

The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Radio-Television-Film
PhD in Media Studies

Program of Study

The PhD in the RTF department is a scholarly degree incorporating coursework, comprehensive exams, and research culminating in a dissertation. Producing original work that is worthy of publication and conference presentations are part of our degree expectations.

The Program of Study and credit hour details are as follows:

6 credit hours	RTF 395 – Theory and Literature (2 required courses)
12 credit hours	Four graduate-level electives in Radio-TV-Film OR three graduate-level electives in Radio-TV-Film <u>plus</u> RTF 398T (Supervised Teaching)
9 credit hours	Research-content courses (tools) or a foreign language (3 courses, including the required RTF 380) – (the advisor can tell you which courses qualify)
9 credit hours	Minor/supporting coursework outside the RTF department; courses must be conceptually related (3 courses). Up to two RTF production/screenwriting courses may count toward minor requirements if they conform to students’ research interests and are approved by the Graduate Advisor.
	Upon completion of coursework, the doctoral student takes the written comprehensive examinations (see below).
6 credit hours*	Dissertation coursework (RTF 399R/W, RTF 699R/W, RTF 999R/W) *The total number of dissertation hours varies (6 hours minimum)

42 credit hours total

Required Courses

All students must take RTF 395 in their first year of study. The fall version of the course focuses on Theory and Literature foundational to social sciences approaches to Media Studies. The spring version focuses on Theory and Literature foundational to humanities approaches to Media Studies. Both courses are required in order to ensure that all incoming students possess an understanding of the diversity of approaches to the study of media. These courses should provide you with the foundations in theory necessary to complete your coursework and dissertation successfully.

All PhD students are required to take RTF 380 (Research Theory and Design) in the first two years. This course is offered each spring semester.

Students planning to teach as Assistant Instructors are required to take RTF 398T (Supervised Teaching); students who will serve as Teaching Assistants are also encouraged to take this course if they have no prior teaching experience or training. It is recommended that students enroll in RTF 398T during their first semester in the program. More information about this course is provided below.

Sample Plan of Study

The following Sample Plan of Study should give you an indication of what satisfactory progress through the PhD program looks like for most students.

PhD SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY		
Year 1	Fall	RTF 395: Social Science Tools Course 1 RTF 398T Supervised Teaching
	Spring	RTF 395: Humanities Minor Course 1 RTF 380 or Elective 2
	Summer	Elective 3 (Optional)
Year 2	Fall	Tools Course 2 Minor Course 2 Elective 3
	Spring	Minor Course 3 RTF 380 or Tools course 3 Elective 4
	Summer	Comprehensive Exams
Year 3	Fall	Comprehensive Exams (if not taken by end of Year 2 summer) Apply for Candidacy Prepare and Defend Dissertation Proposal
	Spring	Research and Write Dissertation
	Summer	Research and Write Dissertation
Year 4	Fall	Research and Write Dissertation
	Spring	Research and Write Dissertation

Please note that, in most cases, students must complete their comprehensive examinations before they can be appointed to work as Assistant Instructors.