

MEDIA STUDIES, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Spring 2024 Curricular Update: The program description, entrance requirements, and program requirements detailed on this page are effective beginning Spring 2024. To learn more about what approved curricular changes take effect in Spring 2024, please visit the Changes to the UG Bulletin page (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/using-this-bulletin/#changestotheugbulletintext>). To view the requirements in effect for Fall 2023, please visit the 2023-24 Undergraduate Bulletin PDF (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/pdf/undergraduate.pdf>).

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	0-12
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	42-51

0-3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: Film Option - 0-3 credits of GH courses or 0-3 credits of GA courses; Media Effects Option - 3 credits of GS courses.

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 100N	The Mass Media and Society	3
COMM 205	Gender, Diversity and the Media	3
COMM 270	Introduction to Multimedia Production	3
COMM 304	Mass Communication Research	3
COMM 305	Introduction to Critical Studies of Media	3
COMM 405	Political Economy of Communications	3
COMM 413W	The Mass Media and the Public	3
Requirements for the Option		
<i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select an option		21-30

Requirements for the Option Film and Television Studies Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema	3
COMM 242	Basic Video/Filmmaking	3
COMM 250	Film History and Theory	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 9 credits from the following:		9
COMM 451	Topics in American Film	
COMM 452	Topics in International Cinema	
COMM 453	Narrative Theory: Film and Literature	
COMM 454	Documentary in Film and Television	
COMM 455	Advanced Film Theory and Criticism	
COMM 495	Internship	
COMM 496	Independent Studies	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
CAS 415	Rhetoric of Film and Television	
CHNS 121N	Chinese Film and New Media	
CMLIT 153	International Cultures: Film and Literature	
ENGL 403	Literature and Culture	
FR 138N	French Culture Through Film	
FR 487	Topics in French Film History and Theory I: 1895-1945	
FR 488	Topics in French Film History and Theory II: 1945-2002	
IT 475	Modern Italian Literature and Cinema	
JAPNS 453	Japanese Film	
MUSIC 4	Film Music	
PHIL 5	Film and Philosophy	

International Communications Option (21-30 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 110	Media and Democracy	3
COMM 410	International Mass Communications	3
COMM 419	World Media Systems	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
COMM 118	Introduction to Media Effects	
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema	
COMM 320	Introduction to Advertising	
COMM 381	Telecommunications Regulation	
COMM 452	Topics in International Cinema	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select at least one of the following for a minimum of 9 credits and a maximum of 18 credits (no more than 9 credits in COMM) ¹		
University approved minor in foreign language, area studies or international studies		

University approved education abroad program

Other international related courses or programs with prior departmental approval

¹ More than one is strongly recommended.

Media Effects Option (21 credits)

A minor in a complementary area of study is encouraged (e.g. Psychology or Sociology).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 118	Introduction to Media Effects	3
COMM 418	Media Effects: Theory and Research	3
PSYCH 100	Introductory Psychology	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
COMM 110	Media and Democracy	
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema	
COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications	
COMM 320	Introduction to Advertising	
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications	
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
COMM 325	Effects of digital games	
COMM 326	Effects of social media	
COMM 327	Effects of entertainment media	
COMM 328	Effects of Science, Environmental and Health Media	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
PSYCH 221	Introduction to Social Psychology	
PSYCH 256	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 3 credits in research methods from an approved department list ¹

¹ The approved department list can be found on the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications website (<https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/departments/film-production-media-studies/media-studies-major-media-effects-option-supporting-courses/>).

Society and Culture Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
COMM 110	Media and Democracy	
COMM 118	Introduction to Media Effects	

COMM 150N The Art of the Cinema

Select 12 credits (a least 9 credits at the 400 level) in communication theory from the following:

COMM 110	Media and Democracy
COMM 118	Introduction to Media Effects
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema
COMM 170	Introduction to the Sports Industry
COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications
COMM 408	Cultural Foundations of Communications
COMM 409	News Media Ethics
COMM 410	International Mass Communications
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society
COMM 417	Ethics and Regulation in Advertising and Public Relations
COMM 418	Media Effects: Theory and Research
COMM 419	World Media Systems
COMM 451	Topics in American Film
COMM 452	Topics in International Cinema
COMM 453	Narrative Theory: Film and Literature
COMM 454	Documentary in Film and Television
COMM 455	Advanced Film Theory and Criticism

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses**. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this