

# MASS COMMUNICATIONS, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM

## Program goals

The Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture prepares effective and skilled communicators through quality instruction, advising and student services, based on real-world applications. Through research, professional service and scholarship in applied communications, the school advances the knowledge and practice of a multidisciplinary and evolving media environment. The school values truth, ethics, creativity, innovation, collaboration, cultural diversity, shared governance and community engagement.

The M.S. in Mass Communications with a concentration in multimedia journalism is designed to prepare students to work in a highly competitive and multiple-platform (print, broadcast, online/digital) news environment. The program is for recent graduates who have an undergraduate degree in journalism or a related field, or for more experienced journalists who want to upgrade their professional skills. All courses are offered online.

## Student learning outcomes

### SLO1: Higher level skills

Students graduating from this program will demonstrate higher level skills in critical thinking.

### SLO2: Clear and effective communication

Students graduating from this program will master written and multimedia platforms to communicate clearly and effectively to inform and engage audiences.

### SLO3: Research and evaluation

Students graduating from this program will demonstrate the ability to conduct foundational research applicable to mass communication.

### SLO4: Tools and technologies

Students graduating from this program will be able to apply tools and technologies required for mass communication workplaces.

### SLO5: Journalism skills

Students specializing in this sequence will demonstrate journalism skills, including news judgment, ethics, information gathering and reporting across multiple platforms, that show they are capable of producing publishable work.

## 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 (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) 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. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

## 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.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

**Visit the academic regulations section** for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/>)

## 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.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

**Visit the academic regulations section** for additional information on graduation requirements. (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

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

## Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.S.	Summer	Mar 15	

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

1. An undergraduate degree in a relevant field or a degree in a non-related field with extensive relevant work experience
2. A detailed resume/CV showing work and/or educational experience in the relevant field

3. An application kit (see program website for details)

## Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), students are required to complete 30 credits of core courses.

Credit hour requirements: This degree requires 30 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate, all of which are in the journalism or broader mass communication discipline. Students in this program learn the theory and practice of journalism and can further specialize through practical projects and stories in any number of “beat” areas. For example, students can focus on coverage of health or the environment or concentrate on learning about international media coverage. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

## Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Core requirements</b>		
MASC 611	Communication Research	3
MASC 645	Digital Production	3
MASC 675	Leadership in Action	3
MASC 676	Media Law and Ethics	3
MASC 691	Topics in Mass Communications	3
MASC 694	Capstone	3
<b>Concentration requirements</b>		
MASC 643	Digital Management and Analytics	3
MASC 644	Computational Journalism	3
MASC 684	Multimedia Storytelling	3
MASC 686	International Journalism	3
Total Hours		30

**The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 30.**

### Contact

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**Program website:** [robertson.vcu.edu](http://robertson.vcu.edu) (<http://www.Robertson.vcu.edu>)