

J. Warren McClure

School of Information and Telecommunication Systems

Master of Communication Technology and Policy (MCTP) Program Checksheet

The Master of Communication Technology and Policy Program is a 50-credit hour degree program (typically 10 courses). It is possible to complete the program in one year (including the summer), though that is a challenging schedule for students electing to write a thesis or do a professional project. The MCTP program is comprised of core, specialization, and cognate courses, as well as a culminating experience.

The four core courses (which are required of all MCTP students) introduce students to the technological and policy aspects of communication networks and information systems, telecommunication carriers, and enterprise voice and data networks; these four courses are taken in the School of Information and Telecommunication Systems (ITS). Three ITS specialization courses (which students select from a list of options) allow students to develop either technology or policy as their principal area of expertise. Students are also required to complete two cognate courses, which are intended to enrich and focus further the student's interests and expertise. Students complete the cognate requirement through relevant coursework taken outside of the ITS school, or by completing ITS courses from the alternate specialization area (i.e., those electing a policy specialization completing ITS technology courses or those electing a technology specialization completing ITS policy courses). Possible cognate areas outside of ITS for those electing a policy specialization include economics, business, or political science; possible cognate areas for those electing a technology specialization outside ITS include electrical engineering, computer science, or mathematics.

Students elect one of three culminating experiences: 1) a thesis, 2) a professional project, or 3) a comprehensive examination. Students electing the thesis option are expected to identify a significant technical or policy question (depending upon the student's specialization), conduct a thorough literature review of the topic, formulate an appropriate research approach, collect and analyze data, draw defensible conclusions, and produce a well-written, coherent thesis. Students electing the professional project option are expected to identify a specific project relevant to this field of study, research relevant literature, identify specific issues, examine available alternatives, recommend the optimal alternative, and produce a well-written, coherent report detailing all aspects of the project. Those selecting the comprehensive exam must complete an additional ITS course, either an advanced readings course or an additional ITS specialization course, and pass a comprehensive examination based on MCTP coursework. (Students can take the comprehensive examination in either February or July.)

Students electing the thesis or project options must form a 3-person committee chaired by the student's advisor and submit to that committee a written thesis or project proposal. This proposal must be approved by the committee and then submitted to the Graduate Director. The format of a thesis must be in accordance with the Scripps College of Communication Thesis and Dissertation Guide; the thesis is submitted to the College. The format of a project report must also follow these guidelines; the project is submitted to the McClure School.

All students must select an advisor. The advisor approves the student's "MCTP Student Advising Planning Sheet" and also approves the student's "MCTP Quarterly Registration Approval Sheet" each quarter. The "Student Advising Planning Sheet" must also be endorsed by the Graduate Director. The "Student Advising Planning Sheet" includes the desired cognate courses and the student's choice of culminating experience. The "Student Advising Planning Sheet" should be approved before the beginning of the second quarter of study; students should not assume that courses taken before a "Student Advising Planning Sheet" is approved will be awarded cognate credit.

Steps toward the MCTP Degree

1. Filed “MCTP Student Advising Planning Sheet” (required of all MCTP students):

_____ “Student Advising Planning Sheet” approved by Advisor and Endorsed by Director of Graduate Studies

2. Core Courses (all 4 courses required; a total of 20 hours required):

_____ ITS 600: Research Methods in Communication Technology and Policy. (5)

_____ ITS 602: Regulation and Policy for Communication Networks. (5)

_____ ITS 625: Information Networks. (5)

_____ ITS 644: Strategic Issues in Communication Technology and Policy (5)

3. Specialization Courses (3 courses required and chosen from the following options; a total of 15 hours required):

Policy Specialization Courses (3 courses required for policy specialization):

_____ ITS 505: Competition and Market Structure in Network Industries. (5)

_____ ITS 507: International Communication Networks. (5)

_____ ITS 509: Communication and Economic Development. (5)

_____ ITS 603: Advanced Topics in Telecommunications Policy and Regulation. (5)

_____ ITS 691: Topical Seminar. (5)

OR

Technical Specialization Courses (3 courses required for technical specialization):

_____ ITS 520: Emerging Communication Technologies. (5)

_____ ITS 539: Communication Technology Lab Practicum. (5)

_____ ITS 575: Internet Engineering (4)

_____ ITS 577: Internet Infrastructure (1) [Usually taken in conjunction with ITS 575]

_____ ITS 629: Theory of Network Management and Design. (5)

_____ ITS 679: Theory of Communication Networks. (5)

4. Cognate Courses (2 courses; a total of 10 hours required) :

These courses are selected in consultation with the advisor, and must be in the approved and endorsed Plan of Study. The cognate courses can be taken outside of ITS or can be courses in the alternate ITS specialization.

_____ Cognate Course _____ (5)

_____ Cognate Course _____ (5)

5. Culminating Experience (5 hours required, either thesis hours, project hours, or an additional ITS course, depending on culminating experience selected):

Thesis Option:

_____ ITS 695 Thesis (5)

Professional Project Option:

_____ ITS 685 Professional Project (5)

Comprehensive Examination Option (select one of the following):

_____ ITS 614: Advanced Readings in Communication Technology. (5)

_____ ITS 615: Advanced Readings in Communication Policy. (5)

_____ ITS specialization course of student's choice (5)

6. Culminating Experience Approvals

_____ Thesis Proposal Defense _____ Thesis Defense _____ Thesis Submission*

_____ Project Proposal Defense _____ Project Defense _____ Project Submission**

_____ Passing Grade on Comprehensive Exam

* Submitted to the OU Library in accordance with Electronic Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines or the Scripps College of Communication Thesis and Dissertation Guide

** Submitted to the McClure School

Additional Study Opportunities

The following are options for individual study with a faculty member on a specific topic of interest. **These hours of credit do not count toward the 50 hours required for the MCTP degree.** That means they do not count as a cognate or specialization course.

_____ ITS 690 Independent Study (variable hours)

_____ ITS 697 Research (variable hours)