

Office of the Dean

Greetings from beautiful Lawrence, Kansas!!!

We want to thank you for your inquiry about our graduate programs. The admission, matriculation and graduation requirements for our program are specified on our Web site, www.journalism.ku.edu/academics/graduate.shtml.

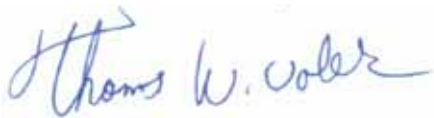
We hope you'll take a few moments to study the web site thoroughly. Please note we offer three courses of study. Two of those are offered in Lawrence and the MarComm course is offered at the Edwards Campus in metropolitan Kansas City.

What follows are some explanations in response to often-asked questions. Again, we hope you'll take the time to read these carefully, as they should answer most of your questions.

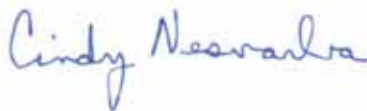
Feel free to contact us should you have further questions.

Remember, the cutoff date for fall admission is February 1 and the cutoff date for spring admission is November 1. ALL materials must be at the Journalism School on or before those dates!!

Thanks again for looking us over.



Thomas W. Volek
Associate Professor
Interim Graduate Director



Cindy Nesvarba
Graduate Records Coordinator

Some tips, hints, pointers and other information about graduate studies at the William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications.

- Please read the web site completely and carefully.

With respect to the Lawrence-based program (News & Information, Strategic Communications):

- The Lawrence-based programs are intended to be full-time programs, with students taking 9-12 hours per semester. Students may elect to take fewer hours during one or more semesters.
- Students need to be aware of university time restrictions on earning Master's degrees. Typically, you must complete the degree in seven years.
- Lawrence is a "college town" with typical student housing options, both on- and off-campus. KU offers a limited bus service from certain areas of town to and from campus.
- Limited financial aid is available. Typically, these are various forms of Graduate Assistantships. You must apply for them with your application for admission. All Graduate Assistantships are, essentially, part-time jobs and have time, work and performance expectations with them.
- There are very few Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) available – 1 to 3 per semester. These are the ONLY form of graduate assistantship that has a tuition waiver and benefits. Typically, we expect previous classroom teaching experience to be eligible for a GTA.
- We offer a 36-hour program. Typically students who are waived past the English requirements and the two media-writing courses can complete the program – that is, earn their Master's Degree – in four semesters.
- Students who need to take the two media-writing courses can complete the degree in two years. Typically, such students also take summer courses.
- Most students who have native fluency in English still need to take the two undergraduate writing courses, J-445 and J-419. These do NOT count toward the 36-hour graduate course requirement. They often can add a semester to the time it takes you to earn your degree.
- All English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) students (that is, those who submit TOEFL scores) MUST demonstrate NATIVE English language proficiency during their first semester at the KU campus. Typically, ESL students will spend a year in Applied English Center (AEC) classes before reaching proficiency. **THUS, ESL STUDENTS SHOULD PLAN ON SPENDING AT LEAST THREE YEARS IN RESIDENCE IN LAWRENCE IN THE PROGRAM.**

- We admit students to begin the Lawrence-based program in spring and fall. However, we do not offer all required classes every semester. Those who begin in the spring typically will spend one extra semester earning their degrees.
- Those seeking any form of waiver MUST apply for the waiver at the time of application for admission. Such waivers include:
 - A waiver from taking J-445 and J-419. We offer an integrated approach to media. Thus, we expect students to excel in professional media writing across platforms. We only waive students who have demonstrated daily media writing experience for several years. We expect the applicant's resume to demonstrate such experience, and the applicant must submit clips or samples in support of the waiver request.
 - A waiver from repeating a course taken as an undergraduate. These usually are courses like Principles of Advertising, Principles of Public Relations or First Amendment/Media Law. The applicant must ask for the waiver specifically and submit a syllabus for the course with the admissions materials. We try to take a common-sense approach to these waivers BUT we make no guarantees until we see the materials. Note that if you are waived out of a required course, like First Amendment/Media Law, you still must replace the three hours with KU coursework. That is, you still must complete 36 hours of coursework at KU.
 - International/ESL students will NOT be waived from AEC coursework. They must plan on taking a full schedule of AEC coursework their first semester at KU. Experience tells us that most international/ESL students need a full year of AEC coursework to achieve the language skills necessary for success in the Journalism School.
 - Again, ALL REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS MUST ACCOMPANY THE ADMISSIONS MATERIALS. Should you be admitted to the program, waivers will be an integral part of your admission. Waivers will NOT be considered after admission.

With respect to the Edwards Campus-based program (Marketing Communications, or MarComm):

- The MarComm program is based at KU's Edwards Campus, the Kansas City-area professional campus. It is intended to be a part-time, continuous-enrollment program.
- Note that the Edwards Campus is NOT intended as a "resident campus." There are NO on-campus housing or meal options, though the Jayhawk Central student union does have a restaurant.
- The MarComm program typically offers evening classes that are convenient for working adults. Classes meet one night per week and 4-5 are offered per semester, at least one each night Monday through Thursday.
- The MarComm program is geared towards working professionals. As such, we require two years of professional business experience for admission.
- Applicants need to be aware of KU's seven-year limitation on earning the M.S. degree and the impact of that limitation on a part-time evening program geared for working professionals. Applicants should understand the commitment. A student taking two courses each fall and spring and one course in the summer could conceivably complete the program in two calendar years, plus one semester. Students taking one course year round (fall, spring and summer) could complete the program in four years.
- Those interested in the MarComm program should contact Kelly Crane, program coordinator, at kcrane@ku.edu directly. Or for more information on the program, please visit the Marketing Communications program blog at <http://kumarcomm.wordpress.com>.