Students graduating with a PhD in Communication should be able to:

(Items listed in italics are considered highly desirable outcomes but are not required for degree completion.)

Core Knowledge

• Demonstrate general knowledge of communication research and theory with specific command of at least two general areas including mass media, organizational, and interpersonal communication.
• Critically evaluate published theory & research in the field of communication and related fields.

Research Methods and Analysis

• Identify and describe the range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies typically used in communication research.
• Critically evaluate the methodologies used in published empirical research in the field of communication and related fields.
• Design sound empirical studies to investigate communication phenomena, using appropriate methods, measures, and analytic strategies.
• Follow ethical guidelines in the handling of research subjects and the collection and dissemination of research.

Pedagogy

• Communicate effectively to groups of undergraduate students.
• Demonstrate the basics of classroom management.
• Create appropriate assessment tools, including exams and assignments.
• Design a course in their area of communication specialty with clear goals, appropriate readings, assignments, and sequencing of topics.

Scholarly Communication

• Synthesize and critique existing theoretical literature and empirical evidence.
• Make unique theoretical and empirical contributions to existing bodies of literature.
• Structure a coherent argument (orally and in writing) based on evidence.

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Program Learning Outcomes

• Present ideas orally in a convincing manner.
• Produce high quality writing able to meet the standards of the journals in the field of communication.
• Clearly communicate scholarly ideas to audiences beyond disciplinary boundaries.

Professionalism

• Present themselves with authority at conferences.
• Be responsive to constructive feedback.
• Manage time effectively.
• Conform to appropriate standards of conduct in interactions with students and co-workers.
• Contribute to the service endeavors of an academic department.
• Contribute to the service endeavors of the discipline at large.
• Pursue funding to support research.

Independent Research

• Develop research projects independently that meet the standards of the discipline.