



BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies

Programme Specification

2024-2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the **BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies** awarded by Richmond American University London, using the protocols required by *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland* (QAA, 2008).

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme. Typically, students take the programme over 3.5 to 4 years (approximately 10 courses per year, with summer courses allowing for accelerated progress in some cases). Each undergraduate credit is equivalent, approximately, to 1 classroom contact hour per 15-week semester. On this basis, students are required to earn a total of a minimum 120 US academic credit hours in order to complete their degrees. Of the courses in the programme, half are at the “lower-division” taken in the first two years of study and coded 3000-4999, and half are at the “upper division”, taken in years three and four, and coded 5000-6999.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the *FHEQ* and the *Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the *FHEQ*, based on the course’s learning outcomes and assessment strategies (note that the courses comprising the first year of the 4-year US undergraduate degree are normally at QCF Level 3). US undergraduate credit can generally be translated to ECTS and UK CATS credits in the following manner: 1 US credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK CATS credits. So, a US degree of 120 credits would translate as 240 ECTS credits and 480 UK CATS credits (with a minimum of 360 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the *FHEQ*).

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2. OVERVIEW

Programme/award title(s)	BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies
Teaching Institution	Richmond American University in London
Awarding Institution	Richmond American University in London
Date of latest validation	29 March 2022
Next revalidation	Spring 2027
Credit points for the award	120 US Credits 480 UK Credits at <i>FHEQ</i> Levels 3-6 (120 at Level 3; 120 at Level 4; 120 at Level 5; 120 at Level 6)
UCAS Code	University Code: BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies
Programme start date	Fall 2022
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2019)
Professional/statutory recognition	N/A
Language of Study	English
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	FT
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	Middle States Commission on Higher Education (First accredited 1981; renewed 1996, 2006 and 2016). QAA – Higher Education Review (AP) 2017
Date of production/revision of this specification	May 2023 (see chart at the end of this document for list of revisions)

3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

4. MISSION

The **BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies** aims to equip graduates with the core theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to succeed in a rapidly developing and wide-ranging discipline.

The degree sits at the intersection of four areas: digital media production, theories of communication, theories of society, and professional skills (explicitly those sought by the creative industries and media in general). Other institutions have made marketing their core, whereas this degree takes a more holistic view that tries to better understand the social and cultural impact of social media and digital communication, without disadvantaging those with a more vocational focus. Programme outcomes are understood as representing the praxis of these complementary but distinct intellectual areas.

In conjunction with conceptual understanding and knowledge, students acquire relevant technical knowledge and practical skills across various digital media. Subject-specific classes in digital culture and society are combined with interdisciplinary classes in communications and cultural studies, enhanced by a wide-ranging practical programme accommodating digital image making, video production and web design.

The major is supported by a successful internship programme that offers placements across social media and digital communication.

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies

A normal course load per academic year is 30 US credits, equivalent to 120 UK credits. Students complete 120 UK credits at Level 6 in the major.

Please note that students must complete all Liberal Arts requirements AND a minimum of 120 credits at each FHEQ level. The Liberal Arts programme offers more choice amongst levels, so students and advisors must ensure that both Liberal Arts requirements and overall level requirements are satisfied.

Black = Major requirements

Blue = General Education Liberal Arts Core requirements

Green = Electives/Gen Ed Electives

Table 1: Lower-Division / Levels 3 and 4 Degree Requirements

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
RQF Level 3		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
Minimum Required courses			
One of the following:		3	12
ADM 3160	Foundations in Photography		
COM 3101	Foundations in Media Production: Sonic Media		
Plus:			
COM 3100	Foundations of Mass Media & Communications	3	12
SCL 3100	Foundations of Sociology	3	12
GEP 3105	Tools for Change	3	12
GEP 3180	Research and Writing I	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
GEP 3150	Visual Thinking		
GEP 3170	Narratives of Change		
Plus one of the following:		3	12
ENV 3XXX	Any RQF Level 3 ENV course		
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective (only if satisfying ENV requirement at FHEQ Level 4)		
Plus:			
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
QCF Level 3 CREDIT TOTALS		30	120

FHEQ Level 4		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
Minimum Required courses			
AVC 4205	Introduction to Visual Culture	3	12
COM 4115	Digital Society	3	12
COM 4400	Introduction to Advertising Practice	3	12
COM 4405	Advertising, PR and the Media	3	12
DGT 4100	Coding, Content and Context 1	3	12
GEP 4180	Research and Writing II	3	12
GEP 4105	Social Change in Practice	3	12
DGT 4120	Data Analysis for Social Change	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
ENV 4XXX	Any FHEQ Level 4 ENV course		

XXX 4XXX	FHEQ Level 4 Elective (only if satisfying ENV requirement at RQF Level 3)		
Plus:			
XXX 4XXX	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 4 CREDIT TOTALS		30	120

Table 2: Upper-Division / Levels 5 and 6 Requirements

UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
FHEQ Level 5		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
Minimum Required courses			
COM 5130	Principles of Advertising and PR	3	12
COM 5200	Mass Communications and Society	3	12
COM 5230	Creating Digital Images	3	12
DGT 5100	Coding, Content and Context 2	3	12
SCL 5200	Social Research	3	12
Plus one of the following:			
ADM 5200	Video Production	3	12
COM 5205	Cultural Theory	3	12
COM 5220	Communications for PR and Advertising	3	12
COM 5102	Celebrity, Fan Cultures, and the Media	3	12
MKT 5200	Principles of Marketing	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
GEP 5101	Service Learning: Digital Collaboration		
GEP 5102	Service Learning: Leadership in a Changing World		
GEP 5103	Service Learning: Environment and Society		
GEP 5104	Service Learning: Global Citizenship and Migration		
Plus:			
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 5 Credit Totals		30	120

FHEQ Level 6		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
Required courses			
ADM 6102	Web Design	4	16
COM 6101	New Media	4	16
COM 6102	Advertising and PR Campaigns	4	16
COM 6110	Senior Project	4	16

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COM 6296	Senior Seminar 1	3	12
COM 6297	Senior Seminar 2	3	12
Plus one of the following:		4	16
ADM 6101	Photojournalism		
AVC 6103	New Media and Visual Power		
COM 6902	Internship in COM		
COM 6901	World Internship in COM		
FLM 6101	Advanced Digital Video		
FLM 6104	From Script to Screen		
MKT 6101	Digital Marketing and Social Media		
Plus:			
XXX 6XXX	FHEQ Level 6 Elective	4	16
FHEQ Level 6 Credit Totals		30	120

6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Upon completing the **BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies** students should have:

- An understanding of social media, digital communication and the role each plays in different societies and social contexts
- An understanding of production processes and professional practices relevant to social media and digital communication
- The ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated
- Skills which will translate into the workplace

Knowledge and Understanding (A)

Includes:	<i>knowledge base, debates in field</i>
LEVEL 3	
A3(i)	an understanding of the history of digital communication and social media technologies, and a recognition of the different ways in which the history of, and current developments in, Digital Communication and Social Media can be understood in relation to technological change
LEVEL 4	

A4(i)	a broad comparative understanding of the roles that social/digital media and/or cultural institutions play in different societies
A4(ii)	a broad understanding of the ethical and social role of Digital Communication and Social Media in cultural practices and cultural institutions
A4(iii)	a broad understanding of particular platforms and technologies, and the way in which they organise understandings, meanings and affects
LEVEL 5	
A5(i)	a detailed understanding of the ways in which different social groups may make use of cultural texts and products in the construction of social and cultural realities, cultural maps and frames of reference.
A5(ii)	a detailed understanding of the historical development of practices of cultural consumption (including subcultural forms and everyday lived practices) and the ethical/legal responsibilities of producers and consumers
A5(iii)	engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within the subject area and put them to productive use
LEVEL 6	
A6(i)	a systematic understanding of the historical evolution of particular aesthetic traditions, intellectual structures and technologies, and of their current characteristics and possible future developments
A6(ii)	a systematic understanding of the history of digital communication and social media technologies, and a recognition of the different ways in which the history of, and current developments in, social media and digital communication can be understood in relation to related social, political and ethical concerns
A6(iii)	a systematic understanding of new and emergent technologies and platforms, and their relation both to their social context and to earlier forms
A6(iv)	a systematic understanding of the interconnectedness of texts and contexts, and of the shifting configurations of communicative, cultural and aesthetic practices and systems

Cognitive Skills (B)

Includes:	<i>practical applications of knowledge base, principles of practice</i>
LEVEL 3	
B3(i)	an understanding of the processes linking production, distribution, circulation and consumption
LEVEL 4	
B4(i)	a broad understanding of the relationship between discourse, culture and identity.
B4(ii)	a broad insight into the cultural, economic and social ways in which the development of new technologies and associated decision making processes are constructed in alternative and corporate media and a demonstrated capacity to work within such constraints
B4(iii)	a broad understanding of the narrative processes, generic forms and modes of representation at work in social media and cultural texts while also demonstrating the ability to produce work which effectively manipulates sound, image and/or the written word within this context

LEVEL 5	
B5(i)	a detailed awareness of how media products might be understood and consumed within broader concepts of culture and knowledge of how to effectively produce these products showing capability in operational aspects of media production technologies, systems, techniques and professional practices
B5(ii)	a detailed understanding of the ways in which forms of social/digital media and cultural consumption are embedded in everyday life, and serve as ways of claiming and understanding identities
B5(iii)	a detailed understanding of the relationship between discourse, culture and identity
LEVEL 6	
B6(i)	a systematic understanding and application of key production processes and professional practices relevant to social media, cultural and communicative industries, and of ways of conceptualising creativity and authorship
B6(ii)	a systematic insight into the cultural and social ways in which digital media artefacts are constructed and experienced
B6(iii)	a systematic understanding of the ways in which people engage with cultural texts and practices and make meaning from them
B6(iv)	a systematic understanding of the relationship between discourse, culture and identity

Practical and/or professional skills (C)

Includes:	<i>critical thinking, synthesis, problem solving, research, analysis</i>
LEVEL 3	
C3(i)	demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communication arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms, with an understanding of appropriate methods
LEVEL 4	
C4(i)	demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms
C4(ii)	demonstrates a broad understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods
C4(iii)	demonstrates an ability to judge the reliability of sources, and begins to identify the strengths and weaknesses of concepts and theoretical frameworks
LEVEL 5	
C5(i)	demonstrates the ability to formulate and synthesize arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources, with a detailed understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative methods
C5(ii)	delivers work with limited supervision to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate, of a problem-solving approach
C5(iii)	exercises a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis

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LEVEL 6	
C6(i)	demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms
C6(ii)	demonstrates the ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated
C6(iii)	demonstrates the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts
C6(iv)	demonstrates the ability to provide critically appraisals of some of the widespread common sense understandings and misunderstandings of the subject area, and the debates and disagreements to which these give rise

Key Skills (D)

Includes:	<i>personal development, engagement with feedback, interpersonal comm skills, levels of independence and autonomy, task completion, team work, ethical and intercultural awareness skills</i>
LEVEL 3	
D3(i)	demonstrates an awareness of views other than their own and adapts behaviour to meet obligations in personal and/or group outcomes and/or outputs
LEVEL 4	
D4(i)	acts with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key areas
D4(ii)	demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace, including the ability to work productively in a group or team, and to recognise factors that affect performance, including changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity
D4(iii)	demonstrates the ability to use a range of information communication technology (ICT) skills to perform tasks
LEVEL 5	
D5(i)	demonstrates well-developed skills that will translate into the workplace, including the ability to work effectively within a group or team, to engage in self-reflection, and to adapt own actions and interpersonal communication skills to changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity
D5(ii)	delivers work with limited direction or supervision, demonstrating the capacity to consider and evaluate their own work using justifiable criteria
D5(iii)	demonstrates the ability to adapt to complex and non-routine performance tasks using information communication technology (ICT)
LEVEL 6	
D6(i)	demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions
D6(ii)	demonstrates personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct, while taking responsibility for their own work, learning and development, and effectiveness in professional and interpersonal communication

D6(iii)	demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity, and advanced group or team work capacities, for example listening, contributing, leading, negotiating and proactively managing conflict as is appropriate
D6(iv)	demonstrates the ability to flexibly locate their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research, with a level of autonomy

The transferable skills acquired in this program equip the students with skills and knowledge to enable them to undertake careers (or further training for careers) in the creative media industries, corporate communications, international marketing, commercial art and journalism.

7. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy adopted within the **BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies** degree is based on the understanding that all students will be treated as active learners. Clearly, the precise approach will vary from course to course, depending on the learning outcomes relevant to each class.

The generic components of our teaching and learning strategy normally involves a variety of approaches and include delivering many of the following:

- Regular use of formal lecture sessions in all courses.
- Occasional workshops and seminars in some courses.
- Regular use of individual and/or team-based projects in all courses.
- Regular use of self-directed and directed reading in all courses.
- Peer-tutoring led by advanced students in many courses.
- Use of audio-visual and library resources in some courses.
- Regular use of tutor- and student-led discussion groups via e-learning platforms such as PowerCAMPUS (or Blackboard) in many courses.

The combination of teaching and learning approaches mentioned above develops our students' knowledge, thinking skills and practical skills.

Their knowledge is acquired through

- Structured lectures and supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of internet materials
- Independent research

Their cognitive skills are developed through

- Conducting research
- Making presentations and preparing other assessments
- Helping others to learn

Their practical skills are gained through

- Application of theory to practices encountered during internships
- Using information technology to retrieve and manipulate data
- Negotiating by means of team-based projects

Their key skills are gained through

- Employing and using appropriate linguistic skills
- Independent learning

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies we use with our **BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies** degree speak directly to how we anticipate progression with student learning to take place.

In terms of following up with the assessment of student learning and consistent with US liberal arts traditions, our classes rely on the system of continuous assessment on a course-by-course basis and throughout any given semester. This approach often involves the use of term-papers, portfolios of work, quizzes, mid-semester and final exams as well as student presentations and general class discussion. Not every component applies to every course, but most do relate to many of the classes that are offered. Many of our courses involve a site visit or require attendance at a public lecture as well. Students generally find these events to be extremely valuable to their learning.

Most of the courses will follow the University Assessment Norms, however some may follow specialised norms, as listed in each CSD. See the Assessment Norm Policy for full details: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Each senior will end their programme with a dissertation which will normally have 8,000-10,000 words.

8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admissions

Details of the entry requirements, including English language requirements, may be found at the appropriate page of the University website listed below, where a comprehensive Admissions Policy and Summary of Practice document is also published.

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions/>

Transfer Credit

Prospective students with specific levels of subject achievement in Advanced Placement Tests, GCE, A Levels and some other UK and international qualifications may enter with Advanced Credit and be given exemption from certain courses of the programme. Please see the Transfer Credit Policy Undergraduate for details.

9. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

An exit award is defined as a lower award than one for which the student is registered. Such an award may be conferred if a student completes part, but not all, of the requirements of the programme for which he or she is registered. Students may not enter the university registered for an exit award.

Associate of Arts Degree in BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media (US)

The US Associate of Arts (AA) degree can be awarded as an exit degree for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

30 US / 120 UK credits at RQF Level 3

30 US / 120 UK credits at FHEQ Level 4

Of the total number of credits required for the AA degree, 30 US/120 UK credits must be completed at Richmond. Students must obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a major of 2.0 in order to qualify for this degree. Latin Honours are not applied to the AA Degree.

The requirements for the AA degree are outlined in Table 1 above. All Level 3 and 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Certificate of Higher Education in BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media (UK)

The UK Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) can be broadly aligned with the US Associate of Arts Degree, but the CertHE does not require the completion of 30 US/120 credits at RQF Level 3. Students who qualify for the AA degree will automatically qualify for the CertHE. But students may qualify for a CertHE without fulfilling the requirements for a US AA degree if they have not completed all of the CQF Level 3 requirements necessary to obtain the AA.

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK CertHE, 15 US/60 UK credits must be completed at Richmond.

The requirements for the UK CertHE are outlined in the section of Table 1 pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Diploma of Higher Education in BA (Hons) Social Media and Digital Communication

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The UK Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) has no US equivalent. The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

120 credits at FHEQ Level 5

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the sections of Table 1 and Table 2 above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed. Level 6 courses can be “dipped-down” to fulfil missing Level 5 credits.

Students may not be awarded more than one UK exit award and the University Examination Board will recommend the most relevant one for the individual student circumstance.

10. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services that positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their Academic Adviser. Academic Advisers have on-going responsibility for students’ academic progress, meeting with each student at least once per semester. Programme Directors assist students with registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on career opportunities and provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Math's, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support students with particular needs in these areas. Librarians are on hand to assist with library use, which includes instruction in web-based resources.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community. Students who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time in examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room.

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees medical registration of students and provides counselling services. It Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) **Digital Communication and Social Media** with Combined Studies

also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students' educational experiences. Disciplinary and social grievance procedures are also overseen by this department.

PLACEMENT

The Internship Office the University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. Participation in the internship programme is optional, but students who choose to take up a placement receive academic credit for their placement and associated academic work (see level 6 options).

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in the section on Enabling Student Achievement in *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education*) are handled by the university's Student Affairs department. This department conducts a variety of career services for students, ranging from resource provision to a CV service, and in particular through the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) seminar series.

In addition to these services, the alumni office offers networking opportunities where students may contact alumni working in a variety of fields. The alumni office also offers these services via social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

STUDY ABROAD

Richmond students have the option to take a leave of absence and travel away from the university as a 'study abroad'. With 40 partnerships spread over five continents, students are able to select from a wide range of partners. All courses taken elsewhere must be pre-approved by Registry Services.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The **BA (Hons) Degree in Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies** is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond American University in London, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2018). The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education. (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- QAA (2008). Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.
- SEEC (2016). Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. 2014: Thirteenth Edition; Rev. Ed. 2015. (<http://www.msche.org/publications/RevisedStandardsFINAL.pdf>)

Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The **BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies** features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution. All course outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External examiners
- Internal Moderation
- Student representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every 5 years
- Course evaluation
- Student satisfaction surveys and the NSS
- Feedback from employers

BA (Hons) Digital Communication and Social Media with Combined Studies is provided through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives, and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both US (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and UK (QAA) reviews. The University is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 and a Higher Education Review (AP) in 2017.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Books

Faculty and Students are encouraged to help in the purchase of library resources and submit requests for new purchases relating to and supporting their subject areas and research. Details of selected new acquisitions are publicized on the library subject pages and online catalogue.

The library also purchases academic ebooks to support students required reading, as well as cataloguing open access resources. These books are made available through the library catalogue.

Every year, the library collection is reviewed and non-relevant or out of date stock is withdrawn. Analysis of loans compared to purchases and new publications within core subject areas are used to drive additional purchases to make sure that the collection remains relevant and current.

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Journals

At present the Library subscribes directly to approximately 30 periodical titles. Where electronic access is provided with a subscription this has been made available through the library's online Publications Finder.

In consultation with faculty the Library regularly reviews its periodical subscriptions, ensuring relevant coverage is provided as the curriculum changes.

Online journal databases

Full text e-journal services include access to Ebsco's: Academic Search Premier, Art Full Text, Business Source Premier, Communication and Mass Media Complete, Education Full Text, International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance, International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center, SPORTDiscus and PsycArticles; WARC and JSTOR. These provide access to around 42,000 titles, as well as business and market data and case studies.

In addition, students are directed to a multitude of other online databases which they can search for citations including Google scholar and subject specific internet gateways.

In all cases where the full text is neither in the library's subscription resources nor available online the Library provides free inter-library loans to students and faculty using the services of the British Library (BL On Demand).

Access to the e-journal databases can be found on the Library portal.

Other online resources

Other online resources include the Proquest: Global Newsstream. This is used to access 4,000 titles, mainly national and international newspapers but also to related newswires and monitoring services. We also have a subscription to FT Education which provides on-line and mobile access to the newspaper archive as well as a wide range of digital and multi-media features, in-depth reports on a wide range of business and political topics and a digital learning tool that allows students and faculty to annotate and share articles. Additionally, the Statista platform provides easy access to over 1,900,000 statistics on a wide range of business & social topics from over 22,500 sources as well as industry reports, research dossiers and market outlooks. A subscription to Mintel Academic provides access to market research data and expertise across the retail, media and financial services sectors in the UK as well as global trends and consumer behaviour analysis.

There are pages of subject related resources on the library's portal which aim to guide students to quality internet material as well as the most relevant subscription resources.

Scanning/Digitising

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) **Digital Communication and Social Media** with Combined Studies

Under CLA licence the library provides online access to scanned materials from the library print collection to faculty. These can then be accessed by students on a particular course of study through the member of faculty's Blackboard pages.

Library Instruction

Students are encouraged to complete a library induction session online and visit the library during Orientation. Under the Liberal Arts Core, professional librarians teach information literacy and research skills to students as an integral part of GEP 3105 Tools for Change, GEP 4105 Social Change in Practice, GEP 3180 Research & Writing I and GEP 4180 Research & Writing II courses. In addition, further sessions on subject specific resources, tailored to individual assignments as required, are offered on Upper Division courses. Students can also receive individual, tailored help with resources, research skills and referencing on a one-to-one basis either in person or online throughout their studies.

APPENDIX 1 - Curriculum Map

LEVEL 3	ADM 3160 Foundations in Photography	COM 3101 Fdns of Media Production: Sonic Media	COM 3100 Foundations of Mass Media & Communications	SCL 3100 Foundations of Sociology
A3(i)			X	X
B3(i)	X	X	X	X
C3(i)	X	X	X	X
D3(i)	X		X	X

LEVEL 4	AVC 4205 Intro to Visual Culture	COM 4115 Digital Society	COM 4400 Intro to Ad Practice	COM 4405 Ad, PR, and Media	DGT 4100 Coding, Content, and Context 1	DGT 4120 Data Analysis for Social Change
A4(i)				X		
A4(ii)		X	X	X	x	X
A4(iii)	X		X	X		
B4(i)	X					
B4(ii)	X		X	X	X	X
B4(iii)	X	X	X			
C4(i)	X	X		X		
C4(ii)			X	X	X	X
C4(iii)	XX	X				
D4(i)	X	X	X	X		
D4 (ii)			X		X	
D4 (iii)			X		X	X

Level 5	COM 5130 Principles of Ad & PR	COM 5200 Mass Communications and Society	COM 5230 Creating Digital Images	SCL 5200 Social Research	ADM 5200 Video Production	COM 5205 Cultural Theory	COM 5220 Com for PR & Ad	COM 5102 Celebrity, Fan Cultures, and Advertising	DGT 5100 Coding, Context, and Content 2	MKT 5200 Principles of Marketing
A5(i)	X		X		X		X	X	X	
A5(ii)	X	X		X		X				
A5(iii)		X	X	X		X		X		X
A5(iv)										
A5(v)			X		X					
A5(vi)						X				
B5(i)	X			X	X	X	X			X
B5(ii)	X	X							X	
B5(iii)				X		X	X			
B5 (iv)						X				
B5 (v)			X			X				
C5(i)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
C5(ii)				X	X	X				X
C5(iii)	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
D5(i)	X			X					X	X
D5(ii)	X			X	X			X		X
D5(iii)		X							X	

Level 6	ADM 6102 Web Design	COM 6101 New Media	COM 6102 Ad & PR Campaigns	COM 6391 Senior Project	COM 6296 Senior Seminar I	COM 6297 Senior Seminar II		COM 6902 Internship	COM 6901 World Internship	AVC 6103 New Media & Visual Power	ADM 6101 Photojournalism	FLM 6101 Advanced Digital Video	FLM 6104 Script to Screen	MKT 6101 Digital Marketing & Social Media
A6(i)		X			X	X							X	
A6(ii)		X	X							X				X
A6(iii)	X	X	X								X	X	X	X
A6(iv)	X				X	X		X	X		X			
B6(i)				X	X	X				X		X	X	X
B6(ii)	X		X	X							X		X	
B6(iii)	X	X	X					X	X		X	X		
B6(iv)					X	X		X	X					
B6 (v)					X	X		X	X	X				
C6(i)			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	
C6(ii)			X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
C6(iii)					X	X		X	X	X				X
C6(iv)		X	X		X	X		X	X	X				
D6(i)	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D6(ii)	X	X		X							X	X		X
D6(iii)		X		X								X	X	
D6(iv)								X	X					

Faculty may access the KILO map: [010 KILO KPO tables](#)

Programme Specification Publication Dates

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