Journalism and Mass Communication, PhD

This program is for the media and communications leaders. Prepare to become a scholar and a teacher through our innovative journalism doctoral program taught by world-class faculty. Based out of Arizona PBS, you have the unique opportunity to conduct forward-focused research that can impact many professional disciplines.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Journalism and Mass Communication

The PhD program at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication is a highly individualized program designed for industry thought leaders and the educators of tomorrow. The doctorate in journalism and mass communication attracts seasoned media professionals transitioning to academia as well as recent graduates of master's degree-level journalism and communication programs.

At the journalism school, students access the resources they need to answer critical questions that challenge the fields of journalism, social media, public relations and international mass communication.

Students engage with world-class faculty who challenge them to think differently about all forms of nonfiction storytelling across every platform marketed to digital audiences.

Students develop lasting relationships with a doctoral cohort and faculty mentors from across North America and the world, researching together to create ethical, entrepreneurial and innovative pathways for the media industry to follow.

This doctoral program in journalism and mass communication is designed to be small, student-centered and scholarly research-oriented. It is based on the following priorities: a journalism and mass communication focus, a transdisciplinary approach that requires coursework outside the journalism school, one-on-one faculty-student mentoring and program flexibility. The emphasis of this degree program is the creation of scholarly, peer-reviewed articles and presentations based on journalism and mass communication philosophy, theory and methods.
The program prepares students for research-oriented careers in journalism and mass communication education and related fields.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Comm
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required Core (18 credit hours)

Electives (18 credit hours)

Other Requirements (24 credit hours)

previous master's degree or additional hours approved by the supervisory committee (24)

Research (12 credit hours)

Dissertation (12 credit hours)

Additional Curriculum Information

Students should see the academic unit for an approved course list.

Students entering the program with a master's degree in journalism or mass communication, or a related field, must complete 60 credit hours of coursework. Students who are admitted to the program without a master's degree are required to complete an additional 24 credit hours of coursework.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.
Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores
4. three letters of recommendation
5. personal statement of interest
6. resume
7. samples of scholarly work
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. TOEFL scores must be at least 600 for the paper-based examination and 100 for the Internet-based.

Scores on the quantitative and verbal sections of the GRE are required, with the verbal score being particularly important to the Cronkite School's graduate committee.

The personal statement of interest should be 350 to 500 words in length.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms. Applicants must meet all deadlines and application requirements to be considered.

The Cronkite School's doctoral committee reviews complete and on-time applications. Recommendations for admission are made to Graduate Admission Services, where the final admission decisions are made.

Application Deadlines

Fall  

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

Study abroad is possible for graduate students, with more than 50 program opportunities spanning six continents. Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses over the summer or during academic breaks with ASU professors offers close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning. [https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/students/graduate-students](https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/students/graduate-students)
Career Opportunities

Professionals with expertise in mass media and communications are in high demand as universities and institutions train the next generation of media professionals.

A doctorate in journalism and mass communication prepares students for any of a number of career opportunities. Career examples include:

- communications professor
- journalism professor
- researcher
- social sciences professor

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines