

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
College of Media, Communication and Information
Ph.D. in Intermedia Art | Writing | Performance (IAWP)

I. Program Overview

The Intermedia Art, Writing, and Performance (IAWP) unit in the College of Media, Communication and Information (CMCI) at the University of Colorado at Boulder administers the Ph.D. in Intermedia Art, Writing, and Performance. Students work with core faculty from both IAWP and across the campus to collaboratively investigate past and present forms of digital art, writing, and performance.

The research conducted in the program reflects the rapidly transforming knowledge systems and digital media economies emerging from the substantial technological shifts currently taking place in our society. Digital creative work and critical media literacy play a defining role in our information society and are transforming all aspects of contemporary life, including the way many professional visual artists, multimedia performers, writers, publishers, digital humanists and archivists pursue their practice. Traditional scholarly and creative work outputs such as the single-authored print book or conventional gallery exhibitions have already been challenged by the emergence of multi-authored, multi-modal forms of transmission that are analog/digital hybrids. IAWP is unique in how its internationally renowned and affiliated faculty collaborate with graduate students probing the significance of a digitally expanded, process-based research environment located in a cluster of interdisciplinary research labs.

The program provides a rigorous yet flexible creative work environment - especially by way of the [Techne Lab](#) and the [Media Archaeology Lab](#) - that leads to the creation of new and hybridized forms of art, experimental writing, performance, scholarship, theory, design, curation, exhibition and publication appropriate for our current cultural moment. In short, the program concentrates its curriculum on the cultivation of cutting-edge investigations into the practice, theory, history and philosophy of media and its relationships to creativity, communication, technology and information.

An important part of IAWP doctoral students' education is their participation in the unit's research and teaching missions through their assignments as research assistants and teaching assistants as well as their ability to develop connections with other units in CMCI and/or across the university.

II. Requirements for the Ph.D. in Intermedia Art | Writing | Performance

Students are expected to devote their full time to the doctoral program and assistantship duties during the fall and spring semesters while in the program, unless other arrangements have been made with IAWP.

Doctoral students in the IAWP Ph.D. program take 30 credit hours of coursework and 30 dissertation credit hours for a total of 60 hours. The coursework includes a required

foundational core consisting four courses: Introduction to Practice- Based Research (IAWP 6000), Theory and Practice of Doing (IAWP 6100), Intermedia Collaboratory (IAWP 6200), and Intermedia Seminar (IAWP 6800). These courses as well as other elective courses taught in IAWP, CMCI, and across campus are taken during the student's first two years in the program. As stated above, students are also required to take 30 course hours for their Doctoral Project and Dissertation (IAWP 8990). Students are expected to complete the program and defend the dissertation in 4 years.

Below is a summary of the minimum requirements to earn a Ph.D. in IAWP:

1. Introduction to Practice-Based Research (3 hours total): All doctoral students are required to enroll in IAWP 6000 in their first semester of study. This course serves both as an introduction to the concepts and applications of practice-based research at the Ph.D level as well as a program colloquium devoted to discussions led by IAWP faculty members, doctoral students and guest speakers.
2. Theory and Practice of Doing, Intermedia Collaboratory, and Intermedia Seminar (9 hours total): IAWP 6100, IAWP 6200 and IAWP 6800 are required courses that must be taken in the first two years of course work.
3. Inside Emphasis Electives (6 hours within IAWP): Doctoral students are required to take a minimum of 6 hours of elective courses inside IAWP or CMCI.
4. Outside Emphasis Electives (maximum 9 hours outside IAWP): Doctoral students may take a maximum of 9 hours of additional elective courses outside of CMCI. These courses can be taken in units such as ATLAS or in other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. Elective courses outside of CMCI need to be approved by the student's assigned adviser.
5. Independent study: Ph.D. students may take a maximum of three independent study courses while in the program, either inside IAWP (IAWP 6900) or outside. Generally, these will be taken no earlier than the second semester of the program and no more than one independent study can be taken per semester unless otherwise approved by the student's assigned adviser. An independent study course may not duplicate, in whole or substantial part, regularly scheduled courses.
6. Comprehensive examinations: Each doctoral student is required to pass comprehensive pre-thesis review. The comprehensive pre-thesis review (also known as the General Exam) is administered during the last semester in which the student takes course work (other than dissertation hours) and this is generally the fourth semester in the program. The examinations are individually tailored for each student in consultation with their thesis chair.
7. Dissertation: A minimum of thirty hours of dissertation credit (IAWP 8990) must be taken. Various restrictions apply to these hours.
 - a) Dissertation credit hours may not be taken prior to the comprehensive pre-thesis review
 - b) No more than 10 dissertation credit hours may be taken in any one semester

- c) After passing the comprehensive pre-thesis review, students must enroll for at least 5 dissertation credit hours
- d) Students are required to make themselves aware of Graduate School rules regarding registration for dissertation hours

Within these requirements, the program is reasonably flexible. There is no single, "correct" schedule of courses for students. Rather, each student--in consultation initially with the Director and/or Associate Director of IAWP and, later, with the student's committee chair and committee--is expected to develop a program best suited to their needs and interests.

In addition to the requirements listed above, the student's committee chair and/or committee, along with the IAWP Director's approval, may strongly recommend or even require additional coursework for individual students. Such requirements are particularly likely for students just beginning their studies in the field. Appeals of additional requirements may be made to the IAWP Director and then to the CMCI Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

Once again, it is expected that a doctoral student will complete the program within four years. The CU Graduate School requires completion within six years of admission to the program.

III. Transfer of Credit

IAWP does not accept transfer credits into the doctoral program.

IV. Detailed Timeline and Guidelines

Please note: while we have provided a general timeline for the IAWP PhD degree, students are responsible for keeping track of deadlines set by the Graduate School. We strongly recommend that you repeatedly familiarize yourself with the necessary forms and information to complete the requirements for graduation found [here](#).

Phase One: Coursework and The General Examination, Years 1 and 2

Coursework in IAWP takes place over a two-year period of study. Students will devise a course of study in this phase with advice and approval of their primary faculty advisor. There are three required courses: IAWP 6000, IAWP 6100, and 6200. All other courses are electives or independent studies as outlined in the IAWP Handbook. Students must take a minimum of 30 credit hours.

At the end of the first year, students have a "first year review" with the Director and/or Associate Director, the IAWP Graduate Committee, and any other available IAWP students and faculty. The purpose of this review is to check in with students about their degree progress over the previous year, to answer any questions about the degree, and to solve any potential problems the student might be having. By December 1st in students' second year, they must submit for approval the names of their preferred

thesis supervisor to the IAWP Graduate Committee. The rest of the committee should be constituted during the following semester, or students' fourth semester in the program. The committee should consist of five members, including a thesis supervisor. Further details on the constitution of students' committees are outlined below in Section VI.

The General Examination for Doctoral Candidacy, Year 2

Upon completion of the above course requirements and no later than the 4th semester of study, students should take their general examination for doctoral candidacy. Students should establish the five members of their committee no later than the end of their third semester. (Note that, if you wish, you can have one faculty member on your committee whose appointment is at another institution. If you choose to go this route, you will need to ask the IAWP Director to fill out a [Graduate Faculty Appointment form](#); a current CV for the outside member will have to be attached to the form. Once the form is created it will be signed by the IAWP Director and then by Ginny McNellis and Dean Adler, so it can take a bit of time to be processed.) Students should then submit an exam report form listing their final committee members no later than two weeks prior to taking the exam. The directions for the form and the form itself are located on the Graduate School website [here](#). On the form, add the date of your examination and student ID number. Read and acknowledge the information on the form and select "finish" to route the form through the following process:

1. The form will be sent to the Graduate School for review of your committee.
2. Following Graduate School committee approval, the form will be routed to your program for review in advance of the exam.
3. After the exam has been conducted, work with your graduate program assistant to route the form to your committee members.
4. The chair of the committee will receive the form first, and the remaining committee members will receive the form simultaneously; all members must sign the form.
5. Successful candidates must receive affirmative votes from a majority of the members. The examination may be passed conditionally, whereby conditions must be met before the exam is considered to be passed.
6. When all members have signed and the form is complete, you will receive a pdf version of the form with signatures via e-mail. The form will also be forwarded to your program, committee members, and to the Graduate School.

For the exam itself, students will present a selection of work they have completed during Phase One to their thesis committee in the following format:

- 1) Written Examination: The written portion of the qualifying examination consists of two short Field essays (1000 words each) designed in consultation with the student's thesis exam committee. You will send your committee

members your two exams no later than two weeks prior to your exam date. The essays themselves are generally configured as follows:

- a) Field One: an overview of the most relevant artworks and/or literature informing their practice-based research since entering the program
 - b) Field Two: a personal artist theory, poetics or philosophy that takes into account the innovative nature of their experimentation in developing their art and/or critical/curatorial practice since having entered the program
- 2) Oral Examination: In addition to the written examination, students will participate in a preliminary oral examination with their thesis committee. The oral examination should both reflect on creative work, research projects, and professional developments that have taken place during Phase One as well as indicate creative work, research, and/or critical developments projected to take place over Phase Two (see below). For this oral examination, the student should prepare a 45 minute to one hour presentation demonstrating a) how their time in the IAWP program during Phase One has enhanced their ability to maintain an active research and creative practice and b) how they plan to integrate their most recent research discoveries into Phase Two developments in pursuit of the Final Doctoral Project. The presentation and discussion will focus on the student's practice-based research and outputs during Phase One as well as the conceptual framework and execution plan for Phase Two.

Essentially, the Oral Examination will be the time for students to propose a precise plan for their Final Doctoral Project. The presentation must precisely detail the practice-based research methodologies, theoretical direction, and use of new media technologies and/or information processes the student will employ in pursuit of their Final Doctoral Project. The formal and thematic nature of the Final Project must be clearly articulated and indicate the student's originality as well as demonstrate their ability to create a work or works that operate at the interface of intermedia art, writing and/or performance as well as the way their work situates itself in a media context.

Please note that the Director and the Associate Director are willing to contact each of your non-IAWP committee members prior to the exam to introduce them to the program, our working definition of Practice-Based Research, and our expectations for the exam.

- 3) If the committee has agreed upon a conditional pass, the chair of committee should select conditional and list the conditions on the form. The conditional pass confirmation form should be filled out when the conditions are met. Once the comprehensive examination has been passed and the student has received a copy of the pdf version of the form with signatures, the student should submit the doctoral candidacy application.

Phase Two: Final Project, Years 3 and 4

Upon passing the General Exam, the student will then continue on their practice-based research trajectory and begin developing their Final Doctoral Project in anticipation of the Doctoral Exam for Graduate Candidacy at the end of Phase Two (the eighth semester in the program).

The Final Doctoral Project emphasizes practice-based research and should take the form of a hybrid of creative and/or critical and/or curatorial practice as well as a 60-80 page double-spaced artist statement, poetics, and/or process document indicating an advanced state of achievement in the field. In lieu of a 60-80 page double-spaced document, students are encouraged to create an alternative electronic or multimedia document (hypertext, interactive app, media-rich website, etc.) that is commensurate in size with the aforementioned 60- 80 page paper document; however, before developing these multimedia electronic documents, the student must seek and receive approval from their thesis committee. Students are responsible for locating physical venues and/or digital platforms for their exhibitions, performances and/or publications. The Final Project and 60-80 page process document (or electronic/multimedia version thereof) must be made available to the thesis committee no later than two weeks before their dissertation defense date. At the end of the eighth semester, the student meets with their Thesis Committee and defends the Final Doctoral Project.

Please note that students will have to submit a final copy of their written document to the Graduate School before graduation; details on the submission process are [here](#).

V. Financial Aid

Students accepted into the IAWP doctoral program hold an assistantship appointment that provides both a monthly stipend and a waiver of tuition costs. This funding is guaranteed, based on the student making adequate progress toward the degree, for a total of eight semesters. Doctoral students receiving financial support are expected to make satisfactory progress through the program and perform assistantship duties in a satisfactory manner, both to be determined by the IAWP graduate faculty. Satisfactory progress should culminate in the award of a degree within four years from entering the program. Doctoral students also may receive need-based awards granted by the Graduate School. To be eligible for these awards, a doctoral student must submit financial need information to the campus Financial Aid Office prior to April 1.

Duration of funding:

Each student in the program has a 50 percent appointment that will be granted for

eight semesters, assuming satisfactory progress in the program. The 50 percent appointment equals 20 hours a week as either a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Research Assistant (RA).

TA and RA positions:

These graduate assistantship positions will be assigned by the IAWP Graduate Studies Committee on a semester-by-semester basis in consultation with the college. TA positions are teaching-oriented assistantships that involve semester-long teaching assignments. Teaching assignments are based on the needs of the college. RA positions are research-oriented assistantships that involve semester-long creative work / research assignments where the student works with faculty members on specific creative research projects being directed by the faculty member.

Exclusions:

If a student generates his or her own external funding, either individually or in collaboration with a faculty member, this may be used to extend residency beyond the eight-semester limit.

Workload limits:

Graduate students are eligible to work up to a 50% (20 hours per week) appointment at the university during the academic year. They may work up to 100% (40 hours per week) during the summer. This eligibility includes all university employment, including teaching appointments and hourly positions (e.g., working in the library or elsewhere on campus). Students whose employment totals more than 50% must apply for a special exemption through the Graduate School, and must have the endorsement of the IAWP Director and/or Associate Director.

Summer teaching:

While there are a very limited number of summer teaching opportunities for graduate students in and for CMCI, there is the possibility of students teaching online summer classes for Continuing Education. At the moment, we have made arrangements with the Department of English for students to teach English 2212: Science Fiction and English 2036: Intro to Digital Media for Humanities, pending the enrollment of a minimum of 10 students. Eventually we may be able to strike up similar arrangements with other units; if you are interested in teaching for Continuing Education while using the undergraduate course number of another department on campus, please contact the IAWP Director with with two or three of your desired courses (including a specific course number and a short paragraph course description) by January 30th and the Director will get in touch with the appropriate department chair.

Travel funding:

PhD students who have their research or creative work accepted for presentation at a conference or comparable venue may request up to \$500 in CMCI travel funds during an academic year, which begins July 1 and ends the following June 30. Requests should be submitted to the IAWP Director. Additional travel funding is available through the Graduate School, the Graduate and Professional Student Government, and sometimes through IAWP (please consult with the IAWP Director).

VI. Student's Advisor and Committee

When new IAWP students arrive at CU, they are assigned an IAWP faculty adviser who can help guide them through their transition into the program. The IAWP faculty adviser serves as a student's adviser until they have located a faculty member who has agreed to serve as their dissertation committee chair. In most cases, it is advisable for a student to confirm their dissertation committee chair in the third semester of study after having worked with several faculty members and becoming familiar with their research interests and mentoring styles. Ideally, the chair will already be an IAWP faculty affiliate but, after consulting with the Director of IAWP, the student may also choose a chair from outside of IAWP provided the faculty member is willing to become an IAWP affiliate. Prior to conducting the comprehensive pre-thesis examination at the end of the fourth semester, the student, in consultation with their dissertation committee chair, will select a committee of at least four additional CU faculty members. This committee, which must be approved by the Graduate School, will prepare and evaluate the student's creative work to date as well as Field essays. They will conduct the student's General Exam and, assuming the student passes the exam, oversee the student's ensuing dissertation development, and conduct the student's final defense of the dissertation. Subsequent to passing the comprehensive pre-thesis examination, any changes in the committee membership must be approved by the IAWP Director as well as the student's committee chair and the Graduate School.

VII. Additional Graduate School Requirements

Residence Requirement:

All candidates for the Ph.D. degree must spend a minimum of six full semesters in residence at the University of Colorado at Boulder as full-time students.

Grades and Grade Point Average:

A course grade below "B-" in doctoral studies is unsatisfactory and will not be counted toward fulfilling the requirements for the degree. IAWP requires doctoral students to maintain a grade point average of no less than 3.25 (A=4).

Continuous Registration:

Doctoral students who have passed their comprehensive examinations must remain continuously registered for five dissertation hours every fall and spring semester while they are on campus, including the semester of the final defense. Students will be so registered only if they are making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degrees and are in good standing. Students away from campus may take

only three dissertation hours each fall and spring. By the time they graduate, students must have a total of at least 30 hours of doctoral thesis credit.

VIII. Student Appeals, Complaints & Grievances Grading and Treatment in Courses

The information provided here refers to grading and treatment within courses.

Disputes about Fairness of Grading

Informal Student and Instructor Meeting

It is the responsibility of the student and instructor, including both the section and course instructor where applicable, to first attempt to resolve any grievance. If a student has a question regarding a grade or his/her performance in a course s/he must first communicate with the instructor(s) in that course to resolve the question.

Written Appeal and Meet with the IAWP Director And/or Associate Director of Graduate Studies

If the student and instructor are not able to resolve the question regarding the student's performance in the course, the student's grade in the course, or the grading policy, the student shall have the option of making a formal written appeal to the IAWP Associate Director of Graduate Studies. However, students need to be aware, as stated in the University of Colorado Boulder policy document regarding issues of grades, that department chairs, directors of graduate studies, and college deans cannot require an instructor to change a properly assigned course grade. Issues of disagreement about whether, for example, a given essay was worth, say, a B or an A, are decided solely by the individual instructor in charge. (See [Student Appeals, Complaints and Grievances: A Brief Guide](#).)

The appeal needs to specify the problem, the reasons for the grievance, and the remedy desired by the student, and it must be submitted within 60 days of the end of the academic term in which the course was taken. In filing a grievance, the student is expected to provide:

- The name of the person against whom the grievance is made.
- The specific charges, including the date and time of the event(s) precipitating the charge.
- A statement of the student right(s) that was (were) violated.
- A detailed statement of the circumstances and available evidence.
- The names and addresses of witnesses, if any.
- The resolution sought.

After reviewing relevant materials (e.g., grades, grading policy information) the IAWP Director and/or Associate Director of Graduate Studies will meet separately with the student and the instructor and will make a recommendation to the faculty member about his/her grading action. The recommended actions will be communicated to both parties in writing.

Appeal to the College of Media, Communication & Information Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

If a student is dissatisfied with the IAWP Director and/or Associate Director of Graduate Studies' decision, or if a faculty member decides to not follow the recommendation made by the Associate Director of Graduate Studies, written materials may be forwarded to the CMCI Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. The Associate Dean will convey his/her recommendation to both parties in writing.

Issues about Faculty Conduct, Academic Advising, or Course Content

If it is reasonable, students should begin with the individual faculty person or advisor to discuss and resolve the problem together. If this fails, a student should contact the IAWP Director. If the decision made by the IAWP Director is judged by the student as unacceptable, the student may contact the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

Issues Related to Civil Rights Violations, Sexual Harassment, Disability Linked Discrimination, or Other Kinds of Complaints

The university provides detailed information about how to pursue appeals, complaints, and grievances of a variety of types. For many of these issues, there are campus offices available to assist a person with a concern. Students can find out about this information here. Students can visit the Graduate School website.

For issues related to the CMCI Graduate Program, please contact Matthew.Laszewski@colorado.edu.