

The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Radio-Television-Film
M.A. in Media Studies

PROGRAM OF STUDY

For many, the M.A. in the RTF Department is a scholarly degree incorporating coursework and research culminating in a thesis. Producing work that applies theory to original research and analysis is part of our degree expectations for most students. Yet some students see the MA as a primarily professional degree that equips them to work in media or other fields of work at a more advanced level. Such students more typically produce an applied research or creative project via a Master's Report.

Most M.A. students complete their degree in two years, during which time they finish the degree's 30-hour program of work (for those choosing the thesis option) or 33-hour program of work (for those choosing the report option). To make satisfactory progress in the program, students must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 each semester. These hours are distributed as follows:

3 credit hours	RTF 395 Theory and Literature (1 required course)
12 or 18 credit hours	Electives in RTF courses (12 credit hours/four courses for thesis option and 18 credit hours/6 courses for report option)
3 credit hours	RTF 380 Research Theory and Design (1 required course)
6 credit hours	Minor/supporting course work outside the RTF; courses must be conceptually related (2 courses). With Graduate Advisor approval, one of these may be an RTF production or screenwriting course.
6 credit hours	Thesis writing courses (RTF 698A & 698B)
OR	
3 credit hours	Report writing course (RTF 398R)

Course descriptions for the upcoming semester are [located here](#).

SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY

The following Sample Plan of Study should give you an indication of what satisfactory progress through the RTF MA program looks like for a typical student. The courses and requirements indicated above and in the right column of the below chart are explained in the following sections.

M.A. SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY		
Year 1	Fall	RTF 395: Theory and Literature (required) Elective 1 Elective 2
	Spring	RTF 380: Research Theory and Design Supporting working/minor course 1 Elective 3 *Select supervisor
	Summer	Work on thesis/report (optional)
Year 2	Fall	Supporting work/ minor course 2 Elective 4 RTF 698A (thesis) or Elective 5 (for report) *Select second reader for thesis/report **Complete thesis/report proposal (must be approved by supervisor and second reader)
	Spring	Elective 6 (for report) RTF 698B (thesis) or RTF 398R (report) *complete thesis/report