Our areas of research strength include:

- Critical and cultural studies
- Health and science communication
- History of media and media institutions
- International/development studies
- Journalism studies
- Sports and media
In 1943, the University of Iowa established the first doctoral program in mass communication. Today, it continues to engage graduate students and faculty in cutting-edge research. Our faculty play active roles in their professional associations and publish in top journals and with respected publishers. Graduate students edit and manage the Journal of Communication Inquiry, the only student-edited journal in our field—now in its 40th year of publication.

Our graduate students typically receive funding as teaching assistants. Students work with highly experienced instructors to gain practical training in courses that teach media skills and theory. The 2016-17 academic year stipend for a 20-hour assistantship was $18,809, plus a full tuition scholarship and 25% of mandatory fees.

Doctoral students are funded for four years; master's students are funded for one year. Graduate students are often eligible for additional years of funding as well. UI graduate research and teaching assistants are represented by a union, and enjoy a very competitive health and dental insurance plan.

Our doctoral and master's programs reflect Iowa's long-standing commitment to interdisciplinary inquiry. Graduate students take one required course and two electives within the School. All other courses in theory, methods and conceptual areas may be taken in or out of the School. Often, our graduate courses are offered in collaboration with the Department of Communication Studies.

In addition, graduate students attend PhD Seminar throughout their programs, where they will experience research presentations by faculty, visitors, and students from a range of perspectives.

In 2005, SJMC moved into its current home, the Adler Journalism Building, which offers well-designed labs, classrooms and graduate student office space. Student offices are shared by two or three students, providing an opportunity to study, read and write in a quiet space on campus.

Iowa City has been rated as the 3rd best city to live in America by Outdoor magazine and was rated the 3rd best college city in the nation by Forbes magazine. It has been designated a “City of Literature” by UNESCO - one of only 20 in the world.

We typically bring in three to six new graduate students each year. This size allows for close collaboration between students and faculty, as well as for small graduate class sizes. Doctoral students entering with a master's degree in our field typically finish in four years. Master's students typically complete in two years. We also host a graduate student association that plans events and workshops for our graduate student community.

Students entering our master's program have the option of either completing a thesis or taking qualifying exams. A successful outcome in either direction allows a student to continue on with doctoral studies.

For More Information
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