

Curricular Requirements for Completion of Dual Degree Program

1. Completion of BA in Political Communication or BA in Journalism and Mass Communication. Students take three specific courses (nine credits) at the MA level which count toward the undergraduate majors. The courses are taken in the senior year. The courses are:

SMPA 203 Comparative Media Systems. The different forms of mediated communication, their institutional shapes and functions, and the impact of public policy and market forces on their domestic and global operations. Systematic comparisons of media systems and values across countries and cultures; relationships between varied market pressures, communication policies, political cultures and party systems, and the effects of the media systems on the politics and policies of different countries.

SMPA 205 Media and Globalization. Students explore theories of media and globalization; discuss the changing role of communication media, including the internet and other newer technologies, as well as traditional media, in establishing closer relationships and interdependencies among people, their cultures, and their organizations in different countries.

SMPA 210 Media and Foreign Policy. Focuses on the effects of U.S. media on foreign governments, and foreign media on the U.S.; effects of other countries' media on each other; the impact of the internet, inexpensive global telephone calling, CNN, and other networks and new technologies on the conduct of international relations, diplomacy, military operations, and trade negotiations.

For political communication majors these courses count toward the seven elective courses in the major that are required for the degree.

For journalism and mass communication majors these courses count toward the four courses chosen from SMPA 120, SMPA 128, SMPA 144, SMPA 159-178, SMPA 195 and SMPA 196. These are the theoretical electives required for JMC majors, the graduate courses count toward these theoretical electives, not toward skills courses.

Students work with the graduate advisor to ensure they register for the appropriate courses in their senior year. Undergraduate advisors should work with students who might be interested in the five year program to help them plan their courses so that they save electives for the senior year. They should not take the undergraduate Media and Foreign Policy (SMPA 172) and undergraduate Comparative Media Systems (SMPA 170) courses because they will take the MA level courses in their senior year.

2. Completion of the MA degree in Media and Public Affairs. Students in the dual degree program will complete the MA degree in the following way:
 - a. **Core courses**: Students in the dual program take three of the core courses during the senior year (SMPA 203, 205 and 210). Students in the dual program DO NOT take Theories of Mediated Political Communication (SMPA 202) because of their undergraduate degrees in the field. They must complete Graduate Research Methods (SMPA 241).
 - b. **Specialization Areas**: Students will take 6 courses (18 hours) in a specialization developed with approval of their advisor. One of the courses (3 hours) may be a supervised internship with a Washington organization working in areas relevant to the specialization. Students may choose specializations from the following: American Political Communication in a Global Context, Strategic Political Communication, Journalism and Democratic Practice, Communication and International Business, Global Health Communication. They may also develop customized specializations in consultation with the advisor.
 - c. **Thesis or alternatives (6 hours)**. Options: (1) writing a research thesis; (2) taking and (earning at least B+ in) two additional graduate courses coherently related to the specialization, followed by a comprehensive examination; (3) writing a supervised in-depth journalism project; or (4) writing a supervised strategic communication report addressed to solving a client's communication-related problem.