

2009-2010

B.A. in Journalism

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

What Is the Study of Journalism?

Journalism is the work of supplying content, primarily news, for the ever-expanding world of mass media. Journalists are responsible for gathering information, analyzing and editing it for a mass audience, and dispensing it using some form of media platform. Increasingly the methods of distribution have become more complex, but the basic mission of a journalist remains the same: to serve the public by finding, defining, writing and editing information.

Today's journalist may be found on traditional publications such as newspapers and magazines, broadcast outlets and specialized publications. He or she may utilize online delivery or other forms of electronic communication. The trained journalist may use her or his skills in the expanding field of public relations, working to serve as a bridge between those with a message to communicate and the journalist who seeks information.

Why Should I Consider This Major?

Few fields of study prepare a person for as wide a range of interesting and challenging careers. Journalists first and foremost learn to write, to accumulate and analyze information. This set of skills is in demand in a host of fields beyond traditional mass media.

The study of Journalism exposes a student to current affairs and problems, from issues of campus governance to international news and concerns. Journalism students are expected to question, to challenge sources of information and seek a variety of data and opinions on any serious issue.

Journalism students are given the daily opportunity to practice what they learn, in hands-on student publication laboratories, culminating in a professional internship. The Journalism faculty at Western are prepared both professionally and academically to help students enter this exciting career field.

How to Declare:

Students seeking admission to the major must meet the following conditions:

1. Complete at least 30 college credits with a cumulative 2.50 grade point average,
2. Pass JOUR 207 with a B- or better,
3. Complete one Journalism staff course with a B- or better, and
4. Submit a letter of application.

Students meeting qualifications but not admitted because of space limitations will be listed as pre-majors and admitted as space allows.

Mid Program-Checkpoint:

Students intending to complete a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Journalism within four years should complete the following courses by the start of their junior year. Students are expected to follow all prerequisite requirements for courses and seek early departmental advisement.

Coursework:

Complete ENG 101.
Complete JOUR 190.
Complete JOUR 207 with a B- or better.
Complete one journalism staff course with a B- or better.

Other Activities:

Join the P.R. Organization.
Join the Society for Professional Journalists.
Join the National Press Photographers Association.

Contact Information:

Journalism Department Website:
<http://www.wvu.edu/depts/journalism>

Department Chair:
Shearlean Duke
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Manager:
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Sample Careers:

Reporter
Editor
Customer Service Representative
Public Relations Specialist
Community Relations Director
TV News Anchor
Speech Writer
Advertising Copywriter
Copywriter
Market Research Analyst
Lobbyist
Photojournalist
Designer
Multimedia Producer



Journalism Major Requirements: 78-82 Credits

News-Editorial Sequence (79 Credits)

Core Courses:

JOUR 190 Introduction to Mass Media (5)
JOUR 207 Newswriting (4)
JOUR 307 Reporting (5)
JOUR 309 Editing (5)
JOUR 340 History of U.S. Journalism (4)
JOUR 350 Mass Media Law (5)
JOUR 351 Mass Media Ethics (4)
JOUR 404 Feature Writing (4)
JOUR 430 Field Internship (6)
JOUR 450 Advanced Reporting (5)
JOUR 480 Senior Seminar (5)

Other Requirements:

Three courses from list (a), one course from list (b) and one additional from list (a) or (b), or ESTU 480

LIST (a)

JOUR 214 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 314 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 414 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 415 Newspaper Editorship (4)

LIST (b)

JOUR 321 Periodical Staff (3)
JOUR 421 Periodical Staff (3)
JOUR 422 Periodical Editorship (4)

Additional 12 upper-division credits in another academic area under departmental advisement

Public Relations Sequence (78 credits)

Core Courses:

JOUR 190 Introduction to Mass Media (5)
JOUR 207 Newswriting (4)
JOUR 309 Editing (5)
JOUR 330 Principles of Public Relations (4)
JOUR 350 Mass Media Law (5)
JOUR 351 Mass Media Ethics (4)
JOUR 380 Advanced P.R. Writing and Techniques (5)
JOUR 404 Feature Writing (4)
JOUR 430 Field Internship (6)
JOUR 440 P. R. Research & Campaigns (5)
JOUR 480 Senior Seminar (5)
COMM 428 Organizational Comm. (5)

Other Requirements:

One course from list (a), one course from list (b) and one additional from list (a) or (b), or ESTU 480 .

LIST (a)

JOUR 214 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 314 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 414 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 415 Newspaper Editorship (4)

LIST (b)

JOUR 321 Periodical Staff (3)
JOUR 421 Periodical Staff (3)
JOUR 422 Periodical Editorship (4)

Additional 12 upper-division credits in another academic area under departmental advisement

Visual Journalism Sequence (82 credits)

Core Courses:

JOUR 190 Introduction to Mass Media (5)
JOUR 207 Newswriting (4)
JOUR 305 Photojournalism (4)
JOUR 307 Reporting (5)
JOUR 309 Editing (5)
JOUR 346 Intro to Visual Journalism (5)
JOUR 350 Mass Media Law (5)
JOUR 351 Mass Media Ethics (4)
JOUR 370 Online Journalism (3)
JOUR 430 Field Internship (6)
JOUR 446 Advanced Visual Journalism (5)
JOUR 480 Senior Seminar (5)

Choose one course from:

ART 109 Visual Dialogue (3)
DSGN 211 Foundations of Visual Comm. (3)

Other Requirements:

Two courses from list (a), one from list (b), and one additional from (a) or (b), or ESTU 480:

LIST (a)

JOUR 214 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 314 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 414 Newspaper Staff (3)
JOUR 415 Newspaper Editorship (4)

LIST (b)

JOUR 321 Periodical Staff (3)
JOUR 421 Periodical Staff (3)
JOUR 422 Periodical Editorship (4)

Additional 12 upper-division credits in another academic area under departmental advisement

These courses are required (or advised) for this major and may be used to satisfy GUR or Writing Proficiency requirements.

BCOM: JOUR 207

HUM: JOUR 340

SSCI: JOUR 190

BCGM: JOUR 375

WP: Three Writing Proficiency points are required for graduation (they are noted as WP1, WP2, and WP3). Check [Classfinder](#) or [Online Timetable](#) for departmental offerings each quarter.

NOTES:

- Majors must maintain a 2.50 grade point average both overall and in journalism courses.
- A maximum of 73 journalism course credits may be applied toward the 180-credit minimum for graduation.

Other Journalism Options:

B.A. in Environmental Studies/Journalism (84 credits, plus 34-42 credits in preparatory courses)

Minor in Journalism (41 credits)