

# MEDIA STUDIES, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

## Degree Requirements

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

| Requirement                          | Credits |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| General Education                    | 45      |
| Electives                            | 12-15   |
| Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements | 24      |
| Requirements for the Major           | 39      |

**0-3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 3 credits of GS courses for the Media Effects option.**

**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 world 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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

### Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

| Code                                                               | Title                                     | Credits |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                          |                                           |         |
| <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                                                           | Research Literacy and Media               | 3       |
| COMM 305                                                           | Introduction to Critical Studies of Media | 3       |
| COMM 405                                                           | Political Economy of Communications       | 3       |
| COMM 413W                                                          | Media, Politics, and Civic Life           | 3       |
| <b>Requirements for the Option</b>                                 |                                           |         |
| <i>Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better</i> |                                           |         |
| Select an option                                                   |                                           | 18      |

### Requirements for the Option

#### Film and Television Studies Option (18 credits)

| Code                                                      | Title                 | Credits |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                 |                       |         |
| <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

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

|                                      |                                       |   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 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                   |   |

### Media Effects Option (18 credits)

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

| Code                                                      | Title                                              | Credits |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                 |                                                    |         |
| <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       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>                                 |                                                    |         |
| <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 6 credits from the following:                      |                                                    | 6       |
| 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 |         |

### Society and Culture Option (18 credits)

| Code                                                                                              | Title                               | Credits |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                                                         |                                     |         |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>                                         |                                     |         |
| COMM 411                                                                                          | Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media  | 3       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>                                                                         |                                     |         |
| <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 9 credits (a least 6 credits at the 400 level) in communication theory from the following: |                                     | 9       |
| 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 | Global Media, Culture, and Society                        |
| 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 | Comparative National Media in a Global Context            |
| 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

## 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/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## B.A. Degree Requirements

**World Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World 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, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

**World 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 University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.