

PhD in Communication

Graduate Student Handbook
2022 - 2023

Communication Department Georgia State University

P. O. Box 5060
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Introduction

The Graduate Program Handbook describes requirements for earning advanced degrees in the Department of Communication, located in the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University. It details curriculum as well as departmental policies and procedures that govern graduate students. Graduate students in the department are responsible for knowledge and compliance with the curricular requirements, policies, and procedures. Graduate students are also responsible for knowledge and compliance with the requirements, policies, and procedures of the College of Arts and Sciences, found in the Graduate Course Catalogs of 2021-22 and 2022-23 (links to each catalog here: https://catalogs.gsu.edu/misc/catalog_list.php).

Students must adhere to the course requirements, policies, and procedures in effect in the year they enroll, as described in the edition of the Ph. D. Handbook that corresponds to the year they entered. Students *may elect to be governed by a later edition of the handbook* (in its entirety). If a student wishes to be governed by a later edition of the handbook, the student must submit a request in writing to the department's graduate director.

The Department of Communication

The Graduate Program in Communication offers students a multi-disciplinary curriculum leading to the Ph. D. degree. The program is designed to prepare students for research and teaching in social scientific and humanities-based theories and methods and for literacy across multiple sub-disciplinary domains of communication, including media studies, rhetoric, and speech communication.

Visit the Department of Communication website (<https://communication.gsu.edu/>) to learn more about departmental initiatives and the active research programs of the faculty.

A list of the department's graduate faculty appears at the end of this handbook. Faculty biographies and descriptions of current research and teaching can be found on the departmental website. Doctoral student advisors/chairs must be tenure track faculty members in the communication department (having the title of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor).

Department Leadership Team

The following is a partial list of department faculty and staff directly connected to the operations of the department's graduate programs. For a full list of staff members, office locations, areas of responsibility and expertise, and biographies, visit the [Department Directory](#).

Main Office, 25 Park Place NE, Suite 800 (8 th Floor) Fax: 404-413-5634 (address faxes to a specific person) Mailing address: P.O. Box 5060, Atlanta, GA, 30302-5060	404-413-5600
Dr. Jaye Atkinson, Department Chair and Assoc. Professor	Suite 818, 404-413-5668 jla@gsu.edu
Dr. Timothy Barouch, Graduate Director and Associate Professor	Suite 1138, 404-413-5736 tbarouch@gsu.edu commgraddirector@gsu.edu
Dr. Rasha Ramzy, Associate Chair (Course Scheduling), and Sr. Lecturer	Suite 809, 404-413- rramzyl@gsu.edu
Ms. Faith LeFebvre, Department Specialist	Suite 816, 404-413-5669 tlefebvre@gsu.edu
Ms. Kristin Brown, Digital Media Coordinator	Suite 823, 404-413-5643 kbrown182@gsu.edu
Ms. Sherrette Dyson, Department Specialist	Suite 828, 404-413-5674 Sdyson@gsu.edu
Ms. Brittany Galuskin, College Advisor	Office of Graduate Services 404-413-2358 bgaluskin1@gsu.edu
Ms. Basirat Lawal, Assistant Finance Officer	404-413-5762 Blawal1@gsu.edu

1. New Students: Getting Started

New students should contact the Director of Graduate Studies for advisement and information regarding orientation and course registration (currently Tim Barouch, tbarouch@gsu.edu).

The College of Arts and Sciences offers a variety of services to support you throughout your time in graduate school. The most important online resource is the [College's Graduate Student Journey](#). That site contains the essentials to beginning your career at Georgia State University. New students must set up a student email account, access their network account, update their emergency contact information, submit their immunization record, and obtain a Panther Card. Information on the steps required to accomplish all these things is found on the College of Arts and Sciences' Graduate Student Journey web page.

Registration, Tuition, and Fees

Visit the Office of the Registrar's [Registration Guide](#) to learn how to register for your courses.

For current tuition and fees, see Student Financial Services' [Tuition and Fees page](#). For more information on financial aid, see Student Financial Services' [main website](#). Be sure to check your student account and resolve any issues well in advance of the fee payment deadline.

Classes that require authorization will be noted on the Schedule of Classes (click on the course title for this information). Special authorization can be requested at [College of Arts and Sciences' Registration Assistance Portal](#). If a course is full and you would like to be considered for any seats that open up, please add yourself to the [Course Waitlist](#).

Students with graduate assistantships (GAs) must register for 12 credit hours each Fall and Spring semester, and 9 hours in Summer terms. Failure to maintain these credit hour minimums will result in a loss of funding. To reach a total of 12 hours a semester (and 9 in Summer), GAs should register for COMM 8780 Directed Research in addition to their required coursework. This course is only necessary if a student needs additional hours to reach the registration minimum. Students can adjust the number of credit hours for Directed Research when registering on PAWS.

International students must remain fully aware of the registration requirements to keep their visa status. This can be done through initial communication with the [Office of International Student and Scholar Services](#), along with regular contact as needed.

Add/drop period

Students can register and drop courses through the first week of classes without penalty, the first week is known as the “late registration” period (also known as “add/drop”). Once the late registration period ends, students will be required to officially “withdraw” from any courses and a “W” will be reflected on their transcript. Students will also still be charged for the credit hours even if they withdraw from the class.

If you have not paid for tuition hours and student fees by the end of the add/drop period, you will be automatically dropped from the class roster.

The [GSU Academic Calendar](#) contains key dates for every semester: when classes begin, when drop/add ends, date for midpoint for withdrawals, last day of classes, final exams, and grade submission deadlines (for graduate teaching assistants).

Student Email

Students must check email frequently. The primary means of communication between GSU and all students is through GSU student email. All registration information and other important announcements from the Department and the Graduate Services Office will be sent to GSU student email accounts. All students have a student email (@student.gsu.edu) and instructors also have an instructor email (@gsu.edu). Students must check both accounts regularly.

COMM-GRADS Listserv

Comm-grads is an email listserv for news and announcements regarding graduate study in the Department of Communication. Comm-grads is the primary way that the Graduate Director and the Department Chair communicate information to Communication graduate students. You will be automatically subscribed to the listserv by the department staff.

Panther Card

The PantherCard is the official Georgia State University identification card. It is also used as a library card, an access card to some campus facilities (including parking lots), and a debit card (PantherCash and PantherMeals). Additional information about the PantherCard program is available at the [PantherCard](#) website.

Immunization

All students must meet immunization requirements and provide a record of immunization to the Student Health Clinic before registering for classes. You may view immunization requirements and obtain the immunization certificate forms on the [Student Health Clinic](#) website. The Student Health Clinic also administers [free COVID-19 vaccines and boosters](#) while supplies last.

Campus Map Link

<https://georgiastateuniversity.myuvn.com/map-parking/>.

Parking and Transportation

Georgia State University offers three options for traveling to and from campus:

- driving to campus and parking on-site

- driving to an off-site parking area and taking a shuttle to campus
- discounted monthly MARTA cards.

A limited number of monthly passes are available for a fee for on-campus parking. Daily passes at reduced rates also can be purchased for on-campus parking. Shuttle services transport students from off-campus parking at Turner Field (Atlanta Braves stadium) to the campus at no charge. All students must pre-register vehicles to park at the University main campus and at university-controlled off-campus lots. Your license plate or PantherCard will serve as your parking permit. To register your vehicle and pay for parking, visit <https://parking.gsu.edu>.

Communication Graduate Student Association

All current graduate students in the Department of Communication at Georgia State University are members of the Communication Graduate Student Association (CGSA). CGSA events are designed to further the academic, social, and professional goals of Communication graduate students. It provides opportunities for social interaction and academic growth through coffee hours, study groups, peer review of papers, professional development, and colloquia. CGSA also acts as the contact group for voicing student input and concerns to members of the faculty and administration regarding issues that affect that group. Representing a diverse set of students, CGSA seeks to improve the experience of all graduate students in the department.

Funding Opportunities

The Department of Communication offers Ph. D. students graduate assistantships with teaching and research responsibilities. Graduate assistants are expected to teach or be assigned as an assistant to the equivalent of three 3-hour undergraduate courses per year, and to assist an appointed faculty member in their research endeavors. Assistantships are renewable annually for a four-year period, as long as students maintain good academic standing.

Students on assistantship receive a full tuition waiver; a stipend (currently \$20,000 as of AY 2022-23); and up to \$1000 (assuming available funds) to support travel for the presentation of conference papers (or to develop professional networks when applying for academic jobs). Requests for travel funds must be sent by email to the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. Requests must include: 1) a full description of the student's travel plans; and 2) evidence that the student's plans will include the presentation of a blind-refereed paper or blind-refereed panel presentation at a scholarly conference.

Graduate teaching and research assistants also receive access to subsidized health insurance. Graduate students may apply for an assistantship by filling out an application available on the department website (communication.gsu.edu). To be considered for an assistantship, complete applications are due by December 1 of the year prior to admission/start of the assistantship.

Assuming satisfactory performance and progress toward degree, there is an intention to provide a maximum of four years of assistantship funding (July-June).

2. Degree Requirements: From Start-to-Finish

The requirements for the Ph. D. degree can be broken down into the following categories:

- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Credit Hours
- Milestones
 - Appointment of Plan of Study Committee
 - Appointment of Comprehensive Exam Committee
 - Doctoral Comprehensive Exam (& Oral Defense)
 - Appointment of Dissertation Committee
 - Doctoral Proposal (Prospectus) Defense
- Doctoral Format Approval (Dissertation Manuscript)
- Dissertation Defense

Here are details on each degree requirement:

Responsible Conduct of Research

All Georgia State University graduate students are required to undertake Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) education and training as part of their requirements for graduation or employment. You must complete this requirement within your first year in the program (and cannot register for dissertation hours without having completed it).

This requirement has two parts:

- Five (5) hours of ethics training. To satisfy this component of the requirement, the Department of Communication provides an annual training session. This training seminar is offered only one day each year, during fall semester orientation for new graduate students. Attendance is mandatory.
- A score of 80 or better on the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (the “CITI test”). This is a web-based training program. Before logging onto the program, carefully read the [GSU Instructions for RCR](#).

Instructions for logging on to [CITI](#)

- Select "New Users Register Here"
- Select "Participating Institutions" and find and select "Georgia State University" in the drop-down menu
- Select "Responsible Conduct in Research" training and your specific research focus: physical science, biomedical, social and behavioral, arts and humanities, or research administrators
- Provide a Username and Password of your own choice
- Enter your Name and Georgia State email address and an alternate email address, if you have one
- Click "Submit"

- Complete the Course Registration Information
- You will also be asked to complete a voluntary, anonymous survey about the course. This will help the CITI developers improve the course and correct errors and/or imperfections.
- Click "Submit"

Once you have completed the CITI web training with a score of 80 or above, please email the completion certificate to Brittany Galuskin, Office of Graduate Service College Advisor, at bgaluskin1@gsu.edu.

Students may not enroll in dissertation hours until the Responsible Conduct of Research requirement has been satisfied.

Credit Hours

The Ph. D. requires 68 credit hours (at least 47 hours of graduate coursework and 21 hours of dissertation research). Previous master's level coursework cannot be used to satisfy this credit hour requirement.

The 47 hours of graduate coursework includes the following requirements:

- 17 credit hours of required Communication Studies courses: Intro to Grad Studies (COMM 8111), Communication Pedagogy (COMM 8035), Critical and Cultural Approaches to Communication (COMM 8690), Scientific Approaches to Communication (COMM 8590), Quantitative Research Methods (COMM 8015), and Qualitative Research Methods (COMM 8410).
- 24 credit hours of Allied Coursework as recommended and approved by the student's plan of study adviser and/or committee.
- 6 credit hours of research methods as recommended and approved by the student's plan of study adviser and/or committee. These courses include (but are not necessarily limited to) COMM 8025, COMM 8160, COMM 8420, COMM 8540, COMM 8545, PSYC 8410, PSYC 8420, PSYC 8430, and PSYC 8012.

Once students have satisfied the 47 hours of graduate coursework, they must register for COMM 8800 (Comprehensive Exams Research). This is a variable credit-hour course, that a student registers for each term, until they pass their Comprehensive Exams. Student must document the members of their Comprehensive Exam Committee via the [Non-Course Milestone Form](#) in order to be authorized to register for COMM 8800. The credit hours for this course do not count toward the 21 hours of Dissertation Research.

The 21 hours of Dissertation Research (COMM 9999) typically can be completed by a full-time student in three to five semesters.

Other coursework expectations to keep in mind:

- No more than sixteen (16) hours of coursework outside the Department of Communication may be counted toward fulfilling a student's minimum coursework requirements without approval from the Graduate Director, but students may take more than the minimum number of courses.
- No more than six (6) credits — two courses maximum — of independent study (COMM 8990 Directed Readings) may be counted toward fulfilling a student's coursework requirements. All independent studies require the [Request for Authorizations: COMM Independent Studies](#) form to be submitted. This form requires a description of the course/study plan, a tangible outcome (ex. Written/oral presentation, examination, research project, etc.), an identification of grade evaluation and a bibliography or reading list. This form requires instructor and Department Chair approval and should be submitted in advance to the start of the applicable semester.
- A student must earn a grade of "B" or better in all required coursework. "Required coursework" means COMM 8015 (Quantitative Research Methods), COMM 8111 (Introduction to Graduate Studies), COMM 8035 (Communication Pedagogy), COMM 8410 (Qualitative Research Methods), COMM 8590 (Scientific Approaches to Communication) and COMM 8690 (Critical and Cultural Approaches to Communication). In the Georgia State University plus-minus grading system, a grade of "B-" (B-Minus) does not satisfy this requirement. Grades of "B-" or lower count as part of the cumulative GPA, but not toward degree requirements.
- Only courses numbered 6000 and above may be counted toward fulfilling a student's coursework requirements. However, Ph.D. students are expected to take almost all of their courses at the 8000-level. Students may petition the Graduate Director to have a 6000-level course credited to their degree; the petition requires a copy of the syllabus, a compelling rationale, and the written approval of the student's plan of study chair (or adviser). No more than two (2) such courses will be approved.
- Rarely, some students may be required by the department to complete preparatory courses (which may include courses numbered below 6000) as a condition of admittance into the Ph.D. program. These courses cannot be counted toward fulfilling a student's 68-hour coursework requirement.

Milestones

Completion of each milestone (also known as "non-course milestones") must be recorded with Office of Graduate Services through their [Milestones page](#) for the milestone to be marked as complete on a student record.

- Appointment of Plan of Study Committee
- Appointment of Comprehensive Exam Committee
- Doctoral Comprehensive Exam (& Oral Defense)
- Appointment of Dissertation Committee
- Doctoral Proposal Defense

To see each of these milestones required specifically for the Communication Department you must:

1. Click on any of the forms under “Non-Course Milestones Forms”
2. Click “Submit” where you will be routed to the general milestone form
3. Specify “Communication PhD” in the “Degree Program” drop-down

Doctoral Format Approval (Dissertation Manuscript)

The doctoral dissertation must be formatted according to the College of Arts and Sciences guidelines and submitted for review by the Office of Graduate Services posted deadlines during a student’s graduating semester. See more information under “IV. Fourth and Final Year(s) in the Doctoral Program.”

Dissertation Defense

Students must document their successful defense with the Office of Graduate Services to ensure the requirement is marked as complete on their student record. To do so, the [Final Project Form - Doctoral Dissertation Approval](#) must be submitted on the Graduate Services Milestones page. This form requires a fillable PDF completed with all the electronic signatures of the Dissertation Committee members and the Department Chair. See the above link for more information.

3. Doctoral Curriculum

The doctoral curriculum includes three fundamental areas: a) the required coursework in the departmental curriculum; b) six hours of Research Tools; and c) a series of hours in Allied Coursework.

Required Coursework

These courses are departmental requirements. You should take them at your first available opportunity when they are offered. They are the fundamental building blocks for your research agenda in the discipline.

COMM 8111: Introduction to Graduate Studies (2 hours). This course acquaints students with expectations of the doctoral program and of the communication discipline.

COMM 8035: Communication Pedagogy (3 hours). This course introduces the student to the teaching expectations of the academy, familiarizes the student with the legal and ethical requirements of teaching, and begins a teaching portfolio for each student. All students who currently hold Graduate Teaching Assistantships (or who wish to apply for one in the future) must complete the Communication Pedagogy course before they begin their teaching assignments, or in the same semester in which they begin their teaching assignments. This course is a pre- or co-requisite for students who will teach course sections or stand-alone courses, as Instructor of Record or as Section Leader, in the Department of Communication.

COMM 8015: Quantitative Methods (3 hours). This course examines social science methodology and statistical analysis used in communication research. Topics include measurement and design issues, basic research methods (e.g., experiments, surveys, observational research, content analysis), and conceptual and practical issues in quantitative data analysis.

COMM 8410: Qualitative Methods (3 Hours). This course covers the philosophy and practice of qualitative methods in communication, including those derived from social scientific approaches as well as more humanistic and critical/cultural studies approaches. This includes methods such as discourse or textual analysis; rhetorical analysis; in-depth interviewing; focus groups; and ethnography/participant observation.

COMM 8590: Scientific Approaches to Communication (3 hours). This course focuses on scientific approaches to communication, across different levels and via a variety of modes of communication. The course begins with an historical overview of the field of communication, as well as background on communication science and scientific approaches to inquiry. The course then focuses on four broad areas, including interpersonal and intergroup communication, media processes and effects, strategic communication and persuasion, and health communication.

COMM 8690: Critical and Cultural Approaches to Communication (3 hours). This course examines the relationship between culture and power in a global communication context. Readings include both

founding theoretical texts (the Marxist tradition, the Frankfurt School, the Birmingham School) and current scholarship in rhetoric, political economy, and international communication. Multiple, intersecting structures of power are interrogated, including class, gender, age, and race.

Research Tools (6 hours, at minimum)

In addition to the research methods courses above, students will complete a minimum of six (6) approved credit hours of courses that build their research skills (often referred to as Research Methodology courses). Courses that fulfill this requirement include, but are not limited to: COMM 8025, 8160, 8540, 8545 or PSYC 8410, 8420, 8430, or 8012. Additional courses both inside and outside the department may count toward the research requirement. Students should work with their adviser when planning which courses to take to fulfill this requirement. Students can apply a total of no more than 16 credits completed outside the department toward their 68-hour coursework requirements. Classes chosen to fulfill this requirement must be approved by the student's advisory committee or committee chair.

In addition to the required research methods courses listed above, students may choose to take additional methods courses necessary for their research. These courses should be agreed to by the advisory (plan of study) committee or committee chair. They should provide the skills and expertise necessary to conduct advanced research in communication studies. Only courses deemed capable of building research competencies directly relevant to the students' program of study will be approved by the committee. Courses may be selected from across the university. Courses in computer programming, foreign languages, and other areas relevant to the student's program of study may also be appropriate. For any course that the student wishes to fulfill this Research Tools requirement, students should submit a petition to the Director of Graduate Studies *before the beginning of the term in which the student is registered for any such course.*

<https://cas.gsu.edu/graduate-services/#:~:text=Coursework%20Substitution%20Form>

Allied Coursework (24 hours, at minimum)

Students will complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) approved credit hours of allied coursework. Courses both inside and outside of the department may count toward this requirement. Students should seek the approval of their plan-of-study adviser and committee (or their primary academic adviser if they have not yet selected a plan-of-study adviser and committee) before registering for courses that could satisfy this requirement. For any course outside the department, and for any course below the 8000-level (whether inside or outside the department), students should submit a petition to the Director of Graduate Studies for each course that a student wishes to satisfy their Allied Coursework requirements *before the beginning of the term in which the student is registered for any such course.*

<https://cas.gsu.edu/graduate-services/#:~:text=Coursework%20Substitution%20Form>

4. Registration Once Doctoral Coursework is Complete

Comprehensive Exams Research (variable hours; at least one term)

After completing the above required doctoral coursework, students should register for Comprehensive Exams Research. Each student will complete a minimum of 1 hour (typically more) of COMM 8800 (*Comprehensive Exams Research*). Under the direction of the plan-of-study adviser, students will research, prepare for, and take their comprehensive exams. Students must register for at least one hour of COMM 8800 for each semester until they have passed the Comprehensive Examinations. It is suggested that students on assistantship complete their Comprehensive Exams within two consecutive terms after the completion of coursework.

** Students must register for at least one (1) credit hour of comprehensive exam research in each semester in which the student requires access to university facilities, equipment, resources, or faculty, and six (6) credit hours in any given year to remain in compliance with the [Continuous Enrollment Policy](#).**

Dissertation Research (21 hours)

Once a student has passed Comprehensive Examinations, they should register for Dissertation Research in the subsequent term (COMM 9999). Each student will complete a minimum of 21 hours of COMM 9999. Under the direction of the dissertation advisor and the dissertation committee, students will complete the exit project for the program. Once students have passed their Comprehensive Examinations, they must register for at least one (1) credit hour of dissertation research each semester the student requires access to university facilities, equipment, resources, or faculty. Students on assistantship usually sign up for nine (9) hours of dissertation credit per semester.

** Students must register for at least one (1) credit hour of dissertation research in each semester in which the student requires access to university facilities, equipment, resources, or faculty, and six (6) credit hours in any given year to remain in compliance with the [Continuous Enrollment Policy](#).**

5. Miscellaneous Exceptional Cases

The categories below describe typical exceptional cases through which students may satisfy some of their required doctoral coursework.

Internship (up to 3 hours, optional)

Doctoral students are also eligible, but not required, to enroll in internships for up to three (3) hours of course credit. An internship provides students with both observational and hands-on learning experiences that enhance their academic preparation and increase their ability to perform on a professional level after graduation. Students must have completed 12 hours of coursework in the department, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and have a full-time faculty member from their area of concentration sponsor them. Students should apply for an internship one (1) semester prior to the semester of actual enrollment. All applications for an internship must be approved, in advance, by the Graduate Committee to ensure the opportunity is relevant to the program.

Courses Outside the University (ARCHE)

Students may take courses from any department in the university. In addition, the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education ([ARCHE](#)) [cross registration program](#) gives access to courses offered by other area schools. The plan of study committee chair and Graduate Director must approve this course for the student's application to register. Application deadlines are very early each semester.

Transfer Credit

According to college regulations, a Ph.D. student's master's degree is transferred to the Ph.D. program. In addition, a maximum of six (6) hours of graduate credit in an area related to the student's program of study *earned beyond the master's degree* at another accredited institution may be applied toward the Ph.D. degree. (In unique circumstances a student may request additional transfer credit hours with permission of the Graduate Director.) In order to transfer graduate credits, the student should submit a request in writing to the Graduate Director, listing the student's date of admission into the Ph.D. program, the specific courses they wish to count toward the Ph.D. program with copies of appropriate syllabi and/or catalog copy, and a short justification as to why the request should be approved. The student should simultaneously initiate the request by filling out the [Request to Transfer Credit](#). Application for transfer credit must be made during the student's first two (2) semesters at Georgia State University. Transfer credit is subject to evaluation and approval by the Department's Graduate Committee and the College of Arts & Sciences. Students are ineligible to transfer graduate hours from a degree program that was conferred at Georgia State University. A student with degree from the Department of Communication at GSU who has taken any required courses that are applicable to the PhD program, would need to be re-take the course or find a suitable PhD-level substitute, subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and Department Chair.

Waiving or Substituting Required Courses

Students seeking a waiver of any of the core/required courses for any reason, or who wish to substitute a course requirement with a course other than the designated to fulfill that requirement, must obtain written approval from their plan of study or dissertation committee chair, and submit the [Office of Graduate Services Coursework Substitution Form](#). This form is routed to Director of Graduate Studies for review. If approved, the change will be made on [Degree Works](#).

6. Graduate Assistantship Responsibilities and Policies

The Department of Communication awards selected Ph. D. students graduate assistantships with teaching and research responsibilities. Graduate assistants are expected to teach or be assigned as a lab assistant to the equivalent of three undergraduate courses per year (3 credit hours each), and to assist an appointed faculty member in his or her research. Assistantships are renewable annually for up to four years.

Students on assistantship receive a full tuition waiver; a stipend (currently \$20,000 as of AY 2022-23); and a 10% discount at the university bookstore. Assistantships do not cover mandatory student fees. Graduate assistants and all graduate students holding an F1 or J1 visa must purchase [student health insurance through Georgia State University](#). Domestic students can waive out of this requirement by providing proof of health insurance coverage outside of GSU; international students holding F1 or J1 visas cannot waive the requirement. The students listed in the mandatory group will automatically be enrolled in the United Healthcare Student Health Insurance Plan, and charged for the insurance on their student account.

See the Office of Graduate Services site for [Graduate Assistant Resources](#) for additional information about policies for graduate assistants.

Teaching and Research Responsibilities

The assistantship has a teaching and a research component. The total annual appointment workload is 520 hours. The typical teaching assignment is an annual three-course load, with two courses/sections assigned during the fall semester and one course/section during the spring semester. The workload commitment for the teaching component is 340 total hours. The research assignment involves assisting a designated member of the faculty with current research. The workload commitment for the research component is 180 total hours.

Guidelines for Satisfactory Performance

Performance expectations include but are not limited to the following:

- Maintaining a grade point average in graduate coursework of 3.5 or above (this is a departmental standard; it is higher than the 3.0 standard articulated as a baseline by the College of Arts and Sciences);
- Consistently achieving satisfactory teaching evaluations for assigned teaching duties;
- Consistently receiving a grade of satisfactory for their performance in COMM 8780 (Directed Research) for any assigned research and lab duties;
- Complying with all applicable GSU policies, including the Academic Honesty policy, Student Code of Conduct policy, Sexual Misconduct policy, and the policy on Disruptive Student Conduct in the Classroom or other Learning Environment;
- Consistently submitting all grades completely prior to leaving campus at the end of each semester (if assigned teaching duties). All grade submissions must be verified and approved in

writing by the relevant Department Specialist (currently Ms. Faith LeFebvre) or another staff member designated by the Department Chair;

- Resolving any grades of Incomplete in a timely manner (before such grades subsequently turn into an F);
- Securing advance approval from the Department Chair and relevant faculty supervisor for any absences from assistantship assignments;
- Informing the Chair and Department Specialist immediately if their classes are being canceled for any reason.

Failure to perform these responsibilities may result in the student's graduate assistantship being put on probation or terminated.

Professional Development Expectations

Students are expected to show progress in professional development each year. Progress in professional development usually means submitting papers to professional conferences in year one; presenting conference papers in year two; submitting a paper for publication review in year three, and publishing at least one article (or made another demonstrable public contribution to the field) by year four. Individual cases may vary, depending on a student's trajectory.

Length of Assistantship; Conditions of Renewal

Graduate assistantships are renewable for up to four years. Any additional funding beyond four years is at the discretion of the Department and is subject to budgetary limitations. Students who seek assistantship renewal for an additional year (or, in rare instances, a 6th and final year) must apply to the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. The Graduate Committee and the Associate Chair will review the request and make a recommendation to the chair. Consideration for renewal is a competitive process. Factors considered in this process include but are not limited to:

- Whether the applicant has passed comprehensive examinations.
- Whether the applicant has successfully defended a dissertation prospectus.
- The strength of the applicant's teaching and research record.
- The recommendation of the applicant's adviser; and
- Whether the applicant is likely to complete the dissertation within one year.

Students who wish to be considered for renewal of a graduate assistantship beyond four years must submit a request via email to the department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies **no later than February 1 of the student's fourth year of assistantship**. Applicants should include a current CV; the date of comprehensive exam and prospectus defense; a statement of need; and a detailed work plan for successful completion of the degree in the next academic year. The dissertation adviser must email a statement of support. The Graduate Committee and the Associate Chair will review all timely requests and make recommendations to the Chair.

Other USG and/or State of Georgia Employment Prohibited

Students on a graduate assistantship may not be employed in any capacity with other University System of Georgia schools or the State of Georgia. Graduate Assistants are required to inform the Department Chair prior to taking employment outside of the University System of Georgia.

Enrollment Requirements for Graduate Assistants

Graduate assistants are required to register for a **minimum of 12 credit hours in the Fall and Spring terms, and a minimum of 9 credit hours in Summer terms.** From time to time, graduate assistants may not meet these credit hour requirements with grade-bearing courses. To ensure that assistants can still reach the registration minimum in these terms, assistants may register for COMM 8780 (Directed Research) to fill the remaining required credit hours. For example, in a Spring term, if a student takes three 3-credit-hour courses, the student would also register for three hours of COMM 8780 to hit the 12-credit hour minimum.

COMM 8780 is a variable credit hour course under the instruction of the Department Chair. Any hours of COMM 8780 do not count toward the minimum credit hours required for the doctoral degree.

Assistantships are normally awarded in the late spring. The assistantship term is annual, typically running from July 1-June 30 (after the first year; first year assistantships typically begin in the start of the first semester that the student enrolls).

Annual Evaluation, Renewal, and Probation

Renewal of an assistantship requires a successful annual performance review with the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. Continuing students must fill out an Assistantship Application / Renewal Form and submit that to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair.

For criteria for a successful annual performance review, see the “Guidelines for Satisfactory Performance” and “Professional Development Expectations” above.

Students will be notified at the end-of-year evaluation if their assistantship is put on probation or terminated. In probationary cases, the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies will indicate in writing what steps are needed to improve performance and restore good standing. The student will have a period designated by the chair (typically one academic year, depending on the type and gravity of the issues) to accomplish these steps.

If a student fails to improve performance and restore good standing after the probationary period has run, the department may decide not to renew funding. That outcome (loss of funding) may count against the student’s total eligible years of funding. This means that students whose assistantships are not renewed due to unsatisfactory performance may not receive a total of four years of support.

7. Maintaining Good Standing in the Program, Part 1: Coursework Stage

Graduate students are responsible for maintaining good standing throughout their time in the program. There are three primary mechanisms for ensuring that students maintain good standing and make satisfactory progress toward their degree: DegreeWorks, departmental advisement, and annual evaluations. DegreeWorks is a platform that tracks student academic performance and progress toward their degree. Departmental advisement includes a Plan-of-Study infrastructure that supports students in their course selection and their construction of a research agenda. Annual evaluations are meetings with the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies to provide feedback on a student's progress and, where appropriate, to provide performance evaluations and benchmarks for students on graduate assistantship.

DegreeWorks

Graduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences must monitor their academic evaluation for accuracy in DegreeWorks (accessed by logging into PAWS), including the completion of both coursework and non-course milestones. See instructions [here](#). Students should review DegreeWorks reports each semester to: 1) check on their ongoing progress toward their degree; and 2) ensure that courses that they have taken (or are currently registered for) are being credited toward their degree.

If a student believes that a course they have taken should count toward their degree (but is appearing to not be used in their DegreeWorks report), that student should file a [Request to Substitute Courses](#). The student's request is subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair.

DegreeWorks reports should be utilized in advisory and Plan of Study meetings each semester.

Doctoral Advisement, Plan of Study, Annual Evaluations

First year advisement: All graduate students should seek advisement in their first semester of attendance by reaching out to the Director of Graduate Studies. At some point during the first year, students should seek a permanent adviser based on alignment with the student's developing research interests. Advisers must be members of the Graduate Faculty (list of eligible faculty at the end of this handbook). Advisers serve by consent. When a faculty member agrees to serve as the student's adviser, the student must then submit the requisite Milestone form, found [here](#).

From adviser to Plan-of-Study Committee:

Regular meetings: Students should meet regularly with their adviser (at least once per academic term). Topics for these meetings can include selection of courses, professional development opportunities, professionalization advice, and more. To help facilitate a productive advising relationships, students should bring both their DegreeWorks report and Plan-of-Study forms to advising meetings.

Plan of Study forms: These forms can be found on the [Communication Graduate Forms & Policies page](#). Students should use this form to plan what courses they wish to take in their remaining terms of study. Students should submit the form no later than the first day of Fall registration each academic year.

Plan-of-Study Advisory Committee: All students will choose a three-member advisory plan of study committee by the end of their first year in the program, or after having taken 18 hours of coursework, whichever comes first. The student should work with their adviser (who typically is the chair of these committees). The chair must be a tenure-track member of the Graduate Faculty (list at the end of the handbook). In consultation with the Plan-of-Study chair, and the consent of selected faculty members, the student chooses the remaining two committee members. All committee members must be members of the Graduate Faculty. Students must document their Plan of Study Committee on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#). All full-time students should meet with their Plan-of-Study committee no later than early April of the first academic year. Students are responsible for initiating these meetings.

In these meetings, the committee gives feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of the student's performance in the program, as well as advisement on the student's future direction (including courses, competencies, and the like) in the program. The goal for the student should be to achieve expertise in a recognized area (or areas) of the discipline. The plan may include a recommendation for specific courses, independent reading, revision of prior research, attendance at conferences, and so on.

Faculty Availability for Advising and Plan of Study Committee: Faculty are not obligated to be available during sabbaticals, certain leaves, and/or summers in which they receive no support from the department. Students should discuss timelines and contingencies with prospective committee members. The composition of the committee can be changed with the agreement of the committee chair.

Plan-of-Study Committee Role in Comprehensive Exams; Dissolution: Toward the end of the student's coursework, the student should work with the committee to ensure that the student has taken appropriate courses to satisfy all coursework requirements and to prepare the student for the comprehensive exams. After the student completes comprehensive exams, the Plan-of-Study committee dissolves. The student should then, in consultation with their adviser, appoint a four-person dissertation committee. The dissertation committee may or may not include all or some members of the Plan-of-Study committee.

Annual Departmental Evaluation Meetings

In addition to the required annual Plan-of-Study committee meetings, all students typically meet with the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies each spring. These meetings are designed to provide students and the department with feedback relating to progress in the program, the pace of professional development, and, if applicable, performance as a graduate assistant in the department.

Any Ph. D. student who has not yet successfully defended a prospectus and any Ph. D. student currently on a graduate assistantship must attend such a meeting. In advance of these meetings, all students should do the following:

- participate in a yearly survey and report all scholarly activities. This is an opportunity to update the department on their academic progress, professional activity, and express views and preferences related to their graduate assistantship experience, including teaching and research assignments.

- submit a PDF of their current CV to the Director of Graduate Studies.

GPA Minimum; Repeat-to-Replace Policy

The College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Communication each expect students to maintain superior performance in their coursework. The College requires a grade point average of 3.0. The College stipulates that a graduate student is subject to scholastic termination for failure to achieve a 3.0 grade point average by the end of the next eighteen (18) semester hours of enrollment in letter-graded courses after the student's GPA has fallen below 3.0. No course in which a B- (B minus) or below was earned in required coursework will count toward the degree.

The College of Arts & Sciences has a "repeat to replace" policy for up to two courses in which the student got a non-passing grade (B minus or lower) and wants to repeat the course to replace the lower grade for a higher grade on the second attempt (which will raise the GPA by dropping the lower grade). Students can find policy details and the requisite form here:

<https://cas.gsu.edu/graduate-repeat-to-replace-application/>

The College of Arts & Science's GPA requirements do not alter the department's expectation that students with a graduate assistantship are expected to maintain a 3.5 GPA. Students whose cumulative GPAs fall below a 3.5 may still be subject to departmental review for probation or revocation of a graduate assistantship.

Policy on Academic Honesty

Students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The University assumes a basic and minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only the products of their own efforts. Students are required to read and abide by the university's complete Academic Honesty Policy, available here:

<https://provost.gsu.edu/document/academic-honesty-policy/>.

Students found to have violated the Academic Honesty Policy are subject to disciplinary action in the Department, including but not limited to having their assistantship put on probation and/dismissal from the program.

For more specific guidance and tips, refer to this "Strengthening Academic Integrity and Preventing Plagiarism" guide created by the Graduate Office in the College of Arts & Services:

<https://cas.gsu.edu/files/2021/05/Academic-Integrity-Guide-2.pdf>

8. Comprehensive Examinations

Each student must pass a departmentally administered comprehensive examination that tests the student's knowledge. The test is designed and evaluated by the student's Ph. D. advisory committee (Plan-of-Study).

Eligibility for taking comprehensive exams: To take comprehensive exams, students must have completed all coursework (except COMM 9999, Dissertation Research). In rare instances, students with a single course remaining may petition the Department Chair and Director of Graduate studies to simultaneously register for COMM 8800 and a particular course to finish their coursework.

Once the student, in consultation with their Plan-of-Study committee, has determined that they have completed all coursework (except the required hours of COMM 9999, Dissertation Research), they become eligible to take comprehensive exams.

Registration for COMM 8800: In the first term after students have completed required coursework, they must register for COMM 8800 (Comprehensive Exam Research). Students may be permitted to enroll in this variable hour course as well as COMM 8780 in the same term to meet assistantship requirements. To receive permission to register for COMM 8800, students also must:

1. Appoint the members of their Plan of Study Committee and record them on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).
2. Appoint the members of their Comprehensive Exam Committee and record them on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).

Suggested timeline for completing comprehensive exams: Full time students should complete their comprehensive exams during year 3 in the program. Part time students may, of course, take comprehensive exams on a different time schedule.

Comprehensive Exams: Purpose and Process

The comprehensive examination tests the following competencies: a) the student's expertise in one or more allied communication disciplines or areas of specialization; b) the student's written and oral advocacy skills in communicating complex ideas and literatures; c) the student's ability to integrate bodies of knowledge in the field of communication and communicate research with respect to the field's research traditions; d) the student's readiness to conduct dissertation research.

Preparation and Scheduling

Students are responsible for scheduling their comprehensive examinations, working with their adviser and the committee. Comprehensive examinations (both written and oral) will be scheduled during the spring term and fall term only.

Students should draft a set of readings in four topic areas for the adviser's approval. These areas typically include: a) research methods; b) communication theory; c) dissertation area; and d) an area of coursework that shows the student's expertise in an additional subfield. There is no minimum or maximum length for the bibliography; students should be fully conversant on scholarly work in the relevant topic areas. Once the adviser approves the list, it should be sent to the other members of the committee for review and potential additions. *The full committee should have approved the list of readings at least two months prior to the date of the comprehensive examinations.* The committee then drafts examination questions; the adviser uploads those questions to iCollege (the GSU learning platform) by the agreed-on deadline.

Collaboration Prohibited for Comprehensive Exams

Collaboration during the comprehensive exams is prohibited. Collaboration includes but is not limited to preparing, organizing, writing responses and feedback with or from other students, staff, friends, and/or faculty. Failure to comply with this non-collaboration policy could result in failure of the comprehensive exam or, at the maximum, expulsion from the program.

Academic Honesty

Comprehensive exams are subject to the University's Academic Honesty Policy, including its provisions regarding plagiarism.

Nature of the Comprehensive Examination

The examination includes two parts: a written examination that involves four full days of writing, and an oral examination which should occur within two weeks of completing the written exam. The oral examination typically involves approximately two hours of questioning. The written exam will start on Monday morning for five consecutive business days, ending on Friday evening. Alternate schedules must be approved by the chair of the committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Department Chair. The oral examination typically involves approximately two hours of questioning. The exam will be take-home; students can consult their books and notes. Students will have 24 hours to work on each area, but each question should be answerable in an 8-hour timeframe if working efficiently. The completed response for each of the four areas must be submitted electronically the following morning by 10am to iCollege; the final answer must be submitted by Friday morning at 10am (unless an alternate schedule is approved by the chair and the Director of Graduate Studies). Upon receipt of all four answers, the Department will use Turnitin Software (or another appropriate plagiarism checker) to determine originality/similarity scores for each written answer. Student answers will be submitted electronically to the Advisory Committee, who will assess and determine a student's readiness to proceed to an oral defense of examination answers (approximately 2 weeks later). Deviations from these requirements are subject to the approval of the committee chair, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Department Chair.

The Department expects a minimum of 10-page, double-spaced responses for each of the four areas, followed by a complete Works Cited section for each response. A cover page for each response should designate the student's name and the question area.

The student must pass both the written and oral portions of the exam. A strong performance on one part of the exam cannot redeem a failing performance on the other.

Comprehensive Examination Areas

The comprehensive examination has two parts: a written exam and an oral defense. The examination is divided into four content areas. One area must address the theoretical foundations for the program. One area must concern the student's research approach/methods, including an understanding of the required coursework in quantitative and qualitative methods). One area must concern a subject of specialization relevant to the student's dissertation topic. One area must address another subject of specialization, presumably emerging from some or all of the student's elective coursework (e.g. health communication, environmental communication, rhetorical studies, etc.) written portion of the exam comes first; a student can only proceed to the oral defense after the advisory committee decides that the written portion of the exam is defensible. Defensible answers may include answers that are controversial or relatively weak, and for which the committee wishes to hear further explanation and argument in the oral defense. To proceed to the oral exam, all four content areas must be judged to be defensible.

In the oral examination, the entire committee questions the student area-by-area. Students may have a copy of their written answers in the oral examination. Questions may include themes and topics that exceed the written responses; students are expected to display a detailed understanding of their designated areas of expertise.

Evaluating the Comprehensive Examination

The committee first evaluates the written portion of the exam. If the committee deems that all four written answers are defensible, the student will move on to take the oral portion of the exam. Both portions of the exam (written and oral) must be successful to pass the overall comprehensive examination.

A passing comprehensive exam passes both the written and oral portions of the exam. A failing comprehensive exam is an exam that fails either the written or oral portion of the exam. A student who fails their first attempt at the comprehensive examination will be given an opportunity to sit for the examination a second time. If the student fails the second attempt at sitting for the comprehensive examination, the student will be dismissed from the program.

I. Written Exam

The committee evaluates the written exam first. The committee members individually evaluate all four areas of the written exam. The committee chair collects evaluations of the committee members, collates them, and communicates the results to the committee members. The chair will then communicate the result to the student, including whether sections of the written exam were considered weak and/or indefensible.

The written portion of the exam is considered defensible in either of the following two cases:

a) The committee deems all four areas of the written exam defensible. At this point, the student may work with the committee to schedule an oral defense.

b) A majority of the committee deems only three areas of the written exam defensible, and the student completes work (assigned by the committee) on a timeframe (also designated by the committee) to improve or otherwise redeem the student's performance in the one area deemed indefensible. In this case, the committee must instruct the student in writing the scope of the work that the student must do and the timeframe that the student has to complete the work. The options available to the committee in this case include but are not limited to:

- requiring that the student retest in the one area; or
- submitting other specified written work that certifies intellectual competence in the area; or
- taking additional coursework to bring the student up to a level of demonstrable competency.

For all these options, the faculty committee sets the timetable for completion. The department suggests that all new work occur within six months of the written exam date. If the student completes the assigned work within the designated timetable and a majority of the committee deems the work (or improved response) defensible, the student may then work with the committee to schedule the oral defense. At this point, no part of the written portion of the examination may be attempted again; the student must pass the overall exam at the oral defense stage, or be dismissed from the program.

If the committee deems the written exam to be failing, the student must take the written exam again in its entirety. The written exam is considered failing in either of the following two cases:

a) Two or more areas are indefensible. At this point, the student must retake the written exam again in its entirety, within six months of the first exam. Once the student does so, no part of the written exam may be attempted a third time.

b) Three areas are defensible, and the student does not satisfactorily complete work that the committee assigned to improve or otherwise redeem the student's performance in the one area deemed indefensible within the timeframe designated by the committee. In this case, the student must take the written exam again, in its entirety, within six months of the re-tested area or

replacement work having been deemed indefensible. Once the student does so, no part of the written exam may be attempted again.

If, following the student's second attempt at the written exam in its entirety, all four areas are deemed defensible, the student may schedule the oral defense.

If, following the student's second attempt at the written exam in its entirety, fewer than all four areas are deemed defensible, the student will be dismissed from the program.

II. Oral Defense

The oral defense may not be scheduled until the committee has deemed the written exam defensible. During the oral defense, committee members will ask the student to defend the written exam in its entirety by asking pointed questions about any or all the written responses. After completing the oral exam portion of the examination to the satisfaction of all committee members, the student will be excused from the exam room (or virtual meeting) while the committee deliberates.

The committee will decide if the student's combined performance on the written and oral portions of the exam constitute a pass or failure. At this point, the student is not evaluated on an area-by-area basis; rather, the committee will make an overall assessment of the student's demonstrated competence in the oral defense (including any emendation) of their written arguments. After the committee has reached its conclusion, it will call the student back into the meeting and inform the student of the result.

III. Overall Exam

The overall exam is considered passing in one of two cases:

a) A majority of committee members deems the student's overall exam (both written and oral portions) to be satisfactory. In this case, the chair of the committee should notify the Director of Graduate Studies and the department's academic adviser in the College of Arts and Sciences of the result and should fill out the relevant assessment forms (with input from the committee). The student should complete the comprehensive exam milestone form on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestones page](#).

b) A majority of committee members do not deem the student's overall exam to be satisfactory, but the written exam was deemed defensible on the student's first attempt. In this case, the committee may assign work to improve or otherwise redeem the student's performance on the overall exam. The committee may require, in writing, that the student do one of the following:

- retake the oral portion of the exam (this should occur within six months of the original oral defense, at the discretion of the committee); or
- retake the overall exam (both written and oral portions).

The committee also may require the student to complete additional work to prepare for a second attempt at the oral or overall exam. This may include extra course work or other forms of study, public presentations such as presentation at academic conferences or departmental seminars, participation in mock examinations, or additional training.

If, following this second oral examination or overall exam and the timely completion of any additional assigned work, the committee deems the overall exam to be passing, the comprehensive examination will have concluded successfully. The chair of the committee should notify the Director of Graduate Studies and the department's academic adviser in the College of Arts and Sciences of the result and should fill out the relevant assessment forms (with input from the committee). The student should complete the comprehensive exam milestone form on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestones page](#).

The overall exam is considered failing in one of two cases:

- a) A majority of committee members deems the student's overall exam (written exam and oral defense) to be failing, and the student has already failed the overall exam once before.
- b) A majority of committee members deems the student's overall exam (written exam and oral defense) to be unsatisfactory, and the student does not – within the timeframe designated by the committee – satisfactorily complete work that the committee assigns to improve or otherwise redeem the student's performance on the overall exam (written and oral portions).

Summary of possible outcomes:

If the written exam is defensible on the first attempt, and the first attempt at the oral defense is satisfactory, the overall exam passes. The student moves forward to doctoral dissertation research.

If the written exam is failing on the first attempt and defensible on the second attempt, the student proceeds to an oral defense. If the first attempt at the oral defense is satisfactory, the overall exam passes. The student moves forward with doctoral dissertation research.

If the written exam is defensible on the first attempt, but the first attempt at the oral defense is unsatisfactory, the overall exam is deemed failing. The committee may choose to require that the student make a second attempt at either the oral examination or the overall exam. If the student performs satisfactorily on this second attempt, the overall exam passes and the student moves forward with dissertation research. If the student fails at this second attempt, the student is dismissed from the program.

If the written exam is defensible only after a second attempt at one area and/or remedial substitute work, and following the oral examination, the overall exam fails, the student is dismissed from the program.

9. Policies of General Applicability

Changing Degree Programs

Students are accepted for graduate study in the Department of Communication. Changing from the Ph. D. program in the Department of Communication to another program in another department or from another department's program to the Department of Communication requires application through the admissions process for the new program, including all published deadlines.

Degree Time Limits

All course work for the Ph. D. can be a maximum of 10 years old. Courses older than 10 years will automatically be labeled as Falling Unused/Not Counted Toward the Degree once that time limit is reached. The program is designed for full-time students to graduate at the end of four years.

Students who have any coursework that exceeds this time limit must submit a [Petition for Deviation from College Requirements](#) detailing their request to deviate from the time limit requirement. If approved, this deviation is valid for one academic year. Students must petition anew if they do not graduate within that academic year. Subsequent petitions are not guaranteed approval. It is recommended that students do not submit this petition until they are within one year of their anticipated graduation. The Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair make recommendations for or against Petitions for Deviation from College Requirements. Factors that the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair consider include successful defense of the dissertation proposal, demonstrated progress toward the completion of the dissertation, level of support from the student's committee adviser, relevance of courses taken beyond the time limit, and whether a previous extension has been granted. Students should address these factors in their petition. The Graduate Director and the Department Chair may require a student to retake core classes (or classes important to the student's dissertation) if the student took those classes more than 10 years before the semester of petition.

Active Student Status and Enrollment Requirements

[Continuous Enrollment Requirement](#)

As part of the university's continuous enrollment policy, students in all graduate programs must maintain enrollment totaling six (6) hours or more over all consecutive three (3)-semester periods (including summers). The total enrollment of the current term plus the two terms preceding it must always add up to six (6) hours or more.

Students' status is checked by the midpoint of each term for compliance with this policy. Any student out of compliance will be placed on inactive status effective at the end of the current term and all pre-registration for subsequent terms will be canceled. Students are notified by email message sent to their official Georgia State University email account.

To resume their program, students must [apply for re-entry](#) by the published deadline and must enroll at a level sufficient to satisfy the continuous enrollment criterion (their enrollment in the re-entry term plus the two terms preceding it must add to six (6) hours or more). The maximum required enrollment level for the re-entry term is six (6) hours. Before re-entry is approved, the Office of Graduate Studies of the College of Arts & Sciences will seek approval from the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair.

Re-entry into the graduate program does not constitute a reset of the degree time limit clock.

Residency Requirement

Four (4) semesters of residence are required, two (2) of which must be consecutive. During all four semesters of residence the student must register for at least six (6) hours of coursework. On the recommendation of the department and with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, up to half of the residence requirement may be waived based on competence obtained through coursework completed elsewhere. Students must petition the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee to request consideration for such a waiver.

Completion-Term Enrollment Requirement

Additionally, all students must be enrolled in the term in which they complete the requirements for their degree. Normally, this is the term in which they will graduate. However, if the requirements are completed after the deadline for graduation in a term, but before the first day of classes in the subsequent term, then it is not necessary to enroll in the subsequent term. If the continuous enrollment criterion is not met in the term in which degree requirements are completed, then it must be met in the term of graduation. Students who have enrolled for a total of six (6) or more hours in the two (2) terms preceding the term of completion may register for one (1) hour in that term.

Academic Program Leave

Students seeking an Academic Program Leave for one (1) to three (3) semesters must first contact the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair to inform the department of their plans. Then the student would formally apply through the Graduate Office.

Graduate assistants must, at the time they are seeking leave, submit a formal petition to the Department Chair and the Graduate Committee to **give up the assistantship** for the duration of the requested leave. Students must continue to perform their assigned duties unless and until the Graduate Office formally approves the Academic Program Leave.

During an approved leave, all parts of the graduate assistantship – workload, tuition waiver, and stipend – would be suspended, and the terms of renewal will be determined by the Chair, informed by the recommendation of the Graduate Committee. The ten (10)-year deadline for completing all degree requirements will nevertheless remain the same.

Emergency Withdrawal Policy

Students may request an emergency withdrawal when a nonacademic emergency occurs that prevents them from completing their coursework (e.g., medical problems and traumatic events) and when the timing or nature of the emergency prevents them from voluntarily withdrawing from their classes. Please see the [GSU Dean of Students Emergency Withdrawal Page](#). In the event of an emergency withdrawal, any graduate assistant tuition waiver may be retracted. If possible and appropriate, the student should meet with the Department Chair to discuss a plan and timeline for withdrawing and returning to the program.

Scholastic Termination

A student whose grade point average falls below the 3.0 required to receive a degree will have eighteen (18) semester hours in which to raise the GPA before being subject to termination from the graduate program. Students who twice fail the Ph. D. comprehensive examination will also be terminated from the graduate program.

10. Dissertation Work: From Prospectus to Dissertation

Dissertation Research

Dissertations are the product of a student's sustained research. Approval by the student's dissertation committee constitutes certification of the manuscript, the research described within the manuscript, and the student's qualifications to conduct publishable research projects independently. It is the student's primary responsibility to design the project or study, synthesize the material examined, analyze the data, and discuss the results. The student's adviser, committee members, and others support the student throughout the process.

Once students pass their comprehensive examination, they should enroll in COMM 9999 (Dissertation Research). Students must complete a minimum of twenty-one (21) credit hours of dissertation research; they will continue to receive a grade of "IP" (in progress) in COMM 9999 until the dissertation is completed.

To be authorized to register for COMM 9999, students must do the following:

1. Complete the Responsible Conduct of Research requirements (Ethics Seminar & CITI web-training)
2. Appoint their Comprehensive Exam Committee members and record them on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).
3. Successfully complete their comprehensive exam and record that completion through the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).
4. Appoint the members of their Dissertation Committee and record them on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).

Students must register for at least one (1) credit hour of dissertation research in each semester in which the student requires access to university facilities, equipment, resources, or faculty. The dissertation chair is listed as the instructor for the student's section of COMM 9999.

For students on graduate assistantship: once graduate assistants pass comprehensive exams, they will not be authorized to register for COMM 8780 and should register solely for COMM 9999 to meet their credit hour requirements.

Selecting a Dissertation Chair

Students should identify a tenure track graduate faculty member (list at the end of this document) who is willing and able to serve as the Dissertation Adviser (sometimes referred to as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee). The Dissertation Adviser must be knowledgeable about the student's area of research. The student will nominate the adviser, subject to the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair.

Selecting a Dissertation Committee

After selecting a Dissertation Chair, the student should work with the Dissertation Chair to nominate three (3) additional faculty members to serve on the dissertation committee (more are permitted, but not recommended). The Dissertation Committee must include two additional members of the Department of Communication graduate faculty and one member outside the department. The outside member must be a graduate faculty member from a research-based institution. All dissertation committee members must possess special expertise in the area of the student's proposed dissertation topic or research method.

Once selected, the student must record the information about their dissertation committee on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).

Making changes to the committee's composition after a successful prospectus defense is inadvisable, unless unusual circumstances dictate. All changes to committee composition are subject to approval by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair.

Developing the Prospectus

The first step of dissertation research is to develop a complete prospectus, which the student defends in an oral examination before the dissertation committee. A typical prospectus is between 20-30 double-spaced pages in length, plus bibliography and any appendices. Students develop their prospectus in consultation with their adviser and committee members. Although the form and length may vary depending on the type of project and the guidance provided by the adviser and committee members, most of these documents have the following common elements:

1. Title: concise and suggestive
2. Abstract: brief summary (fewer than 250 words) of the project's significance, research questions, and methodological approach
3. Research question/Hypothesis/Thesis Statement: identification of the problem or question the dissertation will seek to answer
4. Object(s) of study: a delineation of what primary text(s), artifacts, phenomena, etc. will be examined to answer the research question(s), including a justification of choice.
5. Literature review: critical discussion of relevant literature, situating the proposal within a current academic debate and/or detailing a scholarly significant gap in the literature.
6. Methodological/theoretical frameworks: justification of the approach to pursuing the thesis or research question(s). This includes an explanation of how the project engages the existing academic debate and describes the procedures, theories, and strategies for data collection and analysis, and/or a selection of participants that will ensure the completion of the project (including any and all permissions from the GSU Research Services and Administration office if necessary).
7. Contribution to the field: description of the project's significance to the field of communication (and any cognate fields of inquiry).

8. Chapter outline: summary of steps that each chapter will make toward answering the research question(s) and/or supporting the thesis.
9. Conclusion: summary of the nature, scope, and rationale for the project
10. Bibliography: a comprehensive bibliography that includes all cited references.

Defending the Prospectus

At least two (2) weeks after the student presents the committee with a prospectus acceptable to the dissertation adviser, the student must set up an oral defense meeting at a time agreeable to all committee members. The student is responsible for arranging a room (or video call) and communicating all details with committee members.

All committee members should attend. If one committee member cannot attend, the defense can move forward with a minimum of three (3) members. At this meeting, the student will answer questions from the committee about the prospectus and receive recommendations for any revisions required by committee members. The committee may choose to either: a) pass the prospectus; b) pass the prospectus with specified conditions; c) not pass the prospectus. If the prospectus does not pass the defense, the student must revise the prospectus and defend the revised prospectus.

If the student passes the prospectus defense, the student will then submit the information on the milestones page indicating a successful defense (<https://cas.gsu.edu/non-course-milestones/>).

Advancing to Candidacy

For a student to be advanced to candidacy, the student must have passed the comprehensive examination and must have successfully defended a dissertation prospectus.

Application to Graduate

Students must apply for graduation two (2) semesters in advance of their expected date of graduation. Complete the application form by logging into [PAWS](#). To access the Graduation Application, select the Enrollment tab. The Application for Graduation link is located under the Updates/Requests Student Record section of the page. Once the link is selected, step-by-step instructions will be provided regarding the application process. Submit the form online with the graduation fee. The graduation fee is \$50 for all graduate and undergraduate students. Students must apply for each degree/major earned and pay a separate fee. The fee covers the cost of printing, packaging and mailing your diploma.

Any questions regarding the process of applying to graduate may be addressed to the university's Graduation Office at 404-413-5040.

Upon application for graduation, students are added to the Office of Graduate Services' internal graduation list for the applied semester. All students on this graduation list will be emailed all applicable graduation deadlines and invited to join events to walk through the process and ask any questions regarding their final semester. While all of these deadlines will be communicated over

email to students on the graduation list, it is extremely important for all graduating students to remain fully aware of the [graduation deadlines](#) during their final semester..

As degree completion nears, students should consult the College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Services website <https://cas.gsu.edu/graduate-services/student-resources/#graduation> (Graduation - CAS) and be cognizant of all relevant deadlines, including:

- Final Deadline to Submit Non-Course Milestone Forms
- Initial Deadline to Submit Dissertation for Format Review
- Final Deadline to Submit Embargo Request
- Recommended Deadline for Doctoral Dissertation Defense
- Final Deadline to Submit Doctoral Dissertation Approval
- Final Deadline to Upload Doctoral Dissertation to ScholarWorks

If a student cannot finish by the semester originally specified, it is the student's responsibility to submit a [Graduation Change Request](#). Once a student has applied to graduate, the student's records will be continuously audited for completion by the Office of Graduate Studies. It is the student's responsibility to discuss any discrepancies with the communication department's Director of Graduate Studies.

Time Limits and Completion-Term Enrollment Requirement

Students have ten (10) years to complete the degree; all students must be enrolled for at least one (1) credit hour in the term in which they complete the requirements for their degree.

Formatting the Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation must be formatted according to the College of Arts and Sciences guidelines and submitted for review by the posted deadlines during your graduating semester.

Submission deadlines can be found on the [Graduation Calendar and Deadlines page](#) of the Office of Graduate Services. By the format review deadlines, students must submit a single, complete draft of their manuscript within the mandatory template [provided by the Office of Graduate Services](#). A complete draft includes the following:

- All preliminary pages, fully completed
- A complete table of contents and list of tables, figures, and abbreviation where applicable
- Captions for all tables and figures
- All major headings, section headings, and subsection headings
- At least one or two paragraphs of text beneath every heading
- A draft version of your references and/or works cited pages

Submission of the manuscript for format review is made through iCollege. Students will be added to the CAS Thesis & Dissertation Formatting module in iCollege at the beginning of their final

semester. All application information and guidelines for this entire process can be found within that module.

Defending the Dissertation

A student must circulate their completed dissertation to the committee at least two weeks prior to the oral presentation and defense date. The presentation must be at a mutually agreeable time and should be scheduled no later than the midpoint of the semester the student expects to graduate. All members of the dissertation committee must attend. A conference audio or video call is acceptable if all committee members agree.

At the meeting, the student will present and defend the research project. At the conclusion of the defense, the committee will deliberate in closed session. If more than one member of the committee does not recommend that the dissertation be accepted, then the dissertation will not be accepted as a fulfillment of the degree requirements. If the dissertation is accepted, the student must document their successful defense with the Office of Graduate Services by completing the [Final Project Form - Doctoral Dissertation Approval](#).

A student who fails a dissertation defense will be allowed to attempt a second dissertation defense, with a significantly revised dissertation. The student who has failed an initial dissertation defense will be provided with detailed comments for revision by the committee chair, as gathered from the members of the dissertation committee. The student may, if the chair is amenable, decide also to confer directly with members of the committee for specific comments and feedback on the shortcomings of the work presented. When the committee chair believes the dissertation revision is sufficient to warrant a second defense, such a defense will be scheduled according to the protocols above. If more than one committee member judges the dissertation as failing in the second defense, then the student cannot continue and will be terminated from the program.

Recording A Successful Defense

If the dissertation is accepted, the student must document their successful defense with the Office of Graduate Services to ensure the requirement is marked as complete on their student record. To do so, the [Final Project Form - Doctoral Dissertation Approval](#) must be submitted on the Graduate Services Milestones page. This form requires a fillable PDF completed with all of the electronic signatures of the Dissertation Committee members and the Department Chair. See the above link for more information.

The Final Project form is required for graduation. Once submitted, the College Advisor in the Office of Graduate Services will review the fillable PDF to ensure all signatures are included. In addition to that, the College Advisor will ensure the student has completed all of their coursework, has submitted all of their milestones, and has obtained final formatting approval. Once each of those requirements is verified, the College Advisor will send an email with instructions on uploading the manuscript to ScholarWorks, along with information regarding the option to embargo, as well as the link to the required Survey of Earned Doctorates.

Embargoing the Dissertation & Uploading to ScholarWorks

Following the successful submission of the Final Project form, the College Advisor will send an email with instructions on uploading the manuscript to ScholarWorks, along with information regarding the option to embargo, as well as the link to the required Survey of Earned Doctorates.

Each student's dissertation manuscript will be uploaded to the university's ScholarWorks database. By default, any thesis or dissertation that is uploaded to the ScholarWorks database is made publicly available on the internet, immediately upon upload. However, in certain circumstances, a student may wish to delay or limit access to the document. The following examples describe scenarios in which students may want to consider limiting or restricting access to their document:

- The student's work is based on data generated through research that will support other publications from people on the research team and those data may need to be delayed in their release;
- There is a plan to apply for a patent based on research discussed in the thesis/dissertation;
- The thesis/dissertation contains data or material that was generated pursuant to a grant or contract and the thesis/dissertation is subject to review by the sponsor or grantor prior to publication;
- The student plans to publish all or part of the document and knows that the publishers in the relevant field consider open access theses/dissertations to be a prior publication.

Embargoing Requirements: Students who wish to delay or limit access to their dissertation can choose from one of two options.

1. Closed dissertation – makes the document immediately available but limited to the Georgia State community. This option is a permanent restriction unless the student later requests to release the restriction.
2. Complete embargo of the document – makes the document unavailable for download to anyone. The complete embargo is time-limited, with options for six months, one year, and two years. Once the time limit is reached, the document is automatically released, unless the student submits a request for an extension.

If you wish to restrict access to your dissertation using one of the embargo options described above, you will need to submit an embargo request form before uploading your dissertation to the Scholarworks ETD. The Office of Graduate Services will ensure that the request also has the support of your program's graduate director, as well as the college's Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs.

The dissertation defense will not be marked as complete on any student's record until their manuscript has been successfully uploaded to ScholarWorks.

Graduation

Students must complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates, per federal requirements. The link to this survey will be included in the ScholarWorks upload instructions email sent out by the College Advisor. This Survey can also be found on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestones page](#). When completed, please attach your certificate of completion to the [College of Arts and Sciences Exit Survey](#).

The Graduation Office (in conjunction with the Office of Graduate Services) will audit each student's [Degree Works evaluation](#) to clear them for graduation. All requirements must be reflected as completed (or labeled as in-progress to be complete at the end of the semester).

Every successful Ph.D. graduate from the Department of Communication should take the opportunity to be hooded by his or her dissertation chair at the College of Arts and Sciences Recognition Celebrations! Talk with your dissertation chair about commencement plans to prepare in advance. Refer to GSU's commencement page for instructions on the celebration: <https://commencement.gsu.edu/>

11. A Four-Year Plan

First-year Checklist

June - August prior to fall semester:

- Complete all steps identified in the “BEFORE YOU BEGIN” section on the [Graduate Student Journey](#).
- Check your GSU student email address regularly throughout the summer. Graduate Teaching Assistants must also check their employee email accounts (@gsu.edu address).
- Register for first semester courses.
- Graduate Teaching Assistants should sign and return their assistantship contracts to commgraddirector@gsu.edu.
- Attend departmental Graduate Student Orientation and Required Ethics Seminar.

If you are a graduate assistant for the department, you also must:

- Meet with your research supervisor prior to the first day of departmental orientation. Discuss your duties, responsibilities, supervisor expectations, and establish a work schedule and regular communication plan.
- Attend the teaching orientation and meet your teaching supervisor. Establish clarity about responsibilities, expectations, and a regular communication plan.
- Obtain a course syllabus and textbook if applicable; find your assigned classroom; obtain classroom keys from Key Control (at 15 Edgewood Avenue SE). Be sure to bring to Key Control your PantherCard and proof that you are the course instructor (such as a PAWS screenshot).
- Obtain access to course on iCollege; Consult [Fair Use Checklist](#) when placing materials on reserve for the course

Late August to mid-June of Year 1:

- Maintain good standing and active status
- Orient to graduate study and the field
- Meet with the Graduate Director at least once during the semester; this is your temporary adviser until you choose a permanent one.
- Submit at least one paper for presentation at an academic conference such as the National Communication Association conference or the International Communication Association conference.
- Choose a Plan of Study Primary Adviser by the end of year 1.
- Form a PhD Plan of Study Advisory Committee in consultation with your Plan of Study Primary Advisor. Document your Plan of Study Committee on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).

- Meet with your Plan of Study Committee and develop your plan of study by the end of your first year. Submit your Plan of Study on the [COMM Graduate Forms & Policies page](#).
- Submit transfer credits by the end of the first year.
- Submit CITI web training completion certificate by end of year.
- Attend end of year evaluation meeting with Chair and Graduate Director

Second-year Checklist

- Submit Responsible Conduct of Research [CITI web training](#) score if not already submitted
- Attend Responsible Conduct of Research ethics seminar if unable to attend the prior year
- Maintain good standing and active student status
- Graduate assistants: maintain the minimum required registration for 12 credit hours
- Meet at least once with Plan of Study Committee; stay in contact with adviser
- Monitor your DegreeWorks evaluation; record milestones
- Submit one or more papers to a conference in your area of research

Third-year Checklist

- Maintain good standing and active student status
- Graduate assistants: maintain the minimum required registration for 12 credit hours (9 hours in summer)
- Submit your work for publication in an academic journal or edited scholarly book
- Present one or more conference papers
- Monitor your academic evaluation in [Degree Works](#) each semester and ensure you are recording any milestones through the [College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Services Milestone page](#).
- Meet with your PhD Advisory (Plan of Study) Committee to prepare comprehensive exam areas and bibliographies
- Appoint the members of your Comprehensive Exam Committee and record them on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).
- Finish coursework
- Prepare for and complete comprehensive exams. This includes registering for COMM 8800 (Comprehensive Exam Research); creating topical bibliographies; scheduling, completing, and passing comprehensive exams; and submitting the required Milestone form
- Appoint the members of your Dissertation Committee immediately following comprehensive exams and record them on the [Office of Graduate Services Milestone form](#).
- Write the prospectus
- Successfully defend the prospectus and record the completion via the [Office of Graduate Services Milestones page](#).

Fourth and Final Year Checklist

- Maintain good standing and active student status
- Graduate assistants: maintain the minimum required registration for credit hours
- Register for dissertation hours COMM 9999 (*Dissertation Research*) each semester you require university resources
- Monitor your academic evaluation in [Degree Works](#) each semester and record any milestones through the College of Arts & Sciences [Graduate Services Milestone page](#).
- Maintain regular contact with dissertation advisor, checking in on progress
- Apply to graduate two (2) semesters prior to graduation and meet the filing deadlines
- Register for at least one (1) credit hour in the semester you intend to graduate
- Format your dissertation according to CAS requirements (easiest if you do it as you write).
- Defend your dissertation
- Recording a successful defense
- Embargoing the dissertation (optional) & uploading to ScholarWorks
- Complete survey of earned doctorates
- Attend commencement ceremony and get hooded (not mandatory but encouraged)

GRADUATE FACULTY

Only Tenure Track faculty may serve as your Committee Chair / Advisor (i.e. Assistant, Associate, or Full Professors). Please confirm a faculty member's eligibility to serve as your Chair with the Graduate Director or Department Chair. Committees may be comprised of up to one Lecturer.

Atkinson, Jaye L. (Ph.D., University of Kansas, 1996). **Associate Professor.** Areas of research include interpersonal communication, age stereotypes, patronizing speech, communicating age, media portrayals of older adults, and intersections of age, race/ethnicity, health and communication. Methodology: quantitative and qualitative

Barouch, Timothy (J.D. Northwestern University, 1999; Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2014). **Associate Professor.** Areas of research include public argument, rhetorical studies, legal communication. Methodology: critical/rhetorical analysis

Barthlow, Douglas (Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1993). **Principal Senior Lecturer.** Areas of research include telecommunications, television and radio news production, and sports journalism.

Bellon, Joe (Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1999). **Principal Senior Lecturer.** Areas of research include communication pedagogy, debate practice and pedagogy, public argumentation, political campaign communication, popular culture, extremist discourse.

Cheshier, David (Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1996). **Associate Professor.** Areas of research include rhetorical theory and criticism, argumentation and public deliberation, contemporary social theory, especially as relating to populism, affect, and the creative industries. Methodology: rhetorical and argumentation analysis

Duong, Hue (Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2020). **Assistant Professor.** Areas of research include advancing the understanding of how social norms are formed and, in turn influence health behaviors; examining the influence of interpersonal and mass communication on health and development issues and researching strategic communication in organizations to leverage healthy social changes. Methodology: quantitative (experiment and survey) and qualitative (in-depth interview and focus group)

Freeman, Carrie P. (Ph.D., University of Oregon, 2008). **Professor.** Areas of research include media ethics and social values, social movement advocacy strategies, and media representations of environmental and animal rights issues. Methodology: critical/cultural studies, qualitative

Hoffner, Cynthia (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1988). **Professor.** Areas of research include media effects / media psychology, media and mental health, and emotional responses to media. Methodology: quantitative, social science

James, Kesha (Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2022). **Assistant Professor.** Areas of research include rhetorical studies, feminist and gender studies, and historical and contemporary visual media, with an emphasis on 21st century Black popular culture that critiques modes of whiteness. Methodology: rhetorical criticism, archival research

Lemieux, Anthony (Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 2006). **Professor.** Areas of research include the social psychology of extremism; health communication; music, identity, and influence; intergroup relations; and research methods. Methodology: experimental, survey, mixed methods; interdisciplinary; augmented/virtual reality

Ramzy, Rasha (Ph.D., Georgia State University, 2006). **Principal Senior Lecturer.** Areas of research include pedagogy, communication and diversity, intercultural communication, identity, and representation.

Repnikova, Maria (Ph.D., University of Oxford, 2014). **Associate Professor.** Areas of research include global communication, international media, media and politics in China and Russia. Methodology: qualitative, ethnography, discourse analysis, elite interviewing

Romski, Mary Ann (Ph.D., University of Kansas, 1981). **Regents Professor.** Areas of research include disability policy, portrayal of disability in the media, intellectual and developmental disabilities, child communication acquisition and disorders, augmentative communication and mobile health applications. Methodology: quantitative and qualitative

Wade, Patrick Walter (Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2013). **Assistant Professor.** Areas of research include rhetorical studies, historical and contemporary visual media, and 20th century photojournalism depicting war and conflict. Methodology: rhetorical criticism, archival research

Walter, Dror (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 2018). **Assistant Professor.** Areas of research include intersection between classic media effects theories, and novel computational social sciences methods. Methodology: machine learning, network analysis, quantitative, mixed methods

Whitney, Carrie (Ph.D., Georgia State University, 2016). **Lecturer.** Areas of research include public relations, media history, media ethics, and social media.

Wilkin, Holley (Ph.D., University of Southern California, 2005). **Associate Professor.** Areas of research include health communication, community-based intervention research, communication campaigns, and media effects. Methodology: quantitative and qualitative

Williams, Ann (Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2008). **Associate Professor.** Areas of research include digital and social media, political communication, public opinion and electoral behavior, media institutions and effects, and mass communication research methods. Methodology: quantitative

Winkler, Carol K. (Ph.D., University of Maryland, 1987). **Professor.** Areas of research include presidential rhetoric, political debates, terrorism rhetoric, and visual communication. Methodology: rhetorical analysis, content analysis.

Yao, Shay (Ph.D., Michigan State University, 2022). **Assistant Professor.** Areas of research include media psychology and media effects with specific focuses on race, gender, and health. Methodology: quantitative, statistics, mixed methods.
