

03 January 2012

Dear Graduate Committee-

Thank you for the opportunity to return to Michigan State University and complete my master's in journalism. Being able to finish the program means a great deal to me. Since leaving MSU in 2000, I have continued working full-time as a video journalist for several network affiliates and have recently started my own video production company. During that time, I have always wanted to return to MSU, and now that it's possible, I'm very excited.

In terms of meeting my graduation requirements, I would like to change my path from the professional project to the course work option. I feel the course route would work better for me because of the more directed study and predictable time frame. Having completed all my core requirements and elective classes previously, my understanding from reading the master's handbook is that would need six credits of course work. Which 400 or 800-level courses do you recommend?

Additionally, would the Graduate Committee allow some form of professional experience credit to count toward my course requirements? I have been a professional visual journalist (photo and video) for twenty years with the last fourteen in broadcast news. I spent the last eleven years in the Tampa market (#14) as a general assignment and special projects videographer. In that time, I've earned an Emmy and several AP and SPJ awards. Many of these stories are in my archives, and I can provide them to the committee.

Finally, just to let the committee know, I changed my name a few years ago from Scott Garms to Scott Eason. I have already filed the necessary paperwork with the Registrar's Department to apply that change to my student records.

Again, thank you for approving my return the program, and I look forward to meeting with you in the future on campus.

Sincerely,
Scott Eason.