

# Master of Arts - Journalism & Media Studies

## Plan Description

The Hank Greenspun School of Journalism & Media Studies offers a graduate program of study leading to a Master of Arts degree. Courses of study are designed both for students with a career orientation - in such diverse arenas as human resources, politics, advertising, education, public relations, broadcasting, and social services - and for those who aspire to continue their education in doctoral programs.

All students are required to take four introductory courses: survey of graduate studies, quantitative analysis, qualitative research methods, and theory. Yet because each student's goals are unique, the curriculum allows flexibility in developing individual degree programs. Such development aims to balance the discipline's varied traditions in theoretical, historical, and applied research, with particular attention to the changing culture of the twenty-first century.

For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

## Plan Admission Requirements

### Application deadlines

Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website.

The master's degree program is designed to meet the student's professional and/or personal objectives. Although an undergraduate degree in journalism, broadcasting, media studies, or communication is not required for admission to the program, a student without a background in these related fields may be required to complete additional course work at the graduate or undergraduate level in order to satisfy minimum expectations of someone entering a graduate course of study.

The Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies admits graduate students only in the fall semester.

Please access the application deadlines page for details regarding review of applications. For additional information, check the school's website.

Students should send application and college transcripts to the Graduate College, containing:

1. A copy of your undergraduate transcripts (you must have a GPA of at least 3.00 in the last 90 credits of undergraduate course work).
2. Satisfactory scores on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
3. At least three letters of recommendation from people who are able to attest to the applicant's ability to do graduate-level work. At least one of these letters should come from a former or current professor or college-level instructor.

4. A letter of intent detailing the applicant's goals and expectations as a graduate student in journalism and media studies.
5. A writing sample such as a college course term paper.

All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

## Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below.

Subplan 1 Requirements: Journalism & Media Studies - Thesis Track

Subplan 2 Requirements: Journalism & Media Studies - Professional Paper Track

Subplan 3 Requirements: Strategic Digital and Social Media Track

## Subplan 1 Requirements: Journalism & Media Studies - Thesis Track

Total Credits Required: 30

## Course Requirements

### Required Courses – Credits: 9

JMS 710 Graduate Journalism and Media Studies: Overview, resources, and communicating research	3
JMS 712 Quantitative Research Methods	3
JMS 730 Journalism and Media Theory	3

### Qualitative Methods Course - Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of graduate-level coursework in qualitative methods - coursework from outside the department of Journalism and Media Studies (JMS) - must have the approval of the graduate coordinator.

## Journalism & Media Studies Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits in JMS or other advisor-approved courses.

## Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of advisor-approved 600- or 700-level elective coursework.

## Thesis – Credits: 6

JMS 798 Thesis

1-6

## Degree Requirements

Students may elect to present their theses content in traditional or non-traditional formats.

The non-traditional thesis must be consistent with the overall objectives of the program and be approved by the student's thesis committee. Their content may be written or take the form of a documentary, drama, public relations campaign, film, video, exhibit, script, website, or any combination approved by the student's thesis committee. In addition, a written research component that follows department and Graduate College formatting guidelines is required.

Regardless of the option selected, the entire thesis must be approved by the Graduate College for electronic and university library access purposes. An oral examination of the thesis is required.

The Graduate Coordinator is the temporary advisor for all new, incoming graduate students. Before completing 16 credits, the student selects a permanent advisor who mentors the student through the remainder of the program and guides them in the thesis or examination process.

Students are responsible for determining a program of study with their advisor or Graduate Coordinator.

A passing grade in any graduate-level course is B- or better. Any course grade of C+ or lower will not be included in the student's degree program. All grades, pass or fail, are calculated to produce the student's GPA. Students can repeat a course to try to better a grade. To graduate, the master's student must have a GPA of 3.00 or higher in their accumulated course work.

A student who fails the oral examination for the comprehensive examination is allowed to reschedule the oral examination no sooner than three months after the first attempt. Student will be placed on probation. Failure on the second attempt results in the student being separated from the program.

## Subplan 2 Requirements: Journalism & Media Studies - Professional Paper Track

Total Credits Required: 30

### Course Requirements

#### Required Courses – Credits: 9

Complete 9 credits by completing all of the following courses:

JMS 710 Graduate Journalism and Media Studies: Overview, resources, and communicating research	3
JMS 712 Quantitative Research Methods	3
JMS 730 Journalism and Media Theory	3

#### Qualitative Methods Course - Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of graduate-level coursework in qualitative methods - coursework from outside the department of Journalism and Media Studies (JMS) - must have the approval of the graduate coordinator.

#### Journalism & Media Studies Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits in JMS or other advisor-approved courses.

#### Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of advisor-approved 600- or 700-level elective coursework.

### Degree Requirements

The 30 credit Professional Paper option culminates in the development and presentation of a professional paper.

Completion of the degree requirements includes working with an advisor and committee according to the guides set forth by the Graduate College.

The Graduate Coordinator is the temporary advisor for all new, incoming graduate students. Before completing 16 credits, the student selects a permanent advisor who mentors the student

through the remainder of the program and guides them in the professional paper process.

Students are responsible for determining a program of study with their advisor or Graduate Coordinator.

A passing grade in any graduate-level course is B- or better. Any course grade of C+ or lower will not be included in the student's degree program. All grades, pass or fail, are calculated to produce the student's GPA. Students can repeat a course to try to better a grade. To graduate, the master's student must have a GPA of 3.00 or higher in their accumulated course work.

## Subplan 3 Requirements: Strategic Digital and Social Media Track

Total Credits Required: 30

### Course Requirements

#### Required Courses – Credits: 9

Complete 9 credits by completing all of the following courses:

JMS 710 Graduate Journalism and Media Studies: Overview, resources, and communicating research	3
JMS 712 Quantitative Research Methods	3
[After] JMS - 740 - Strategic Digital Storytelling	3

#### Qualitative Methods Course - Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits of graduate-level coursework in qualitative methods - coursework from outside the department of Journalism and Media Studies (JMS) - must have the approval of the graduate coordinator.

#### Journalism & Media Studies Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits in JMS or other advisor-approved courses.

#### Internship / Independent Study Courses - Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits from a combination of the following courses:

[Before] JMS 699 Professional Internship	3-6
JMS 795 Independent Study	1 – 4

## Degree Requirements

All requirements listed above must be completed successfully.

The Graduate Coordinator is the temporary advisor for all new, incoming graduate students. Before completing 16 credits, the student selects a permanent advisor who mentors the student through the remainder of the program.

Students are responsible for determining a program of study with their advisor or Graduate Coordinator.

Students must complete a critical review and analysis of the results of the internship experience in reference to the knowledge discussed throughout the program and their independent study, delivered to the grad coordinator in the form of a 20-25 page academic paper.

A passing grade in any graduate-level course is B- or better. Any course grade of C+ or lower will not be included in the student's degree program. All grades, pass or fail, are calculated to produce the student's GPA. Students can repeat a course to try to better a grade. To graduate, the master's student must have a GPA of 3.00 or higher in their accumulated course work.

## Plan Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College as well as apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.