

Instructions

In your 3rd semester, work with your advisor to identify transferred, completed, and planned courses to fulfill the department course requirements. Write the course number, name, and semester completed or to be completed for each course. If you have an approved transfer course that fulfills a listed required course (e.g., JTC 500, 501, 602), delete the name and number of the relevant JMC course and type in the approved transferred course information.

- **Before the GS6 is due in your 3rd semester, use this form to work with your advisor to plan out your coursework and help you fill out the GS6.**
- **Update this form after coursework is completed** for submission to your dissertation committee at the Pre-Preliminary Exam meeting for approval. Submit the signed form via email to the JMC Graduate Program Coordinator.

If you transferred a course to fulfill JTC 501, you may only have 3 credits for this class.

Take an additional theory course or an appropriate 1-2 credit independent study (JTC 795) to fulfill the required credits.

Relevant Course Requirement Policies

- 73 total credits required (includes credits transferred from the master's degree)
- 43 credits typically taken during the Ph.D. program (depending on master's credits transferred)
- Up to 30 credits from the master's degree plus up to 10 credits earned post-master's can be transferred
- At least 32 credits must be earned at CSU after admission to the Ph.D. program
- At least 21 of the 43 credits you take after admission to the Ph.D. must be level 500+ or higher

Course Category Definitions

Methods Courses (18 credits)

Methods courses are those with learning objectives that focus primarily on research methods, although some methods courses may include readings in theory. The methods taught must be relevant to social science and/or humanities research. JMC offers methods courses in rotating topics seminars (JTC 793). Other departments offering eligible graduate-level methods courses include Education, Statistics, Sociology, Anthropology, English, History, Ethnic Studies, and more.

Theory Courses (25 credits)

Theory courses focus on communication theory or theories from closely related fields such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, or political science. Although some theory courses may include methods content, eligible courses must focus on theory readings and writing. Most JMC graduate courses are eligible as theory courses, *except* for the courses offered through the department's MCMM program. Outside departments offering relevant graduate-level theory courses include Communication Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, English, Ethnic Studies, and more.

Cognate Area Courses (12 credits)

Students take an integrated series of courses to further their understanding of the contexts in which communication and media issues arise. These are often oriented around a topic of study, such as health, wildlife, technology, art history, politics, or agriculture. Eligible courses generally require theoretical approaches to these areas, but some applied courses may count. The student's advisor must approve the focus of and courses for the cognate. The majority of these courses should come from outside of the department, but some appropriate JMC classes may count (MCMM courses not eligible).

Electives (9 credits)

Students take elective credits in methods, theory, cognate, or professional skills courses. These are generally graduate-level, but some undergraduate courses may be eligible. These courses do not need to fit into the cognate area, but should contribute meaningfully to the degree. Courses in JMC (including MCMM courses), across the university, or transfer courses can be put towards electives with departmental and Graduate School approval.

Dissertation Research (9 credits)

Students register for dissertation credits (JTC 799) while working on the proposal or dissertation during at least one semester. These courses have no assigned time or syllabus. The structured course JTC 798 that provides guidance and instructor in dissertation proposal writing can be taken instead of 3 of the required dissertation credits. Dissertation credits can be taken in increments of 1 – 9 credits per semester.