

# Ph.D. in COMMUNICATION

## THE LEADERS

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## ASSESSMENT

Doctoral students in Communication need strong skills in reviewing disciplinary literature, identifying new research questions and using appropriate research methodologies. In fall 2015, the department's graduate committee developed and received approval of a new rubric for scoring prospectuses and dissertations to measure student performance on these learning outcomes. The rubric includes separate scores for each area of student learning. A member of each dissertation committee and the graduate director rated each prospectus and dissertation using the rubric. Scores on all sections averaged between good

and excellent, meeting the program's expectations, but faculty would like students' literature review and writing mechanics skills to be better.

## IMPACT

With the successful piloting of the new rubric complete, all dissertation committees will implement the review process for each prospectus and dissertation. Some additional refinement based on faculty input may also occur. A subcommittee is meeting to develop strategies to improve doctoral students' literature review and writing skills. Two options under consideration are a one-credit course and a writing lab.



AIM HIGHER

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# ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING

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