Curricular Requirements for Completion of SMPA Dual Degree Program

Dual Degree students take three MA courses (nine credits) during the senior year which count toward electives for the undergraduate degree as well as the MA degree. Students must attain a grade of B or better in the graduate courses in order to earn graduate credit for the courses.

Completion of BA in Political Communication or BA in Journalism and Mass Communication:

Students must take three MA courses (nine credits) during the senior year as follows:

1. All dual degree students must take:
   - **SMPA 6204 Strategic Political Communication.** Students may NOT take the undergraduate version of Strategic Political Communication.

2. Dual degree students take six additional credits chosen from the following courses:
   - **SMPA 6201 Strategic Political Communication Skills** (3 one credit courses). Students choosing this option must select these courses with the approval of the undergraduate advisor. They may not take courses a skills course that overlaps with a class already taken (e.g. may not take speechwriting if they have taken the undergraduate speechwriting class, may not take video editing course)
   - **SMPA 6203 Information Technologies and Political Communication**
   - **SMPA 6205 Media, Development and Globalization**
   - **SMPA 6206 Advocacy Communication and Political Networks**
   - **SMPA 6210 Media and Foreign Policy**
   
   In all cases students should not take a graduate level course which is substantially similar to an elective already taken at the undergraduate level. Consult with your undergraduate advisor.

3. Counting MA courses toward completion of the requirements of the undergraduate major.

   For political communication majors these courses count toward the seven elective courses in the major that are required for the degree.

   For journalism and mass communication majors these courses count toward the four theoretical electives required for JMC majors.

Undergraduate advisors should work with students who might be interested in the dual degree program to help them plan their courses so that they save electives for the senior year and to ensure they do not take undergraduate courses that will overlap with those needed for dual degree. Students work with the graduate advisor to ensure they register for the appropriate courses in their senior year.
Completion of the MA degree in Media and Public Affairs. Students in the dual degree program will complete the following MA degree requirements:

1. **Core courses (9 credits):** Students in dual degree program must complete three of the core MA courses (SMPA 6201, SMPA 6204, SMPA 6241).
   - Students in the dual program DO NOT take Theories of Mediated Political Communication (SMPA 6202) because of their undergraduate degrees in the field.
   - Students will have completed SMPA 6204 (Strategic Political Communication) in the senior undergraduate year.
   - They may take SMPA 6201 in the senior year or once they are full time in the MA program.
   - They must complete Graduate Research Methods (SMPA 6241) once they are full time MA students.

2. **Elective Courses (21 credits):** Students in the dual degree program complete 7 elective courses chosen with the approval of the DGS.
   - Courses may be taken in both SMPA and other departments.
   - Two of the seven elective courses must be taken from the following (SMPA 6203, SMPA 6205, SMPA 6206, SMPA 6207, SMPA 6210, SMPA 6220, SMPA 6221). Student will have completed at least one of these courses as an undergraduate.

3. **Capstone (6 hours).** Students need to complete a capstone project by doing one of the following options:
   - a research thesis (SMPA 6998 – SMPA 6999)
   - a supervised in-depth media project (SMPA 6297 – SMPA 6298)
   - a strategic communication report addressed to solving a client’s communication-related problem (SMPA 6220, SMPA 6298)

**Taking additional MA courses as an undergraduate**

In some cases, a student may have completed all undergraduate credit requirements (including double counted graduate level course work) as a result of AP or transfer credits. If such a student wants to take additional graduate level course work towards the graduate degree while still an undergraduate, a petition must be submitted to the Dean before enrolling in the additional graduate courses; no requests for retroactive credit will be approved. Please be aware that taking graduate level course work at the undergraduate level may affect the student’s financial aid - student should address questions to Office of Student Financial Aid.