

## COMS Graduate Program Learning Outcomes

Graduate students in the School of Communication Studies may anticipate the following learning outcomes in the program. Students will be:

1. Able to describe and explain theories and principles of communication in general and in area(s) of specialization;
2. Able to conduct and publish complex scholarly research in communication;
3. Able to read, critically evaluate, and apply research in human communication;
4. Able to teach courses in area of specialization;
5. Competent in the professional practice(s) of the specialization;
6. Able to understand the expectations for teaching and engaging in research in the professional environment

Assessment measures of these outcomes include:

1. Required preliminary examinations to assess the first-year students' learning outcomes for theoretical knowledge, methodological skills, and initial specialization as requisites for earning a master's degree;
2. Required development of a portfolio and dissertation at the end of the third year to assess readiness for dissertation research and admission to doctoral candidacy;
3. Required two-stage dissertation assessment: a) the committee's determination, following a two-week reading period, that the document meets minimum research and writing standards for the student to proceed to an oral defense; b) the committee's determination, following the oral public defense of the dissertation, that the student has made a contribution to knowledge appropriate for the award of a Ph.D. in Communication Studies