Journalism and Mass Communication, PhD

Whether you are a media professional seeking a career change or a recent graduate of a master's program, this program can help you become a thought leader or educator in the fields of media, strategic communication, and global mass communication.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Journalism and Mass Communication
The PhD program at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication is a highly individualized program that attracts seasoned media professionals transitioning to academia as well as recent graduates of master's degree-level journalism and communication and other related programs.

Students have access to the resources, training and mentorship they need to answer critical questions that challenge the fields of journalism, digital and social media, strategic communication and audience studies, and global mass communication.

The program is designed around core values of inclusion, collaboration and mentoring, transdisciplinarity, and original research.

Students are able to develop individual programs of study, taking coursework and drawing on knowledge and methodologies from diverse fields that have a bearing on questions within mass communication. Examples include political science, film, computer and data sciences, sociology, anthropology and more.

At home in the Cronkite School, students work closely with faculty mentors and fellow students on collaborative projects as well as developing their own research program, and benefit from the advice and example of senior scholars for personalized guidance.

The ultimate goal of the program is to train scholars capable of identifying key questions, designing appropriate studies to investigate those questions, and conducting independent and impactful research. Students are exposed to a wide range of theories and methods so they can forge their own scholarly identity based on interests and aptitudes.
The Cronkite School is committed to creating an environment in which everyone feels they are represented, their experience is equitable, they are fully accepted for who they are, and that they are valued. The school strives daily to be a welcoming place for all members of the community, where the importance and contribution of each individual is valued and respected.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Comm](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix campus](#) or [Online](#)

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (18 credit hours)**

**Electives (18 credit hours)**

**Other Requirements (24 credit hours)**

previous master's degree or additional hours approved by the supervisory committee (24)

**Research (12 credit hours)**

**Dissertation (12 credit hours)**

Additional Curriculum Information

Students should see the academic unit for an approved course list.

Students entering the program with a master's degree in journalism or mass communication, or a related field must complete 60 credit hours of coursework. Students who are admitted to the program without a master's degree are required to complete an additional 24 credit hours of coursework.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.
Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. three letters of recommendation
4. personal statement of interest
5. statement of research goals
6. resume
7. samples of scholarly work (optional)
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. TOEFL scores must be at least 600 on the paper-based examination and 100 on the internet-based; a Duolingo score must be at least 120.

The personal statement of interest should be approximately 1,000-1,500 words and explain why the student wants to pursue a PhD in mass communication as well as why the Cronkite School program fits their career and personal aims.

The statement of research goals should indicate at least two Cronkite research faculty members with whom the student would like to work, supported by relevant citations of the faculty members' scholarly publications.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms. Applicants must meet all deadlines and application requirements to be considered.

The Cronkite School's doctoral committee reviews complete applications. Recommendations for admission are made to Graduate Admission Services, where the final admission decisions are made.

Application Deadlines

Fall

expand

Career Opportunities
Graduates with a doctorate in journalism and mass communication are prepared for any of a number of career opportunities.
Professionals with expertise in mass media and communications are in high demand as universities and institutions train the next generation of media professionals. Career examples include:

- communications professor
- journalism professor
- researcher
- social sciences professor

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines