

Media & Communication: Advising Guide for Majors

To graduate with the MECM major you will take **10 courses** — **9** or more in the regular semesters and up to **2** in May Terms. As many as 7 of these may be cross-listed courses, but there are **3 mandatory MECM courses**, comprising foundations and the first part of the capstone. Overall, you take courses in **5 categories**:

Foundations MECM 101 & MECM 261	Practice & Production TWO COURSES <i>Chosen from regular offerings including Screenwriting, Fundamentals of Speech, Literary Journalism, Intro. to Graphic Design, etc.</i>	Theory TWO COURSES <i>Chosen from offerings such as Theories of Popular Culture, Intro. to Communication Theory, Film Feminisms, etc.</i>	Focus TWO COURSES <i>Any MECM or cross-listed courses not taken for credit in another category, including at least one approved internship, relating to your interests</i>	Capstone MECM 396 & 300/400 LEVEL CLASS <i>(selected from approved MECM/cross-listed courses, to further your goals)</i>
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Foundations

MECM 101 and 261 form a two-course sequence, which cumulatively furnish you with critical tools and writing/research skills, ideally spread over two years. You must take MECM 261 before senior year since it lays the groundwork for the capstone (and is therefore a prerequisite). Preferred scheduling is as follows:

101	261	396	Capstone
Any semester between Fall of Year 1 and Spring of Year 2	Any semester between Fall of Year 2 and Fall of Year 3	Spring of Year 3 (required)	Fall or Spring of Year 4

For the other categories apart from the capstone, there is no set or recommended timetable. You'll consult with your advisor to find Focus, Theory and Practice & Production courses that will work in the context of your broader academic goals and responsibilities. In planning, please note the following:

Practice and Production

While many MECM classes involve you in problem-solving through creative projects, mostly rooted in real-world situations or workplace challenges, some are specifically categorized as Practice and Production, which means that their principal focus is on hands-on skill development. One approved internship or externship can be automatically counted toward this category.

Theory

To succeed in the major, and choose an appropriate pathway to graduation that matches your goals and interests, you'll need some fundamental theoretical perspectives. You'll choose your two courses in this area in consort with your advisor.

Focus

Any MECM course or cross-listed course can count as a Focus elective in the major. Here you have freedom to tailor the major to your interests. Four units of internship/externship automatically count toward this, and individualized or directed studies also count in this category. In some cases the FYS can be counted as one of your Focus classes, though ideally you'll take 300- and 400-level courses to satisfy this requirement.

Capstone

In MVC 396, the junior seminar, you'll plan with the instructor your capstone, which could be an approved course at the 300 or 400 level (with some supplementary work), a creative project, or an approved internship (again with supplementary written work). You'll then draw up a learning contract for your senior year.

*NB. If you have a high GPA and it is clear that you are strongly motivated, you may be invited by a member of the MECM faculty to pursue an **honors project**, which would serve as your capstone. This is typically a two-course sequence, starting with MECM 480 in Fall of your senior year, and ending the following semester with MECM 499, which may replace one of your electives.*

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