

MA Culminating Exam Information

Why: The MA Exam is one of three options that will fulfill the culminating experience requirement. It offers the student an opportunity to synthesize their coursework and write about their understanding of significant scholarship in communication, media studies, and related fields acquired during their MA career.

Who: Master's students who have earned 28 points or more are eligible to take the MA Exam. Typically the MA Exam is taken in the last semester of study. In the Fall semester the exam will usually be offered in November, and in the Spring it will be offered in March.

What: The MA Exam is a take-home essay exam containing two sections. Students will have a choice of one question from among several for each section.

The first section will be based on common readings covered in MCC-GE 2001 Media, Culture, and Communication Core Seminar as well as supplemental lists generated by the faculty at large. The second section will be based on a faculty-generated common bibliography connected to the Area of Study the student elects: Persuasion and Politics; Interaction and Social Processes; Visual Culture and Cultural Studies; Technology and Society; or Global and Transcultural Communication.

Students will have access to exam bibliographies via NYU Classes. The MA Exam is a written essay exam; no multi-media work will be considered.

Where: The exam is taken remotely. Students will be emailed the MA Exam at 12:00 noon on the designated exam date.

When: The MA exam takes place over 72 hours on a select weekend in November (fall exam) and March (spring exam). Students will receive the exams on Friday and will submit their exams on the following Monday at 12 noon.

How:

1. Students tell the graduate advisor that they plan to take the Master's Exam by the last day of the semester prior to the semester in which they plan to take the exam. Students taking the Master's Exam will be contacted via their NYU email with access to the NYU Classes exam page and further instructions for the exams.
2. Completed exams should be sent via email as two separate pdf documents. The name of each document should include the student's full name. Both essays are due to mcc.graduate@nyu.edu by the Monday following their exam date at 12:00 noon
3. There is a page limit: a maximum of twelve pages for each question.
4. The format of the essays should be: Times New Roman, 12-point font; double spaced with no extra spacing between paragraphs.

Note: In exceptional circumstances, the protocols related to the administration of the MA Exam may be altered on the recommendation of the MA Committee.

MA Culminating Exam FAQ

How do I complete the MA Exam requirement?

1. Sign up for the exam. The deadline is the last day of the semester prior to the semester in which you plan to take the exam.
2. Check your email for exam questions on the designated exam dates.
3. Complete exam in 72 hours. Responses to each essay question must be no more than 12 pages long.
4. Send in your completed exams as individual PDF's to mcc.graduate@nyu.edu by 12:00 noon.
5. Wait for notification via NYU email of “pass” or “fail” result. This will usually take 4 – 6 weeks.

Can I retake the MA Exam?

Students who fail the exam may retake it once. Failure to pass the exam after two (2) trials will prevent the student from obtaining the M.A. degree in Media, Culture, and Communication.

How do I effectively prepare for the MA Exam?

By successfully completing the required core seminar as well as independent study of the common readings not covered in a particular core seminar, students will acquire the theoretical and specialized knowledge that is needed to create cogent essays and earn a “pass” on the MA Exam.

Similarly, to prepare for the area-of-study section, the student will read the common bibliography compiled by the faculty in each area of study, and will be able to use the themes, theories, and frameworks presented in a student’s area-of-study coursework to write an effective essay and earn a “pass” on the MA Exam.

How is the MA Exam graded?

Each student’s exam will be read by at least two different faculty. A result of “pass” or “fail” will be sent via NYU email, and submitted to the registrar.

Can I appeal an MA Exam result of “no pass”?

Yes. To appeal an MA Exam result of “fail” a student must submit a letter of appeal to the Director of Graduate Studies and follow up with an in-person meeting with the Director to discuss the “fail” result and next steps.

