

## **Institute of Communications Research Application for Advancement to Candidacy**

The Graduate College requires that each department or unit offering a doctoral program have a formal system of review and evaluation for enrolled students. The Institute of Communications Research meets that requirement in two ways. First, students must complete an annual Year End Review Form. Second, students must complete an Application for Advancement to Candidacy as outlined in the following document.

Applications for Advancement to Candidacy are reviewed by a faculty Program Evaluation Committee. The function of this committee is to verify that doctoral candidates' programs comply with general requirements of the Graduate College and the Institute of Communications Research, and also to insure that students obtain a broad understanding of the issues, problems, and research that constitute the field.

During the first year in the doctoral program, a student should select an adviser if possible. Otherwise the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) can act as de facto adviser. In consultation with the adviser, the student should devise a tentative program of study, which is to be submitted to the Program Evaluation Committee. The Committee will review the program and either approve it or recommend modifications.

Occasionally, a tentative program of study changes because of, for example, unavailability of courses. Any modifications of a program must be submitted to the Committee for review. The Committee's deliberations are facilitated if the student appends a short statement explaining why the changes are being made.

ICR students must submit and obtain approval of this Application for Advancement to Candidacy before they will be allowed to take their Preliminary Examinations.

Students are invited to consult the "Graduate College Handbook of Policy and Requirements for Students, Faculty and Staff" available on the Graduate College website (<https://grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook>).

**SECTION 1: OVERVIEW**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester and year in which you began Ph.D. course work: \_\_\_\_\_

Date if you submitted a Candidacy application previously:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATE WORK (IF ANY) BEFORE YOU ENTERED THE PH.D. PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA:**

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates in attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of thesis (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Whom have you selected as your adviser? If you have not yet formally selected one, who has been advising you since your admission to the Ph.D. program?

\_\_\_\_\_

In a few sentences, indicate the area of your proposed dissertation -- that is, its substance and content, not its title.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly describe your background reasons for pursuing a Ph.D. in communications and media, as well as your future goals once you complete your doctoral studies.

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**SECTION 2: PROPOSED PROGRAM OF STUDY**

To earn the Ph.D. in communications and media, you are required to a minimum of 48 credit hours of course work beyond the Master's degree (or 64 credit hours if you entered the ICR without a Master's degree). Of these 48 credit hours, 36 must be in the major field, and 12 must be in the minor field. There is no minimum required number of credits from courses with a "MDIA" number and title.



**In-Progress Courses**

Semester/Year	Course Number	Title	Professor	Credit Hours	Grade

**Planned Courses**

Semester/Year	Course Number	Title	Professor	Credit Hours	Grade

Briefly explain how these courses contribute to a body of knowledge appropriate to your major area of inquiry.

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**Minor Field of Interest**

What do you consider your minor field(s) of interest within the Ph.D. program?

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List at least 12 credit hours that you offer for the minor.

Completed Courses

Semester/Year	Course Number	Title	Professor	Credit Hours	Grade

In-Progress Courses

Semester/Year	Course Number	Title	Professor	Credit Hours	Grade

Planned Courses

Semester/Year	Course Number	Title	Professor	Credit Hours	Grade

Briefly explain how these courses contribute to a body of knowledge appropriate to your minor area(s) of inquiry.

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**Methodology Courses**

Included in the 64 credit hours of course work you listed must be at least 8 credit hours of research methodology; four must be quantitative methods, and another four must be qualitative methods. Provide the course numbers (e.g. MDIA 590) below for the courses you are proposing to satisfy this requirement.

Qualitative Methods:

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Quantitative Methods:

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Briefly explain how these courses provide the methodological expertise needed to conduct your dissertation research.

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**Overview Courses**

Provide the course numbers of the two overview courses that are part of your program.

Overview Course 1:

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Overview Course 2:

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**SECTION 4: ADVISER'S AUTHORIZATION**

Students petitioning for Advancement to Candidacy must have the student's adviser read and approve the petition. The petition therefore should be signed by the student's adviser and (if the adviser chooses) accompanied by comments. This means that a student should have selected and consulted with an adviser in preparing the petition (or with the DGS if the student has not yet selected an adviser).

Adviser signature:

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Adviser comments [optional]:

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Once signed, please submit your completed form to Theresa Harris (tharris@illinois.edu)