
COMM 322 - Faculty Directed Undergraduate Research Practicum

Research practicum offers an opportunity for a student to acquire knowledge and skills for conducting research in mass communication or mass media. The student works with faculty on various aspects of communication and media research under close supervision of the instructor. The exact work required of the student varies from instructor to instructor (section to section) and is described in the synopsis for the section submitted by the faculty member that is on file in the department of Communication and Media. Typically, the student completes readings relevant to the research area; participates in regular research meetings; collects, codes, and/or analyzes data; and prepares written or oral reports about the research as directed by the instructor. The student is required to submit a final project, to be determined by the faculty member, representing the culmination of the research experience. Regular faculty will submit their synopsis of the Directed Research Practicum to the department Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies (ACUS) prior to enrollment of any student.

Students may earn 1-3 credits per term with the consent of the instructor, but no more than 6 credits total can be earned through Comm 322. A total of 3 credits from Directed Research (Comm 322) and/or Independent Study (Comm 441, 442) may count toward the major requirements. The course is letter graded (A - E). The work expectation is:

- 1 credit = 3 hours per week in research work
- 2 credits = 6 hours per week in research work
- 3 credits = 9 hours per week in research work

Registration in Comm 322 is only allowed with permission of the instructor. Interested students should contact faculty members whose research appeals to the student to discuss the possibility of participating in research under the direction of that faculty member. Faculty members' research interests are listed on the Communication and Media web site. An [online form](#) collects the information and approvals necessary to set up the course. Sections of Comm 322 are not posted for registration until a faculty member completes their section of the form with a synopsis for the section describing in detail the work expectations for students, for final approval by ACUS.

Important things students need to know!

- *No more than 3 credits in a single semester and no more than 6 credits total can be earned through COMM 322.*
- ***A total of 3 credits** from Directed Research (Comm 322) and/or Independent Study (Comm 441, 442) may count **toward the major requirements**.*
- *Once enrolled, it is the **student's responsibility** to initiate contact with the faculty member/research director.*
- *Credit awarded will be based on number of hours spent conducting research-related lab work and the academic merit of the experience.*
- *No retroactive credit will be granted for research.*
- ***Participation MUST be approved IN ADVANCE** of the drop/add deadline each term.*