Program Description
The degree of Doctor of Philosophy degree in Communication at Regent University is awarded in recognition of high attainment in a specialized field of knowledge. Ph.D. students must pass the qualifying examination for the Ph.D. degree and present an acceptable dissertation within the field of communication study which presents the results of independent original research. The degree program’s emphasis is on preparation for competent professional or scholarly careers. The Ph.D. in Communication program enables students to conduct basic or applied research in all areas of study offered in the School. The strengths and research interests of current faculty determine original research projects. Students develop their coursework in consultation with their doctoral advisor. The program can be completed online with annual one-week residency periods.

Program Outcomes
Students pursuing the Ph.D. in Communication will focus their attention on becoming academic scholars and professional leaders in the field of communication study. Courses will engage the student in doctoral studies that include a range of topics, including study of how people process and understand mediated communication, global communication, interpersonal and organizational communication, evangelical media and persuasive messages. Students will learn and apply communication theories and various methodological approaches to various areas of interest through a Christian approach and perspective. Students will explore how strategic communication is formulated and assessed across global communication networks that are now available. The program is designed for students who have studied the humanities and arts at the masters’ degree level and who desire to advance that knowledge into doctoral studies.

Program Delivery
The PhD program in Communication is offered both by distance through our online Blackboard delivery system and on-campus through a combination of distance and face-to-face mentoring sessions formulated after the Oxford University teaching model.

Program Mission: Communication Scholars to Change the World. The doctoral program in communication prepares graduates for many different types of jobs, including full-time professorships at colleges and universities, academic leadership positions in academic institutions, executive directors of non-profit organizations, leaders in marketing and advertising firms and directors of research in media companies. The primary distinctive of this program of study as compared to similar college and university programs is our integration of Biblical principles with the scholarly study of communication and our Christian frame of reference. Following are the essential elements of the program.
A 44-52 credit-hour degree program that can be completed in up to seven years

A balanced approach to integrating knowledge, theory and communication research

A team-teaching model in which specified courses will have a Lead Professor who will collaborate with one or two additional faculty members or adjuncts in an effort to provide a comprehensive learning experience

A clearly defined set of scholarly skills that will be developed and refined during the program

Applied research and writing components in 90 percent of the classes

A unique culminating experience in which students complete a dissertation project within an area of communication study in which they can integrate their own Christian perspective.

Requirements for Ph.D. in Communication

All those pursuing the Ph.D. degree in communication must complete the following degree requirements:

1. The completion of all core courses and additional courses required by the student’s doctoral committee. While the number of hours is dependent on a student’s individually approved degree program developed in conjunction with his or her doctoral advisor, ordinarily no more than 52 credit hours and no less than 44 credit hours are required of an individual student.

2. COM 700 Introduction to Doctoral Studies in Communication, which is offered on campus and is taken the summer before the first full semester of doctoral coursework.

3. Completion of nine credit hours of doctoral research courses listed below. Students must take all three research courses and must demonstrate their research competence in the methodology they plan to use in their dissertation research.
   a. COM 701 Communication Research: Historical/Critical Methodologies
   b. COM 702 Communication Research: Qualitative Methodologies
   c. COM 703 Communication Research: Quantitative Methodologies
   d. COM 704 Communication Research: Applied Methods

4. Students who have not previously taken a graduate-level research methods course may, upon faculty review be required to take an appropriate remedial course. Completion of three additional mandatory doctoral courses listed below:
   a. COM 705 Advanced Communication Theory
   b. COM 708 History of Communication
   c. COM 709 Theology & Communication

5. Completion of at least 3 credit hours of graduate seminar coursework (COM 685/785). The maximum number of this type of course is dependent upon the student’s individual program.

6. Students must pass all sections of the two-day qualifying examination following the completion of their coursework. The first part examines the student’s knowledge of the whole field of communication and the ability to think in broad research terms. The second part of the qualifying examination covers the student’s major field of study.

6. Dissertation. A candidate for the Ph.D. degree must present an acceptable dissertation. The dissertation demonstrates that the candidate has technical competence in the field and has done research of an independent character. It must add to or modify what was previously known, or present a significant interpretation of the subject based upon original investigation and research.

Department Chair:
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