

Indiana University Kokomo New Media Communication FAQ

Version 1.0

Updated 7/20/2009

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This document is intended to answer questions concerning the New Media Communications Degree program. Direct any additional questions to Scott Jones at scotjone@iuk.edu.

Why do you keep changing the degree around?

As the program grows, we find we can do more things than we used to. Also, we sometimes find ways we can do things better. And we listen to student feedback and examine industry trends. Ultimately, we want to offer the best degree we can, and at times that involves making changes.

You have changed the graduation requirements since I came in. Which do I use?

You can use either the ones in place when you began the program or the current ones. Your choice. But you must use one or the other—you can't mix and match requirements from each set. If some changes cause problems—such as a course being discontinued, then we will work to find a reasonable solution, where possible.

When I started, the degree had 34 required hours. Now it has 36. What happened?

Due to student feedback and as part of a School of Arts and Sciences initiative, the *Senior Seminar* course was expanded to 3 hours from 1 for the New Media Communication, Communication Arts, Fine Arts, and English degree programs. The result is a stronger *Senior Seminar* course.

I see N200: *Digital Art* is not scheduled to be taught. Where has it gone?

It was replaced with *N215: Digital Studio I*, as part of a curriculum update. As far as graduation requirements go, either course can count as the other one.

I see that N315: *Web Usability and Information Architecture* will no longer be offered after Fall 2009. Why not?

We decided splitting up its content and moving it into new courses worked better.

What changes are being made to N201: *Introduction to New Media Communication*?

As of Fall 2009, it is being made a traditional-style introduction course giving broad overviews of various parts of the field. Most of its former content is being moved into *NMCM N235: Introduction to Website Design Principles and Practice*.

How do the above changes to N201: *Introduction to New Media Communication* affect me?

The changes only matter if you intend to take more than the minimum coursework in web design. If so, the changes are as follows:

- If you took N201 during the 2008 calendar year and want to take more courses in the web design sequence, you can skip NMCM N235 and start with NMCM N335.
- If you took N201 before or after 2008, then NMCM N235 will not duplicate your N201 experience.

What changes are being made to the courses on Web design?

We have made several improvements:

- NMCM N315 is being discontinued, with its content folded into other courses.
- NMCM N313: Advanced Website Development will be introduced. It covers advanced scripting for web sites. It will be offered once every two years, starting in Fall 2010.
- A sequence of courses focusing on web design, usability, information architecture, advanced CSS, and Dreamweaver will be offered, combining theory with hands on practice. They are NMCM N245, NMCM N345, and NMCM N445. They will be offered yearly, starting Spring of 2010. They will be offered as a 16-week course using a hybrid online format, meaning they will be half online. If you aren't sure what that means, contact Dr. Jones. But in short, it just gives students more flexibility.
- N245 duplicates much of what was covered in N201 prior to Fall 2009. For more information, please see the previous question.

I took a course for the New Media Degree, but with a Fine Arts course number. Is that a problem as far as graduation requirements?

No.

Will the Graphic Design courses be offered again after this year?

We hope so. It depends on hiring and staffing decisions.

Why are some courses offered more often than others?

It depends on student demand and faculty staffing. In some cases, we think there may not be more than 12-14 students who want to take a course every two years; by offering the class once every two years, we meet the demand while offering other courses as well. In other cases, faculty members have limited openings in their schedules and teach the course as often as they are available to.

Will a Bachelor of Science degree option be available for New Media Communication?

Possibly. The issue is scheduled to be discussed during the 2009-2010 academic year.