of Communication Design, Interdisciplinary and Graphic Design Research*, etc.)
- Proposal submitted for an internal or external grant or fellowship for pre-dissertation, dissertation, or post-doctoral work (e.g., Humanities, Arts, Architecture Fellowships, American Association of University Women Fellowships, Social Science Research Council Fellowships, etc.)
- Other public performances, such as participation in institutes or symposia sponsored by academic or professional organizations, may also qualify as public presentations for the purpose of this requirement. PhD students should consult with their advisors. Note, however, that internal performances such as in-class presentations, poster sessions, and Institute, School, or Department publicity presentations may not be used to satisfy the presentation requirement.

### **PhD students are required to submit to the Sr. Student Services Administrator documentation of all publications and presentations that are listed on their Doctoral Student Yearly Review forms.**

Documentation might take form as a conference schedule that shows the student's presentation title and credentials. Documentation could also take form as the table of contents for the issue of the peer-review journal in which the student's article is published. Students are required to also submit a soft or hard copy of each paper published in a conference proceedings or journal and listed on the Doctoral Student Yearly Review forms.

### **Professional Development (20 hrs.)**

To support professional growth and development, students serve **twenty hours each term** as a curricular requirement in T.A., R.A., or other support roles. T.A. and R.A. support roles are governed by Institute policies and procedures. Other professional development activities are supervised by Department faculty and support

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a variety of research, teaching, and service activities, including the Center for Communication Practices and other administrative and service activities.

### THE ADVISING PROCESS

The Ph.D. advising process is intended to assist students in their preparations for the qualifying examination and dissertation, both to ease them through the process and to ensure that they are well prepared.

1. The Graduate Program Director assigns each new student an initial academic advisor to guide the student the first year in choosing a dissertation area. Typically, the Graduate Program Director serves as the initial academic advisor. Each student is required to identify an appropriate dissertation advisor in the first year of Ph.D. study or by the **end of the Third Semester at the latest**. A student may nominate a dissertation advisor, either the initial academic advisor or a new advisor and is permitted a change of dissertation advisor upon request and with the consent of the new dissertation advisor. The dissertation advisor assists the student in populating and nominating a doctoral committee.
2. Each student is required to develop a Graduate Plan of Study (POS) in consultation with the academic advisor, prior to the end of their second semester of coursework (see Graduate Plan of Study below).
3. Each student is required to obtain approval of the proposed plan of courses from the entire **dissertation committee** before registering for the **final six credit hours** of courses\*. The committee may stipulate additional courses, readings, or activities necessary to prepare the student to undertake original scholarship, research, and/or creative work for the Ph.D. Each student is encouraged to obtain committee approval of the proposed plan of courses as early as possible during coursework but no later than the time of registration for the final six credit hours of courses.

#### Graduate Plan of Study

Prior to the end of your second semester of full-time Ph.D. study, you must meet with your advisor to complete the Office of Graduate Education's Plan of Study (POS). The purpose of this Graduate Plan of Study is to help you to design a series of courses that will prepare you to complete a dissertation in your chosen area of study. Graduate students who completed the master's degree at another institution should list the degree and institution for a total of thirty credit hours (and no more than thirty credit hours) plus all of the courses completed at Rensselaer, **not to exceed the total of ninety credit hours** required for the degree. Additional dissertation credits beyond the ninety hours should not be shown on the Plan of Study. Graduate students who completed the master's degree at Rensselaer should list all of the courses that count toward the

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\* typically during the third semester of full-time study

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master's and the Ph.D., plus any additional certificates, not to exceed the total of ninety credit hours required for the degree. The Plan of Study should also indicate any approved transfer credit.

The Graduate Plan of Study may be modified if your scholarly interests change. But these modifications may require that you take additional courses to ensure that you have completed the kinds of course work that are important for a dissertation in a given area. The Plan of Study must be signed by you, your advisor, and the departmental Graduate Program Director. Any modifications are subject to the full approval process. The final Graduate Plan of Study must include your M.S./M.A. credits and must list all course titles and numbers, including dissertation credits and semester completed. The course titles and numbers must match your transcript precisely.

### Research with Human Subjects/Institutional Review Board

All research involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by Rensselaer's Institutional Review Board (IRB). Both faculty advisors and graduate student are obligated to review IRB policies and procedures and monitor research judiciously to ensure that these policies and procedures are followed in all instances and, specifically, in doctoral dissertations and other published work. Failure to obtain IRB approval for the use of human subjects can result in administrative penalties, including formal reprimand, loss of funding for research, and/or rejection of theses and dissertations for student work. For a detailed explanation of IRB proposal and renewal procedures, proposal guidelines, templates, and timelines, please refer to the webpage for the IRB: <http://research.rpi.edu/compliance/irb>. In addition, the courses in the department that provide training in human subjects research include:

- Ethnography and Cultural Analysis (Fall term, odd-numbered years)
- Semiotics and Fieldwork (Spring term, even-numbered years)

## THE DISSERTATION PROCESS

Each candidate for the doctorate pursues, under faculty direction, an original investigation of a problem or problems in a field of concentration and presents the results of the investigation in a dissertation. The doctoral dissertation, including the qualifying examination and the dissertation prospectus, must be the work of each individual student and must meet the highest standards of academic integrity. Direct contributions by others, either in person or through electronic media, must be approved by the Graduate Program Director prior to their use or implementation.

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### The Dissertation Committee

Sometime toward the end of your second semester of study or early in your second year, you should enter into an agreement with the faculty member who will most likely chair your dissertation committee. The basis of the agreement will be mutual intellectual interests and the faculty member's willingness to guide you through your planned dissertation research. You should establish this informal relationship early because your dissertation advisor will need to review and possibly modify your Plan of Study.

You and your prospective dissertation committee chair will select the other members of your committee. You must then propose your committee to the Department Head for approval and formal appointment by the Head and the Dean of the Office of Graduate Education. The dissertation committee must consist of at least **four tenured or tenure-track Rensselaer faculty members, one of whom must be an “outside” member who is appointed by the Graduate Program Director** in consultation with the student's dissertation advisor. Whenever possible, “outside” shall be “outside the university,” but in all cases this person must come from outside the Department. At least three of the Committee members must be members of the Department, including the committee chair. The outside member is expected to be a recognized authority on the subject of the dissertation. For appointments of committee members who are not members of the faculty, the Graduate Program Director will forward to the Office of Graduate Education a letter appointing the individual to the Committee. This letter should explain the basis for the appointment and must include the address of the appointee.

For committees having more than four members, only one non-approval is permitted. Substitutions in committee membership, once it has been determined, must be approved by the Graduate Program Director in consultation with the student and the dissertation committee chair. Replacements will occur only if a member is unable to serve or if a student's dissertation topic changes, requiring a new dissertation chair and/or modification in the committee. In cases other than these, approval for changes in committee membership rests with the Dean of the Office of Graduate Education.

The dissertation committee will review your proposed plans of study, conduct your qualifying examination, and later review and approve your dissertation prospectus and the completed dissertation.

### The Qualifying Examination

This should be taken toward the **end of, or shortly after, the completion of all course requirements.**

In consultation with your dissertation committee chair and the other members of your committee, you will declare **a major area and two minor areas** in which you will be examined. Your qualifying examination will

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consist of written and oral portions. Although only three of your committee members will pose questions for the written portion, all of your committee members read your written examination and participate in the subsequent oral part of the examination. You should keep your entire committee informed throughout your preparation for the examination. The purpose of the qualifying examination is not to test your memory of specific, isolated facts but to permit you to demonstrate that you can develop and defend an informed position on topics or questions that are important in your major and minor areas of study.

### *Written Portion*

The written portion of your examination consists of a major area and two minor area essays. The exam will assess your ability to review, synthesize, and take ownership of three substantial bodies of literature related to your dissertation work. In addition to consulting with your advisor, you will meet with your other committee members to determine your exam areas and prepare reading lists. Graduate students typically undertake independent reading courses with each examining committee member during the semester prior to the exam. The exam will include a written and an oral portion, as specified below.

- The written portion of your examination includes a major area exam and two minor area exams.
- The major exam is to be written at home and returned to the committee within 48 hours.
- The minor exam areas are to be written at school, on a department computer, without books or notes (though you may, with your committee's knowledge and consent, use an unmarked copy of your reading lists). Each minor exam is to be completed in 4 hours and is monitored by the Department's staff.
- All three exams, if you and your advisor agree, may be preceded by work on practice questions that differ significantly from the questions that actually appear on the exam. If you work on practice questions, you must indicate on your examination that you have done so and specify the practice questions.

Any exceptions to these options must be approved by the Graduate Program Director.

### *Oral Portion*

The oral portion of the exam lasts for about two hours and is conducted approximately one to two weeks after you have completed the written portion. For the oral exam, you may be asked to clarify, defend, or elaborate upon your responses in the written examination, including the options of the extended essay or the published or accepted manuscript, to discuss other topics in the examination areas, and/or to discuss your plans for dissertation research.

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### *The Procedure*

The Qualifying Exam process is as follows:

- Two Minor Exams: 4 hours each, taken Monday – Friday, sometime between the hours of 10am-5pm
- One Major Exam: 48 hours, taken over the weekend
- One Oral Exam: 2 to 2.5 hours, scheduled at least 1 week after your major exam, and dependent on the availability of committee members

Room reservations: For the minor and oral exams, send room reservation requests—including dates, times, and room preference—to Anne Borrero (borrea2@rpi.edu). Students typically request the 4th Floor Conference Room, Sage 4304.

Laptop reservation: Inform the Sr. Student Services Administrator (Jenn Mumby) of the minor exam dates so that she may reserve a blank laptop for your use. Bring a USB flash drive to the minor exams for recording your answers and then subsequently sending them to your committee immediately following your minor exams.

Minor Exam Question(s): The minor exam questions should be sent to the Sr. Student Services Administrator (Jenn Mumby) via email at least one day prior to the exam dates. Please arrange for this with your dissertation committee chair and members. Then, inform the Sr. Student Services Administrator (Jenn Mumby) who will be providing you with your question(s) and the corresponding dates. Students may, with the dissertation committee's knowledge and consent, use an unmarked copy of your reading lists during these exams.

Major Exam Question(s): The dissertation committee chair will provide you with your major exam question on the Friday evening (~5pm) of your major exam weekend. Please schedule this directly with dissertation advisor.

Oral Exam: Please bring the attached Record of Qualifying Exam (attached) form to your oral exam, obtain Committee signatures, and return to the Sr. Student Services Administrator (Jenn Mumby) to file.

### **Candidacy**

Candidacy must be attained **within two years after passing the qualifying exam.**

In the Department of Communication and Media a student is recommended for candidacy when he or she has **successfully passed the prospectus defense.** This recommendation comes from the dissertation committee and the student is admitted to candidacy upon approval by the Office of Graduate Education. All further degree requirements, including the dissertation, must be completed **within three years of attaining candidacy.**

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To begin this process, the student will file a prospectus approval form (attached), circulate a final prospectus to the dissertation committee members and subsequently convene for a prospectus defense.

### *Institute rules on candidacy:*

A student may apply for the candidacy examination, given by the student's dissertation committee, when:

- The student's course work nears completion.
- The student has an approved doctoral examining committee.
- The student has the approval of the dissertation committee to take the candidacy exam.

### **The Dissertation Prospectus**

Before you begin work on your dissertation, your committee must formally approve your dissertation prospectus. The length and format of the prospectus may vary considerably in individual cases and should be determined in consultation with your committee. In this prospectus, you should answer the following questions:

- What thesis, hypothesis, or research question do you intend to explore in your research?
- What is currently known about this thesis, hypothesis, or research question?
- How do you plan to develop your thesis, test your hypothesis, or answer your research question?
- Of what consequence is your proposed research?

As part of the answer to the second question (What is currently known...?), your prospectus should include a literature review or a working bibliography that the committee considers sufficiently comprehensive. **The full dissertation committee must meet with you to assess the prospectus** and indicate any changes that are necessary. Whenever possible, the outside members of the Committee will attend (in person or via communication technology such as conference phone or Skype) this initial meeting. In the process of developing the prospectus, you are encouraged to discuss your ideas with your committee members, either individually or collectively. After they meet with you and after you have made any necessary changes to the prospectus, your **dissertation committee must formally approve** the prospectus. The committee must also approve any subsequent changes that committee members judge to be significant. The prospectus, accompanied by an approval sheet signed by all committee members, will be kept on file with the Sr. Student Services Administrator.

Subsequently, the Committee must be kept informed of the student's progress and must agree to follow the candidate's work and assist in its development. The committee shall also agree to give ample and early

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warning of any reservations concerning the student's progress and must specify in writing the changes required for dissertation acceptance.

### The Dissertation

The dissertation is a demonstration of your scholarly and research competence and thus must meet high standards of intellectual accomplishment and integrity. The dissertation committee chair has the primary responsibility for guiding you through the research and writing of the dissertation, but you should consult regularly with all of the members of your committee throughout the research and writing process. Ordinarily you should expect to submit individual chapters of the dissertation to all members of your committee for their review and approval before you submit the completed dissertation. If and when your committee considers your dissertation to be defensible, you must defend the dissertation publicly. At that time, your committee may ask for additional revisions of the dissertation. Every member of your committee must approve and sign your dissertation before you may submit it to the Office of Graduate Education for their approval.

## FINANCIAL AID

Each year the Department is able to make a small number of awards for financial aid in the form of teaching or research assistantships. The awards are made on the basis of scholarly achievement and promise. The Department generally receives numerous applications for resources that are quite limited. Thus, a financial-aid award represents a considerable investment in the career of a student. We expect in return that students who receive awards will pursue their studies with vigor and commitment. Students who are awarded assistantships generally receive a full tuition scholarship and a stipend. A financial aid award in the form of an assistantship generally requires that the student provide teaching or research assistance equivalent to twenty hours per week.

It is our goal to financially support all Ph.D. students throughout their graduate work with fellowships or research assistantships. After two years, you will be eligible for further funding if you remain in good academic standing according to the rules established by the Department in this guide:

- Satisfactory performance in completion of duties associated with the assistantship,
- Satisfactory academic performance in the program of study, and
- Satisfactory progress toward the completion of the degree. In general, **funded doctoral** students are expected to take six to eight courses (**eighteen to twenty-four** credit hours) per academic year toward the completion of their doctoral coursework. Further, funded doctoral students are generally expected to pass their qualifying examinations within the semester following the completion of

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doctoral course work. **Rensselaer Graduate Fellowship** students are expected to complete eight to ten courses (**twenty-four to thirty credit hours**) during each year of the Fellowship.

A range of funding options for advanced students is available. Students can be supported as research assistants to faculty who have external grants or by fellowships from external sources such as the U.S. National Science Foundation. Advanced students can also be supported by fellowship programs at Rensselaer including the prestigious Humanities, Arts, Architecture, and Social Sciences (HAASS) Fellowship Program.

Financial aid renewals and new decisions are made annually. Generally, all funded graduate students will be asked annually if they wish to apply for or renew their financial aid. Decisions are ordinarily announced on or before April 1 for incoming students and prior to the start of the Fall semester for continuing students. Current students who are not presently receiving but wish to apply for financial aid should consider submitting updated materials in support of their request. These materials might consist of a revised and updated goals statement and/or new letters of recommendation.

Students who are currently receiving financial aid may be granted a deferral for one or two years provided that they request the deferral in a timely manner (that is, far enough in advance to allow the Department to make an alternative award). Students who wish to defer their financial aid should fulfill all other conditions for taking an approved leave of absence and should check with both the Office of Graduate Education and the Department to ensure that they have met these conditions.

## DEGREE PROGRESS TIMETABLE (60-CREDIT HOURS)

### Students entering with a Master's degree:

This Timetable lists the milestones by which your progress will be measured through an ideal full-time study of **eight** semesters. Making good progress is a requirement for continuing good standing in our program.

SEMESTER 1 OF 8	SEMESTER 2 OF 8
<p><b>Graduate School Plan of Study:</b> Work with your assigned academic advisor to begin a preliminary Plan of Study (POS) (available at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu/">gradoffice.rpi.edu/</a>) that will allow you to complete your degree requirements in a timely fashion.</p>	<p><b>Degree Progress:</b> Complete the Office of Graduate Education's annual review forms prior to financial aid decisions for the following year, at approximately the end of the Spring semester. See the section on Financial Aid for more details.</p>
<p><b>Formal Presentation/Publication:</b> Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by the <b>end of your first academic year</b>. See the section on Formal Presentation/ Publication.</p>	<p><b>Dissertation Committee Chair: By the beginning of the third semester</b> you should finalize your choice of dissertation committee chair, the faculty member who has agreed to supervise your progress for the remainder of your program including your dissertation. You should begin having discussions with potential advisors early in this semester in order to have an agreement in place on time. Complete a Nomination of Advisor no later than the end of the third semester. See the section on The Dissertation Committee for more details.</p>
	<p><b>Graduate Plan of Study:</b> Complete the Plan of Study as specified in the section on Graduate Plan of Study. This form should be approved by the dissertation committee prior to registration for the final semester of coursework.</p>

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### Students entering with a Master's degree:

SEMESTER 3 OF 8	SEMESTER 4 OF 8
<p><b>Doctoral Committee Nomination:</b> By the beginning of your third semester, complete the Doctoral Committee Nomination Form (available at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu">gradoffice.rpi.edu</a>) to nominate the Doctoral Committee that will supervise your qualifying exams and subsequent dissertation work. See the section on The Dissertation Committee for more details.</p> <p><b>Directed Research:</b> Make plans to complete directed research under the direction of your dissertation chair during your second year. See the section on Directed Research for more details.</p> <p><b>Formal Presentation/Publication:</b> Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by the end of your second academic year. See the section on Formal Presentation/ Publication.</p>	<p><b>Degree Progress:</b> Update the Office of Graduate Education's annual review forms in time for financial aid decisions for the following year, at approximately the end of the Spring semester. See the section on Financial Aid for more details.</p> <p><b>Graduate Plan of Study:</b> Revise your Plan of Study if necessary.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Exam:</b> Prepare to take and pass your qualifying exam <b>before the beginning of your fifth semester</b>. After this you have a maximum of two years to pass your prospectus and attain candidacy status.</p>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

### Students entering with a Master's degree:

SEMESTER 5 OF 8	SEMESTER 6 OF 8
<p><b>Formal Presentation/Publication:</b> Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by the end of your third academic year. See the section on Formal Presentation/ Publication.</p> <p><b>Doctoral Prospectus and Candidacy:</b> Within a maximum of two years after your qualifying exams, pass your Candidacy Exams (Prospectus defense) and complete the Record of Candidacy Examination form (available at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu/">gradoffice.rpi.edu/</a>). It is recommended that you achieve candidacy within one or two semesters after the qualifying exam.</p> <p>Working with your committee, draft the <b>prospectus</b> for your planned dissertation work <b>by the beginning of your sixth semester</b>. The prospectus along with an approval sheet signed by all committee members must be filed with the GPA.</p>	<p><b>Doctoral Prospectus and Candidacy:</b> Working with your committee, draft the prospectus for your planned dissertation work by the beginning of your sixth semester. The prospectus along with an approval sheet signed by all committee members must be filed with the GPA.</p> <p><b>Degree Progress:</b> Update the Office of Graduate Education's annual review forms in time for the annual review of doctoral students prior to financial aid decisions for the following year, at approximately the end of the Spring semester. See the section on Financial Aid for more details.</p> <p><b>Dissertation Research:</b> Carry out your dissertation research.</p>
SEMESTER 7 OR 8	SEMESTER 8 OF 8
<p><b>Dissertation Research:</b> Complete your dissertation research.</p> <p><b>Formal Presentation/Publication:</b> Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by the end of your fourth academic year. See the section on Formal Presentation/ Publication.</p>	<p><b>Dissertation Defense:</b> Draft and defend your dissertation and complete the <i>Record of Dissertation Exam</i> form* (available at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu/">gradoffice.rpi.edu</a>) as a record of your accomplishment.</p> <p>A <i>Dissertation Checklist</i> is available from the Office of Graduate Education at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu">gradoffice.rpi.edu</a>.</p>

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## DEGREE PROGRESS TIMETABLE (90-CREDIT HOURS)

### Students entering without a Master's degree:

This Timetable lists the milestones by which your progress will be measured through an ideal full-time study of **ten** semesters. Making good progress is a requirement for continuing good standing in our program.

SEMESTER 1 OF 10	SEMESTER 2 OF 10
<p><b>Graduate Plan of Study:</b> Work with your assigned academic advisor to complete a preliminary Graduate Plan of Study (POS) (available at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu/">gradoffice.rpi.edu/</a>) that will allow you to complete your <b>M.S. degree</b> requirements within your <b>first three semesters</b> of graduate study and your M.S. and Ph.D. requirements within your total <b>five-year time limit</b> for the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Include a plan for completion of the M.S. in Communication and Rhetoric or Technical Communication, including the Graphics and/or HCI certificates.</p> <p><b>Formal Presentation/Publication:</b> Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by <b>the end of your first academic year</b>. See the section on Formal Presentation/ Publication.</p>	<p><b>Degree Progress:</b> Complete the Office of Graduate Education's annual review forms in time for the annual review of doctoral students prior to financial-aid decisions for the following year, at approximately the middle of the Spring semester. See the section on Financial Aid for more details.</p> <p><b>Nomination of Advisor (Committee Chair):</b> Complete and file the Nomination of Advisor Form by the end of the Third Semester at the latest. See the section on The Dissertation Committee for more details.</p> <p><b>Summer Work:</b> Consider completing Directed Research or Independent Study credits, if necessary, to permit completion of the M.S. degree by the end of the third semester. Work on manuscript submissions for publication.</p>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

### Students entering without a Master's degree:

#### SEMESTER 3 OF 10

**Graduate Plan of Study:** Work with your academic advisor or committee chair to review and revise your preliminary Plan of Study, if necessary, to ensure that you will complete your Ph.D. degree requirements within your total five-year time limit for the 90-Credit-Hour Ph.D. degree.

Plan to complete the M.S. degree, including any certificates, for a **December degree award**. File paperwork with the Office of Graduate Education in time for December deadline. In addition, develop a plan for your dissertation committee chair and membership so that your entire committee will be prepared to sign off on your Graduate Plan of Study prior to registration for your final semester of courses.

**Formal Presentation/Publication:** Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by the end of your second academic year. See the section on Formal Presentation/ Publication. Complete the formal presentation form.

**Nomination of Advisor (Committee Chair):** If not yet completed, complete and file the Nomination of Advisor Form by the end of the Third Semester.

#### SEMESTER 4 OF 10

**Degree Progress:** Complete the Office of Graduate Education's annual review forms in time for the annual review of doctoral students prior to financial-aid decisions for the following year, at approximately the middle of the Spring semester. See the section on Financial Aid for more details.

**Dissertation Committee:** Confirm or if necessary change your committee chair and work with him or her to select members of your Dissertation Committee. See the section on The Dissertation Committee for more details.

**Directed Research:** Plan to complete the Directed Research requirement under the direction of your committee chair during your third year. See the section on Directed Research for more details.

**Summer Work:** Consider completing Directed Research or Independent Study credits. Continue to work on manuscript submissions for publication.

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

### Students entering without a Master's degree:

#### SEMESTER 5 OF 10

**Doctoral Committee Nomination:** By the **beginning of your fifth semester**, complete the Doctoral Committee Nomination Form (available at [gradoffice.rpi.edu/](http://gradoffice.rpi.edu/)) to nominate the Doctoral/Dissertation Committee that will supervise your exams and subsequent dissertation work. Finalize your Graduate Plan of Study for your dissertation committee chair and membership and secure sign off from your entire committee prior to registration for your final semester of courses. See the section on The Dissertation Committee for more details.

**Directed Research:** Complete the Directed Research requirement under the direction of your dissertation chair during your third year. See the section on Directed Research for more details.

**Formal Presentation/Publication:** Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by the end of your third academic year. See the section on Formal Presentation/Publication. Complete the formal presentation form.

#### SEMESTER 6 OF 10

**Degree Progress:** Complete the Office of Graduate Education's annual review forms in time for the annual review of doctoral students prior to financial-aid decisions for the following year, at approximately the middle of the Spring semester. See the section on Financial Aid for more details.

**Qualifying Exam:** Formulate and revise your reading lists with your committee members and complete your readings, under dissertation and/or independent-study credits. Take and pass your qualifying exam **by the end of the sixth semester or the beginning of your seventh semester** at the latest.

**Doctoral Prospectus and Candidacy:** Once you have completed your Qualifying Exam, work with your dissertation committee to draft a prospectus for your planned dissertation work. See the section on The Dissertation Prospectus for more details.

**Grant Proposals:** Write grant proposals for research and writing phases of the dissertation.

**Dissertation Research:** Begin dissertation research.

**Summer Work:** Continue proposal writing and dissertation research. Continue to work on manuscript submissions for publication.

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

### Students entering without a Master's degree:

SEMESTER 7 OF 10	SEMESTER 8 OF 10
<p><b>Grant Proposals:</b> Write grant proposals for research and writing phases of the dissertation.</p>	<p><b>Degree Progress:</b> Complete the Office of Graduate Education's annual review forms in time for the annual review of doctoral students prior to financial-aid decisions for the following year, at approximately the middle of the Spring semester. See the section on Financial Aid for more details.</p>
<p><b>Doctoral Prospectus and Candidacy:</b> Working with your committee, complete and defend your prospectus within two years of your qualifying exam (it is recommended that you achieve candidacy within one or two semesters after the qualifying exam). The prospectus along with an approval sheet signed by all committee members must be filed with the GPA. See the section on The Dissertation Prospectus for more details.</p>	<p><b>Dissertation Research:</b> Complete your dissertation research. Begin writing.</p>
<p><b>Dissertation Research:</b> Carry out your dissertation research.</p>	<p><b>Summer Work:</b> Continue writing with the expectation of completing at least two chapters of the dissertation by the beginning of the ninth semester in preparation for the job search. Continue to work on manuscript submissions for publication.</p>
<p><b>Formal Presentation/Publication:</b> Make plans for a public presentation or publication of your work by the end of your fourth academic year. See the section on Formal Presentation/Publication. Complete the formal presentation form.</p>	

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

### Students entering without a Master's degree:

SEMESTER 9 OF 10	SEMESTER 10 OF 10
<p><b>Dissertation Research:</b> Complete at least two chapters of the dissertation by the beginning of the ninth semester as preparation for the job search. Complete at least two more chapters by the end of the ninth semester.</p> <p><b>Formal Presentation/Publication:</b> By this time, you should have completed the public presentation requirement. Continue to work on manuscript submissions for publication.</p>	<p><b>Dissertation Defense:</b> Draft and defend your dissertation thesis as early as possible but <b>no later than the end of the tenth semester</b>. See the section on The Dissertation for more details. Consult the <i>Thesis/ Dissertation Manual</i> available from the Office of Graduate Education at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu">gradoffice.rpi.edu</a>.</p> <p>Complete the <i>Record of Dissertation Exam</i> form* (available at <a href="http://gradoffice.rpi.edu">gradoffice.rpi.edu</a>.) as a record of your accomplishment.</p> <p><b>Summer Work:</b> Continue to work on manuscript submissions for publication.</p>

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## FORMS

Several forms are available for download at the Office of Graduate Education website ([gradoffice.rpi.edu](http://gradoffice.rpi.edu)).

These forms include:

- Change of Status <https://www.ewp.rpi.edu/registrar/pdf/change-status.pdf>
- Graduate Plan of Study <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/grad/docs/pos02.PDF>
- Nomination of Doctoral Committee <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/grad/docs/Nomination%20Doctoral%20Comm%20Form%202016.pdf>
- Record of Candidacy Exam <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/grad/docs/Candidacy%20Exam%20Form-RCR.pdf>
- Record of Dissertation Exam <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/grad/docs/Record%20of%20Dissertation%20Exam%20Form%202016.pdf>

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**DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC**

PhD in Communication and Rhetoric  
Department of Communication and Media

**Record of Qualifying Exam**

Student \_\_\_\_\_

RIN \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Major Written Exam \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Minor Written Exams \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Oral Examination \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation of Doctoral Committee: \_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_ Failed

Signatures of Doctoral Committee

Print

Sign

Date

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

COPIES OF THIS FORM MUST GO TO THE STUDENT, THE STUDENT'S ADVISOR, THE COMMUNICATION & MEDIA GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AND THE HASS GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR.

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

### COURSES

Number	Course Title	Catalog Description
<b>COMM</b>		
6170	Writing for Promotion and Marketing	This course engages students in persuasive and information writing designed to promote skills, products, services or concepts. Writers craft such texts and materials as: application essays, news releases, advertising copy, newsletters, oral presentations, marketing plans, and Web sites and other e-materials. Coursework will emphasize the fundamentals of good writing based on audience and context analysis, and on a basic understanding of branding and marketing communication options. Restricted to EMAC and COMM majors. This is a communication-intensive course. <b>Prerequisites/ Corequisites:</b> Prerequisite: permission of instructor. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6260	Rhetoric, Culture, and Communication Technology	This is a graduate seminar designed to introduce Ph.D. students to the history of rhetorical theory and its intersections with culture and technology. The course will consider how theoretical reflection about language and other forms of communication is entwined with changes in technology of communication as well as cultural paradigm shifts. Rather than trace a linear evolution of rhetorical theory from Classical Antiquity to the present, the course will focus on competing conceptualizations of rhetoric and rhetorical power in different historical periods. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6270	Digital Rhetoric	A study of digital rhetoric and digital media, including rhetoric and media theory, the new materialism, place theory, affect theory, text theory, narrative theory, procedural and software rhetorics, with applications to the Internet of Things, Location-Based Services, social media, multimodal composition, and technical communication. A reading of selected theories and the development of individual projects in the design and/or analysis of digital-media artifacts and applications, with discussions, oral presentations, and written research reports. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term odd-numbered years. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6280	Rhetorical Analysis	The application of rhetorical concepts in the analysis and appraisal of discourse. Students pursue projects under the direction of the instructor; weekly seminar meetings are devoted principally to discussions of ongoing projects. <b>When Offered:</b> Upon availability of instructor. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6300	Communication Internship	This course is designed for COMM, EMAC and GSAS majors who wish to incorporate field experience in their educational programs. Students work with local business, industrial, civic, or educational organizations in positions where they can observe communication processes and apply written, interpersonal, and public communication skills to the solution of real problems. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisite: graduate status. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall and spring terms annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4300. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6320	Visual Poetics and Narrative	This studio course explores new directions in art and design that include visual poetry (visual expression in which the shape and arrangement of text, images, and symbols convey the message) and interactive narrative. Visual poetics and narrative appear in advertisement, music videos, and other forms of communication. Students will experiment with these forms of communication and learn how these concepts apply in artistic and commercial contexts. The class format includes lectures, discussions, and studio work. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term odd-numbered years. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6380	Writing and Response	This course explores effective strategies for talking with others about oral presentations and written texts. Practice in consulting is grounded in theory and research in composition studies, reader-response, and tutoring. Students also study their own writing and reading processes through reflection and discussion. Those who complete the course with a grade of A- or A may apply to work as writing consultants in the Center for Communication Practices. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4380. Students cannot take both courses for credit. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6390	Semiotics and Fieldwork	This course examines how semiotics (i.e. the study of signs and sign systems) applies to the changing roles of images in today's media-immersed society. Students will analyze meaning making in multicultural social contexts, comparing both hyper-local and globally pervasive renditions of image-based media. A fieldwork assignment takes students through the steps of visual semiotics fieldwork, including hypothesis generation, site selection and access, data gathering and analysis leading to findings that potentially can contribute generalizable knowledge. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term even-numbered years. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6400	Cross-Cultural Design: Analysis and Application	What role does culture play in the design of images for communication? This course surveys perspectives from interdisciplinary discourse on what constitutes culture and its impact on meaning. Through readings on theory and criticism and analyses of media and research-generated data students learn what constitutes cultural difference and communicate that knowledge through a codex they write and design. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisites: any graphics course. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4400. Students may not receive credit for both courses. Extra assignments are required in the graduate course. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6410	Ethnography and Cultural Analysis	This course focuses on theories, perspectives, and methods of ethnography, and on their applications to the various disciplines in which graduate students are working. Emphasis is given to foundational activities: defining a problem, research design, proposal writing, field methods, and protection of human subjects. Students will undertake original field research involving interviews, multi-sited fieldwork, participant-observation, situated ethnography, archival work, focus groups, and audio/videotaping. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term odd-numbered years. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6420	Foundations of Human-Computer Interaction Usability	This course will consider methods for gathering users' requirements for product functions and information, ways to test products and information for usability and suitability, and procedures for incorporating the results learned through testing. Students will design and conduct usability tests on products, documents, and interfaces of interest. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4420. Students cannot obtain credit for both courses. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6430	Design for Global Society	How do images communicate meaning in global society? In this course, students use a social semiotic approach to interpret images that permeate cultural boundaries and impact the way people think and behave. Visual and verbal assignments enforce students' ability to communicate how images either instill or enforce values and propagate ideas; a user-research project allows students to gather data to test their own image hypotheses. Special emphasis will be placed on developing students' cross-cultural awareness of images. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term odd-numbered years. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4430; students cannot obtain credit for both courses. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6480	Theory and Research in Technical Communication and Human-Computer Interaction	This seminar course examines theories that have shaped, and continue to drive, the fields of technical communication and human-computer interaction with an emphasis upon the ways each field makes new knowledge. Connections between theoretical findings, research results, and the evolution of both fields as they are practiced in industry, government, and academia are important themes. Course work includes lectures, discussions, student presentations, and written projects. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisite: COMM 1510 or equivalent. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6510	Communication Theory	Introduces students to a range of theories from across the humanities and social sciences: theories of meaning, discourse, persuasion, interpersonal communication, and mass communication. Also introduces students to how theories are constructed and how knowledge is generated in communication studies. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6530	Media Communication Research	This course is designed to give training in field and experimental research methods, especially in scientific and technological communication. The student designs and conducts preliminary research projects as time permits. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6540	Communication Research II	This course is designed to give training in field and experimental research methods, especially in scientific and technological communication. The student designs and conducts preliminary research projects as time permits. <b>When Offered:</b> A fall-spring sequence annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6550	Proposing and Persuading	Make things happen: start a business, raise funds, solicit work, support research, win a place on a conference program, take initiative, change the way things are done around here. This course will teach students how to write proposals that persuade. They will learn to turn situations into occasions for proposing, write a variety of proposals, locate Request for Proposals, develop a work-plan for feasible projects that come in on time and on budget, use networks to strengthen proposals, detail a budget, and edit for clarity and grace. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisite: graduate standing or successful completion of a writing course. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with WRIT 4550. Students may not receive credit for both courses. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6560	Visual Design: Theory and Application	This course introduces students to the theoretical and practical use of graphics as a form of visual communication. Discussions include such topics as visual perception, design theory, formatted text, and graphics. Students have an opportunity to put theory into practice using computer graphics software. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4460. Students cannot obtain credit for both courses. For graduate students, one additional assignment will be required and their work will be evaluated at a higher level. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6570	Typography	This course teaches the principles of typesetting text effectively for hypothetical and real-world communication. Students practice selecting typefaces, point-sizes, leading, line-length, color, justification, layouts, kerning, and tracking for printed and digitized type. An RPI-sponsored, entrepreneurial component allows student teams to conduct typographic makeovers for real-world clients and individual students to explore typographic innovation for real-world audiences. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4570. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6600	Research Design and Analysis for New Media	A practicum in research focusing on methodology for assessing Web usage and computer-mediated behavior. Topics include research design issues, data gathering, sample frames, recruitment and treatment of subjects, and quantitative analysis of online surveys, server bits, and other forms of direct and unobtrusive data. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisite: at least one previous 4000-level research course; one course in statistics is advisable. <b>When Offered:</b> Upon availability of instructor. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6620	Information Architecture	This course examines theoretical and empirical issues in the field of Information Architecture, aiming to identify and utilize principles of information organization, collect and interpret empirical data on human information behavior, and develop and apply methods of information design all in the service of creating usable architectures of information. Focus is on developing experience for professional information architecture projects. Requires basic knowledge of Web design. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6660	Visual Literacy	This course examines the notion of visual literacy—the ability to create effective visual layouts and analyze visual language for meaning. Through readings, discussions, and praxis exercises, students learn the lexicon of visual communication, how to critically evaluate a visual argument, and how to apply visual literacy theory to practice. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4660. Students cannot obtain credit for both courses. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6700	Rhetoric of the Photograph	Photography is the first modern visual technology that is reproducible yet still has an aura of “objectivity.” The study of photography opens up pathways to a broad range of issues that are central to all forms of contemporary image-making, and fruitfully applied by graduate students working in a variety of HASS disciplines. The analysis of photographs and other visual media conducted in this course is specifically attuned to their visuality, physical and emotional reception, and cultural discourse. Using the rhetorical triad of producer, photograph, and audience, the course introduces students to various methodologies of visual analysis through (1) a visual semiotics and phenomenology, (2) a neuropsychology and psychodynamics of affect, and (3) an analysis of how the circulation and reinterpretation of photographs and other visual images shape our culture. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor. <b>When Offered:</b> Odd-numbered years. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6730	Computer-Mediated Communication	This seminar examines the social uses and impacts of computer-mediated communication in contexts such as education, industry, and informal social interaction. Students may examine traditionally important variables such as self-disclosure, rules, status, power, message sequencing, etc., as well as processes such as reality construction, learning, decision making, and group development. The course introduces analytic procedures that are as useful for spoken or written discourse as for computer-mediated discourse. <b>When Offered:</b> Upon availability of instructor. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6740	Hypermedia Design and Development	This seminar course will investigate issues in hypermedia design and development. Class discussions will include topics such as designing the structure of a hypermedia program and designing the user interface. Students will have an opportunity to put theory into practice by designing and developing an interactive program. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisites: COMM 4460, COMM 6400, COMM 6560, or permission of the instructor. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6750	Communication Design for the World Wide Web	This course introduces hypermedia interface design and communication issues involved in designing interactive programs for the World Wide Web. Students will design and develop an interactive Web site or experience and explore related rhetorical, social, cultural, and legal issues. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisites: 1) completion of Web development or hypermedia development course and 2) knowledge of basics of Web or hypermedia development, or 3) permission of the instructor. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6770	User-Experience Design	Designing an effective and enjoyable user experience involves more than just responding to specification requirements; it requires designers to understand user needs and expectations, the work that users do, and the environment in which they do their work. Students will learn and practice how to design a user experience and evaluate how effective they have been. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisites: COMM 4420, COMM 6420 or permission of instructor. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4770; students taking COMM 6770 will be assigned an additional project. Students cannot obtain credit for both courses. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6780	Interactive Narrative	This course introduces students to narrative theory and interactive narratives in a variety of genres such as oral story-telling, literature, poetry, film, artists' books, historical narrative, hypertext fiction, Net Art, social media narratives, and computer games. Students will have the opportunity to design and develop an original interactive narrative. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4780. Students may not receive credit for both courses. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6790	Media Studies	This course is a graduate seminar examining major theories and approaches to studying the media from a cultural studies perspective, with a particular focus on the medium of television. Topics will include: the politics of representation; commercialization; celebrity; media institutions; fictional and factual programming; gender, race, and class. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term even-numbered years. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6800	Media and Memory	Most memories of the past are stories that circulate in the present through a variety of media. To probe the mechanism of collective memory, this course combines exploration of several visual media with case studies that interpret the rhetorical potential of specific photographs, films, museums, and monuments. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4800. Students cannot obtain credit for both courses. Graduate students are required to complete additional assignments. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6810	Studio Design in Human-Computer Interaction	In this course, students work on collaborative projects to design human-computer interactions (HCIs) aimed at transforming people's everyday practices. Students work with activity analysis, object-oriented modeling, and UI prototyping. The course serves as the capstone in the HCI MS Certificate. <b>Prerequisites/Corequisites:</b> Prerequisites: COMM 6420, COMM 6750, or COMM 6770. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4180; students cannot obtain credit for both courses. Additional assignments required for students at the 6000 level. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6820	Usability Testing	In this course, students will examine and practice several methods of formal usability testing. Classes will consist of classroom discussion of scenario-based testing methods and statistical analysis of data collected and of laboratory sessions in which students develop, conduct, record, and analyze usability tests. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with COMM 4820. For COMM 6820, additional statistical analysis as part of each assignment and a literature-based paper on a usability topic are required. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6830	Human-Media Interaction	Advanced survey course on psychological approaches to human media interaction. Key themes are 1) how minds have evolved to interact with media and computers in certain ways; 2) how media form and content influence the mind; 3) how minds socially respond to computers; 4) how media and computers create a sense of “being there” and/or “being together with someone”; and 5) how properties of human cognition are affected by the form, content, and use of media. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6880	Interactive Data Visualization	The course covers interactive, multimedia interface design (for Web sites and apps) for data visualization or other forms of interactive information design. Innovative designs that explore new directions in interactive data design are highlighted. Topics include multisensory information design using graphics, sound, touch, and large-scale data projection. Interface design topics include user-centered design, information architecture, rapid prototyping, cross-cultural design, and intellectual property. Students may choose the applications they want to design for the class project.
6940	Communication Studies	Readings and projects adapted to the needs of individual students. <i>Credit Hours: 1 to 6</i>
6960	Topics in Communication	Experimental courses tried out in one or two terms. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>
6990	Master’s Thesis	Active participation in research, under the supervision of a faculty adviser, leading to a master’s thesis. Grades of S or U are assigned by the adviser each term to reflect the student’s research progress for the given semester. Once the thesis has been presented, approved by the adviser, and accepted by the Office of Graduate Education, it will be archived in a standard format in the library. <i>Credit Hours: 1 to 6</i>
<b>WRIT</b>		
6160	Writing about Science	This course introduces students to a set of principles that can guide their print and multimedia communication with readers who are not specialists in a particular scientific or technical field but who are affected by developments in those fields. Students will learn to use these principles in analyzing exemplary texts as well as in creating their own work. <b>When Offered:</b> Spring term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with WRIT 4160. Students cannot obtain credit for both courses. <i>Credit Hours: 3</i>

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

6410	Research Writing	<p>In this class, students will write on topics from their major discipline and investigate the kinds of texts that professionals in the field produce. They will identify and explore research questions, use discipline-specific library databases, and write research reports. In addition, students will develop effective note-taking and research skills and learn strategies for effective prose style. <b>When Offered:</b> Fall term annually. <b>Cross Listed:</b> Cross listed with WRIT 4410. Students cannot obtain credit for both this course and WRIT 4410.</p> <p><i>Credit Hours: 3</i></p>
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