MEDIA, ART, AND TEXT, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) [COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES]

Program goal

VCU's interdisciplinary doctoral program in media, art, and text is a joint endeavor of the Department of English, the School of the Arts and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. The program prepares students primarily to teach at the college or university level, although some pursue careers in related media fields. MATX emphasizes the historical and theoretical foundations essential to the scholarly study of media, both old and new, broadly defined. It provides an intellectually stimulating environment that encourages students to work both collaboratively and independently, as well as across and between disciplines and media. Students maintain a base in their primary area of research, which is usually but not always the field in which they have done prior graduate work.

Student learning outcomes

1. Develop advanced communication skills in writing, speaking and the use of multimedia
2. Demonstrate broad knowledge of history and theory as the foundation for interdisciplinary work in a specialized facet of media, art, and/or text
3. Develop competence in interdisciplinary and disciplinary research methods and responsible conduct of research
4. Develop specialized knowledge in relevant fields to support dissertation and subsequent research
5. Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research and produce new, specialized knowledge within the broad parameters of media, art, and text
6. Develop a strong basis for ongoing professional practice

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Other information

The MATX student handbook (http://www.matx.vcu.edu/program/handbook/) is available online.

Apply online today. (https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/)

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-requirements/), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must hold a master’s degree (M.A., M.F.A., M.S.) in a relevant field.
2. Applicants must submit the following, in the formats indicated via VCU’s online application portal:
   a. Writing sample demonstrating the ability to write clearly, analyze effectively and conduct original research in advanced doctoral-level seminars – This may be a master’s thesis, a graduate-level seminar paper or a published essay. Submit as a PDF.
   b. Statement of purpose describing the applicant’s interest, motivation and goals in pursuing this degree – The statement should specifically address the importance of interdisciplinarity to the applicant’s academic goals, and it should also offer evidence of preparation for the study of media, art, and text. The applicant should indicate the specific area of study and research to be pursued at VCU and identify faculty who might potentially direct dissertation research. Submit as a PDF.
focus on the history, theory or practice of media, art, and text. Independent study and internships are also available as electives. While enrollment in courses with the MATX prefix is guaranteed to matriculated MATX students, enrollment in other graduate courses is subject to the conditions established by individual units. Together the core and the electives support the interdisciplinary work of the dissertation, which is an original scholarly examination of some aspect of media, art, and/or text. It may include work in media other than text. It is supervised by a committee consisting of four or five members drawn from disciplines relevant to the research topic.

2. Grade requirements: To graduate, degree applicants must achieve an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation will be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

3. Requirements for admission to candidacy: Before beginning formal dissertation research, students must complete all 36 hours of required course work, both stages of the e-portfolio and the requirements described below. Upon completion of these, the student will apply for degree candidacy.

4. Dissertation committee: The dissertation committee consists of the director (who must hold a Ph.D.) and three or four additional members whose scholarly knowledge and interests are relevant to the project. The committee must have members from at least two of the sponsoring units (Department of English, School of the Arts, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture). At least three members of the committee, including the chair, must be full members of the graduate faculty. The committee may also include faculty from other relevant programs and departments in the College of Humanities and Sciences, including but not limited to African American Studies, History, Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, and Sociology, as well as the Science, Technology and Society Program. Appropriate faculty from outside VCU may serve on committees (but not as director) with the approval of the MATX director and the graduate dean. It is the student’s responsibility to assemble the committee, in consultation with the dissertation director. Committees will not be appointed by the program.

5. E-portfolio: Work on the e-portfolio will begin in MATX 604 in the spring of the first year. There are no technical specifications, and content will include, but is not limited to, work done in the first two years in the program. It will take the form of a website and must demonstrate the technical skills (Web design, audio, video, etc.) relevant to the student’s work on the dissertation and the career sought after VCU. Submission is a two-stage process:

   a. Stage 1 (August of the second year): a three- to five-page design rationale for the portfolio site along with a mock-up or rough structure
   b. Stage 2 (April of the second year): a finished, live site accompanied by a five-page statement relating it to the student’s work inside and outside the program and outlining how it uses media techniques to promote a specific professional and/or creative identity (Note: Each submission is graded pass/fail and may be repeated once. A second failure results in automatic termination from the program.)

6. Competency: Candidates must demonstrate competency in a skill or technique relevant to the dissertation research or planned professional career. The dissertation committee approves and administers the competency portion. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.

7. Bibliography exam: Candidates will complete an exam on a reading list of 20 to 30 sources relevant to or supportive of the dissertation.
topic. The dissertation committee approves and administers the bibliography exam. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.

8. Dissertation prospectus and prospectus defense: The prospectus is a 15- to 20-page document that indicates the significance of the proposed research, gives a short review of relevant literature, states the research question, specifies the proposed methodology and indicates how the project lays the foundation for the anticipated academic or professional career. It also includes a work plan for the completion of research and writing, as well as a complete bibliography. The prospectus is defended orally before the dissertation committee, which may accept, reject or require revisions. The defense may be repeated once.

9. Dissertation and dissertation defense: The dissertation is an original, interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of a topic relevant to an aspect of media, art, and/or text. It may include work in media other than text. Given the varied nature of doctoral research, there is no set time frame for completion of a dissertation. It is expected, however, that the dissertation will take about two years after attaining candidacy, but it must be defended within the eight-year time limit for completion of the doctoral degree. The dissertation will be defended orally before the dissertation committee. Successful defense of the dissertation completes the requirements for the degree.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATX 601</td>
<td>Texts and Textuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 602</td>
<td>History of Media, Art, and Text</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 603</td>
<td>Mass Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 604</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Workshop</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 897</td>
<td>Dissertation Project</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one methods course from List 1 below after consultation with the dissertation committee chair or the MATX director.</td>
<td>3</td>
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Select elective courses from List 2 below for a total of 21 hours:

List 1: Methods courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 690</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 611</td>
<td>Communication Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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List 2: Recommended electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 690</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 42.

Graduate program director

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Program website: matx.vcu.edu (http://matx.vcu.edu/)