PLAN OF STUDY FOR STUDENTS ENTERING WITH
A MASTER’S DEGREE
Department of Communication Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Name _______________________________________________________________
Date of Entry into Ph.D. Program _________________________________________
Adviser______________________________________________________________

Summary

The plan of study
The Ph.D. Plan of Study refers to the course of a student’s overall graduate career. This document addresses the student’s career in two, related parts: Research and Teaching. The first part is intended to help students define primary research interests, identify appropriate coursework, and anticipate completion of qualifying exams and a dissertation. The second part is intended to help students correlate research with teaching interests with the aim of securing postdoctoral fellowships and/or university teaching positions.

Treat this as a working document. While it serves as a record of accomplishments, this document should be part of ongoing consultation with the student’s interim/doctoral adviser. It should revised and resubmitted annually (as part of the annual review process) to reflect students’ developing research interests and course of study. Students are encouraged simultaneously to maintain curriculum vitae and teaching portfolios.

The doctoral program in the Department of Communication Studies at UNC Chapel Hill is a question-driven program. It requires students to pursue excellence in core study and to build on core courses with integrative coursework based on an evolving primary research question that will ultimately define the dissertation. While working with this document, consider how each part relates to all others. Ideally, the primary research question—which should change and become more refined over time—will be reflected in every aspect

Basic requirements

Number of courses
Doctoral students with an M.A. must complete a minimum of 48 hours of coursework:
   4 core courses
      700: Introduction to Research and Theory in Communication Studies
      703a: Communication and the Social
      703b: Communication and Discourse
      703c: Communication and the Political
   2 professional development courses:
      702: Teaching in Communication Studies
      907: Research Practicum in Communication Studies
   10 research courses
Faculty
At least two research courses must be taught by faculty who are not home-based in the Department (although they may have adjunct appointments). In order to be exposed to a range of intellectual traditions, students must take courses (not including 700, 702 or 703) from at least 4 faculty in the Department whose teaching and research reflect different aspects of the discipline.

Additional course stipulations
Students should identify at least one course, to be listed among his/her research courses, in which he/she will develop appropriate methodological (archival, theoretical, interpretive, statistical, etc.) competence to pursue designated research question(s).

No more than 9 hours of independent study may count towards completion of required coursework.

600-level courses are considered bridge courses; they are open to graduate and undergraduate students. With the approval of their committees, doctoral students may take up to 9 hours of credit at the 600-level.

How to use this document
First: Identify a working research question. What do you want to know or find out?

Second: Break this question down into two primary lines of inquiry. What are two questions you need to pursue in order to answer the guiding research question? Each line of inquiry should reflect a central problematic or set of issues that a student must pursue in order to address the research question(s).

Third: Begin to identify courses that will help you to pursue those lines of inquiry. All courses should reflect a broad but integrative approach to each line of inquiry.

Fourth: Adjust your plan and anticipated schedule to include:
- Completion of core courses
- Achievement of methodological competence
- Achievement of language proficiency (per consultation with adviser)
- Optional minor/certifications
- Optional additional courses
- Completion a doctoral dissertation, including qualifying exams, dissertation proposal, and dissertation research hours
- Additional opportunities for professional development

A note on reading lists and qualifying exams
Two of the three reading lists for doctoral qualifying exams (to be developed by student in collaboration with his/her adviser and members of his/her doctoral committee) will be based on the designated lines of inquiry; the third (also to be developed in collaboration with the adviser and members of the doctoral committee) will ask the student in some way to locate his or her work in relation to the field of Communication Studies. See the Ph.D. Handbook for elaboration of the exam process.
YOUR PLAN
PART ONE: COURSEWORK AND DOCTORAL STUDY

I. Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comm 700</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm 703a</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm 703b</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm 703c</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Research Courses

A. Research Question(s) *(what specifically do you want to know, learn, discover?):*

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

B. Lines of Inquiry

1. First Line of Inquiry *(state as a question that directly reflects the primary research question):*

________________________________________________________________________

*Describe. What are the primary issues or sub-questions that define this line of research?*
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor/Dept</th>
<th>Semester taken</th>
<th>Relation to line of inquiry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td>______________</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td>______________</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td>______________</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>______________</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td>______________</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>______________</td>
<td>__________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Second Line of Inquiry** *(state as a question that directly reflects the primary research question)*:

________________________________________________________________________

Describe. What are the primary issues or sub-questions that define this line of research?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor/Dept.</th>
<th>Semester Taken</th>
<th>Relation to Line of Inquiry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.____________</td>
<td>_________________</td>
<td>________________</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.____________</td>
<td>_________________</td>
<td>________________</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.____________</td>
<td>_________________</td>
<td>________________</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.____________</td>
<td>_________________</td>
<td>________________</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**C. Methodological Competence** *(1 course required, cross-listed with research courses)*

*Which of the courses listed above will help you achieve the methodological competence necessary to pursue your dissertation research?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor/Dept.</th>
<th>Semester Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.____________</td>
<td>_________________</td>
<td>________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**III. Minor or Certifications**

*Unless otherwise stipulated by the program overseeing the minor or certification, courses may be cross-listed with the student’s required research courses.*

**Title of Minor or Certification Program**

________________________________________________________________________

**Program adviser (as applicable)** _______________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Instructor/Dept.</th>
<th>Semester Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Title of Minor or Certification Program

Program adviser (as applicable) ____________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Instructor/Dept</th>
<th>Semester Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Language Proficiency

Language ____________________________________________
Date exam passed ________________________________

V. Professional Development Activities (including for-credit courses and e.g. presentations in department and university colloquium; participation in research groups and professional development workshops or seminars; independent performance and media production; regional, national, international conference presentations)

1. 702
2. 907
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
VI. Dissertation
Dissertation topic__________________________________________________________

Working title______________________________________________________________

Doctoral adviser__________________________________________________________

Dissertation Committee (min. 5 members, including a majority from within the graduate 
faculty in the Department and 1 from outside the discipline)
1.________________________________________________________
2.________________________________________________________
3.________________________________________________________
4.________________________________________________________
5.________________________________________________________

Anticipated date for written qualifying exams________________________________
Anticipated date for submission of dissertation proposal_________________________
Anticipated date for oral defense of exams (within 6 weeks of exams)______________
Anticipated date for oral defense of dissertation proposal (may be the same as for the 
exams*)______________________________
Anticipated date for oral defense of dissertation________________________________

*Note: Students wishing to defend their exams and proposal at the same meeting must 
distribute the final proposal to all 5 (min.) doctoral committee members no less than 10 
days prior to the scheduled defense. All students should schedule a defense meeting prior 
to taking the exams.
PART TWO: CAREER GOALS AND YOUR TEACHING FOCUS

Students completing the PhD in Communication Studies at UNC typically pursue research and/or teaching/research positions. While the PhD program in Comm. at UNC emphasizes interdisciplinary, integrative research, we encourage students to reckon with a highly variable job market, one that includes positions that are sub- and supra-disciplinary and that emphasize teaching to greater and lesser degrees. Students should continually reflect on how coursework and research correlate to career goals and visions. This portion of the Plan of Study is intended to support ongoing reflection and revision.

1. Identify your preferred areas of teaching emphasis:
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. Explain how courses you have taken and taught reflect and support your teaching focus.
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. Identify particular courses you would like to teach upon completion of the PhD.
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. What additional courses are you prepared to teach?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
PLAN OF STUDY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

1. *Preliminary submission* date ___________ initial/date ___________ ___________ ___________
   student adviser DGS
   Total course hours at time of submission: ___________

2. *Revised submission* date ___________ initial/date ___________ ___________ ___________
   student adviser DGS
   Total course hours at time of submission: ___________

3. *Revised submission* date ___________ initial/date ___________ ___________ ___________
   student adviser DGS
   Total course hours at time of submission: ___________

4. *Revised submission* date ___________ initial/date ___________ ___________ ___________
   student adviser DGS
   Total course hours at time of submission: ___________