Twin Cities Campus

Journalism B.A.

School of Journalism & Mass Communication

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2021
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 37
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

The Journalism major prepares students for careers such as news reporting, writing, editing, producing, and photojournalism in traditional and emerging media. Students learn how to inform the public through newspapers, television, radio, magazines, blogs, websites, mobile apps, and social media. The major also prepares students for careers outside the traditional and emerging news media as they learn to write and edit content and create stories and images for a broad range of audiences. The program offers a variety of professional courses and workplace experiences at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. The major is based on a liberal arts foundation, knowledge of the social context in which the profession is practiced, and the skills and experiences needed to succeed in the marketplace.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

Freshman and transfer students students are usually admitted to pre-major status before admission to this major

A GPA above 2.0 is preferred for the following:

- 3.00 already admitted to the degree-granting college
- 3.00 transferring from another University of Minnesota college
- 3.00 transferring from outside the University

Students must apply to the major. To apply, students must have completed, or be enrolled in, JOUR 1001 and at least 30 graded (A-F) credits, including at least one semester of study (13 credits) at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Students must write a statement of intent for the major application. The statement of intent provides a writing sample for the Admissions Committee, addressing information about academic interests, professional goals, and mass communication or related experience, if any.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

Required prerequisites

Preparatory Course

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:

- JOUR 1001 - Media in a Changing World [SOCS, TS] (3.0 cr)
  or JOUR 1001H - Media in a Changing World [SOCS, TS] (3.0 cr)

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

CLA BA degrees require 18 upper-division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the Journalism BA is JOUR.

The 120-credit requirement must include at least 72 non-JOUR credits. Total program credits may not exceed 48.

At least 24 upper-division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 28, 2024

Students may combine the Journalism BA with the Digital Media Studies minor, but not with the Mass Communication minor.

Students may earn no more than one undergraduate major in Journalism, Strategic Communication: Advertising and Public Relations, and Mass Communication.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

All students must complete a capstone in at least one CLA major. The requirements for double majors completing the capstone in a different CLA major will be clearly stated. Students must also complete all major requirements in both majors to allow the additional capstone to be waived. Student completing an addition degree must complete the capstone in each degree area.

Core Course

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:

- JOUR 3004 - Information for Mass Communication (3.0 cr)

or JOUR 3004H - Information for Mass Communication (3.0 cr)

News Reporting and Writing

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:

- JOUR 3101W - News Reporting and Writing [WI] (3.0 cr)

Mass Communication Law

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:

- JOUR 3776 - Media Law (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3776H - Media Law (3.0 cr)

Professional Courses

Take exactly 15 credit(s) from the following:

3xxx

Take no more than 3 course(s) from the following:

- JOUR 3102 - Multimedia Production and Storytelling (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3103 - Interactive and Data Journalism (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3121 - Intermediate News Reporting (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3155 - Editing for Print and Digital Audiences (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3173W - Magazine & Feature Writing [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3321 - Media Design (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3451 - TV, Radio and Digital News Reporting (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3690 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

•4xxx-5xxx

Take 2 or more course(s) from the following:

- JOUR 4171 - Covering the Arts (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4172 - Sports Reporting (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4173 - Podcast Production and Storytelling (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4175 - Brovald-Sim Community Journalism Practicum (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4302 - Photojournalism (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4303 - Advanced Visual Storytelling (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4451 - Long-form Video Reporting (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4452 - Newscast Producing (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4690 - Special Topics in Journalism Skills (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5131 - In-Depth Reporting (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5174 - Magazine Editing and Production (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5196 - Field Based Practicum (3.0 cr)

Context Courses

Take exactly 3 course(s) totaling exactly 9 credit(s) from the following:

3xxx

Take no more than 2 course(s) totaling at most 6 credit(s) from the following:

- JOUR 3005 - Media Effects [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3006 - Visual Communication (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3007 - The Media in American History and Law: Case Studies [HIS] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3201 - Principles of Strategic Communication (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3551 - The Business of Digital Media: Innovation, Disruption, and Adaptation [TS] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3552 - Technology, Communication & Global Society [GP] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3590 - Special Topics in Mass Communication: Context (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3614 - History of Media Communication [HIS, TS] (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

- JOUR 3741 - Diversity and Media [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3745 - Media and Popular Culture [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3751 - Digital Media and Culture [AH, TS] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3757 - Principles of Health Communication Strategy (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3771 - Media Ethics [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3775 - Strategic Communication Law [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3786 - Media and Politics (3.0 cr)
  or POL 3786 - Media and Politics (3.0 cr)

•4xxx-5xxx

Take 1 or more course(s) from the following:

- JOUR 4251 - Psychology of Advertising (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4272 - Digital Advertising: Theory and Practice (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4274W - Advertising in Society [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4590 - Special Topics in Mass Communication: Context (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4721 - Mass Media and U.S. Society [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
  or JOUR 4721H - Mass Media and U.S. Society [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4733V - Honors Thesis Seminar [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4801 - Global Communication (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5501 - Communication, Public Opinion, and Social Media (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5541 - Mass Communication and Public Health (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5552 - Law of Internet Communication (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5606W - Literary Aspects of Journalism [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5601W - History of Journalism [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5725 - Management of Media Organizations (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5777 - Contemporary Problems in Freedom of Speech and Press (3.0 cr)

Capstone

The capstone requirement is fulfilled by taking JOUR 4995 after 90 credits have been earned. Students who double major within CLA can choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major and only have to complete 36 credits within the major.

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 1 credit(s) from the following:

- JOUR 4999 - Capstone (1.0 cr)

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:

- JOUR 3101W - News Reporting and Writing [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3173W - Magazine & Feature Writing [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 4274W - Advertising in Society [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5601W - History of Journalism [WI] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 5606W - Literary Aspects of Journalism [WI] (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.