JOURNALISM (BS)

Director: S. Catherine Foster, PhD

Introduction

The Communication Studies Department’s major in journalism integrates deep, socially responsible reporting and writing with appropriate digital media. Students seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism tell true stories across print, broadcast, online and mobile platforms. In keeping with the trend toward media convergence, they think visually, use social media to report and promote stories and design multimedia publications.

For additional information about the major visit the Journalism website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/journalism).

Qualifications

Journalism majors must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0, a minimum grade of C- in all journalism courses, and a minimum overall average of 2.0 in all journalism coursework. The performance of all majors is subject to review relative to their continuance in the program. Journalism majors need at least 36 hours of journalism courses (or 33 hours for dual majors).

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

A journalism major is assigned an advisor at the beginning of the freshman year. Those who transfer into the journalism major should contact the Communication Studies office at 888-2115 to be assigned an advisor.

Dual Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a dual major. The decision may be based on career goals or planned graduate studies. Before a student declares a dual major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. Some dual major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional course work may be required. In order to declare a dual major, the student must complete the appropriate dual major request form and get the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean.

Students complete a minimum of 33 credit hours of journalism courses. Students may wish to consider developing a foreign language competency, as well as a specialty in a field such as political science, economics, science, or religion.

Each journalism major and dual major is assigned a department faculty advisor to plan an individual program that will satisfy the department’s requirements and the student’s personal goals. Course selections develop from the journalism requirements, prerequisites and electives.

Journalism students who are dual majors and successfully complete 3 or more credit hours in Independent Study or Internships (JRN 488, JRN 498 or JRN 499) are required to complete 30 hours of in-class credit in order to complete the journalism major.

Minors in other dISCIPLINES

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. The minors page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/core-curriculum) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

Curriculum

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All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/core-curriculum) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/all-college-honors-program). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as “general education” requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes, they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Core Curriculum or Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum of 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRN 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 200</td>
<td>Multimedia Storytelling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 203</td>
<td>Writing for the Public Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 301</td>
<td>Newsgathering and Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 310</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 351</td>
<td>Media Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or DMA 216</td>
<td>Digital Media Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 490</td>
<td>Senior Project and Portfolio</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 21

Upper-Level Concentration Courses

Journalism majors will select an area of concentration, also open to other majors who may be interested. There are three options for the concentration, each of which requires a total of five courses for 15 credit hours:

Sports Journalism and Broadcasting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRN 336</td>
<td>Sports Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 358</td>
<td>Sports Field Production I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JRN 359</td>
<td>Sports Field Production II</td>
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Concentration Electives

Sports Communication – Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM 359</td>
<td>Communication and Sports</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Journalism (BS)

SPMT 430  Sport Communications
SPMT 412  Sport Marketing
Sports Broadcast and Journalism – Select one of the following: 3
  JRN 201  Advanced Multimedia Storytelling
  JRN 311  Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting
  JRN 322  Feature/Magazine Writing
  COM 361  Introduction to TV Production
Total Credits 15

Narrative Journalism

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRN 311</td>
<td>Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 322</td>
<td>Feature/Magazine Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 342</td>
<td>Narrative Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration Electives
Select two of the following: 6
  ENG 294  Introduction to Creative Writing
  JRN 369  Television Features
  JRN 201  Advanced Multimedia Storytelling
  COM 374  Film History

Total Credits 15

Multimedia Journalism

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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRN 201</td>
<td>Advanced Multimedia Storytelling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMA 342</td>
<td>Introduction to Web Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CSC 108</td>
<td>Introduction to Web Computing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 361</td>
<td>Introduction to TV Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Concentration Electives
Select two of the following: 6
  DMA 218  Motion Graphics
  DMA 212  2D Graphics
  JRN 322  Feature/Magazine Writing
  JRN 369  Television Features
  JRN 311  Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting

Total Credits 15

Internships and Independent Study
Internships (JRN 488, JRN 498), awarding up to a maximum of 12 credit hours, may be earned by qualified journalism majors at approved Buffalo or other locations. The internships are individually arranged, require department approval and are available only to junior or senior candidates with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a journalism average of at least 2.7. Internships are taken on a pass/fail basis and are counted toward free elective credit. Students are encouraged to plan early to do an internship during their junior or senior year.

Independent Study (JRN 499) provides the opportunity for a student to work under the supervision of a faculty member to complete an academic research project culminating in a scholarly product or news and feature stories, construction of a news web site, etc. The opportunity for independent study (three credits) is open only to junior or senior majors in good standing, with consent of the instructor and chair. Independent study, it should be noted, is granted only in very specific circumstances. Please see the department chair for more information.

Note: To gain valuable experience, journalism majors are advised to participate in clubs such as the student newspaper, television station, radio station, and digital media arts clubs.

Roadmap

Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course Requirements

Freshman
Fall
  JRN 100
Spring
  JRN 301

Sophomore
Fall
  JRN 200
Spring
  COM 203

Junior
Fall
  JRN 310
Spring
  COM 351 or DMA 216

Senior
Fall
  Concentration requirement or elective
Spring
  Concentration requirement or elective

Learning Goals & Objectives

These learning Goals and Objectives apply to all Journalism majors.

Student Learning Goal 1

Majors will understand the history and current state of the profession of journalism.
Students will:
  • Objective A: Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of Journalism’s professional qualities and ethical standards, including the need to report facts fairly and accurately.
  • Objective B: Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of media law, the First Amendment, Sunshine Laws, and FOIA.

Student Learning Goal 2

Majors will think critically and creatively.
Students will:
  • Objective A: Understand the nature of current and upcoming events in order to report meaningful news stories.
  • Objective B: Exercise sound, responsible news judgment even under pressures of immediacy and competition.

Student Learning Goal 3

Majors will write for audience, platform, and message.
Students will:
  • Objective A: Write in a style to sustain reader interest, avoiding personal opinion, unsubstantiated claims and empty prose.
  • Objective B: Write cogently in a structure appropriate for the chosen platform.
- Objective C: Produce accurate stories based on facts that they have gathered, verified, analyzed and interpreted, using multiple sources and methods.

Courses

**JRN 100 Introduction to Journalism** 3 Credits
Introduces the history of journalism, its norms and best practices.
Offered: every fall.

**JRN 200 Multimedia Storytelling** 3 Credits
Introduces the fundamentals of digital systems and technologies as they apply to journalism. Through class lecture and hands-on approaches, students will learn software and hardware used for journalistic applications of web design, multimedia, video production, graphics and audio production.
Offered: spring.

**JRN 201 Advanced Multimedia Storytelling** 3 Credits
Students will explore multimedia storytelling through class lecture and hands-on experience of the digital systems and technologies used in journalism. The student will develop a better understandings of the nature of multimedia journalism using audio, video, graphics, animation and writing to tell news stories.
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C- in JRN 200 or permission of instructor.
Offered: fall.

**JRN 301 Newsgathering and Reporting** 3 Credits
Grounded in the social responsibility theory of the press, this course covers both traditional methods (e.g., observing, interviewing, listening) and newer methods (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, crowd sourcing) to gather and verify material for news and feature stories, to be distributed via print, broadcast, web and mobile media.
Offered: spring.

**JRN 308 Pre & Post Production** 3 Credits
Students will develop and hone skills in planning video projects -- features and promotion, for example -- completed before a live broadcast, as well as preparing highlights, video recaps, websites and social media postings during a live broadcast. The course will center on sports broadcasts, to air as part of the college's partnership with ESPN.

**JRN 309 Sports Broadcasting** 3 Credits
Sports Broadcasting centers on the skills needed for play-by-play announcing in all sports, along with broadcast anchoring and reporting.
Offered: Spring of even-numbered years.

**JRN 310 Journalism** 3 Credits
Focuses on writing news and features for print and online media, using a variety of storytelling designs (e.g., the narrative, the inverted pyramid, the focus approach) combined with a variety of multimedia presentation methods (e.g., video, audio, slideshows).
Prerequisite: minimum grade of C- in JRN 100 or permission of instructor.
Offered: fall.

**JRN 311 Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting** 3 Credits
Advanced study and practice of all aspects of journalism, including news gathering, reporting, writing and editing.

**JRN 322 Feature/Magazine Writing** 3 Credits
Profiles and other human-interest features developed for newspapers, magazines, broadcast. Free-lance writing is introduced.
Offered: every other year.

**JRN 336 Sports Journalism** 3 Credits
Instruction on covering sports in the 21st century, including exposure to cross-platform journalism and the influence of social media. Students will learn practices and theories commonly encountered in locker rooms and press boxes from those in the business. Also counts as a COM elective.
Offered: spring.

**JRN 342 Narrative Journalism** 3 Credits
The advanced study and practice of long-form, literary- influenced journalism, from magazines and nonfiction books to cross-platform, online media outlets. Students explore methods of conceptualizing, reporting, researching and writing long-form journalism while working on a literary nonfiction project of their own. prerequisite or permission of instructor.

**JRN 358 Sports Field Production I** 3 Credits
The principles and techniques of shooting, writing, directing and producing live broadcast events. Students in this course will be responsible for production of live basketball, hockey and other Canisius sports events aired over ESPN3 and ESPNU, as well as for other campus events as needed.
Offered: fall & spring.

**JRN 359 Sports Field Production II** 3 Credits
Advanced principles and techniques of shooting, writing, directing and producing live broadcast events. Students in this course will be responsible for production of live basketball, hockey and other Canisius sports events aired over ESPN3 and ESPNU, as well as for other campus events as needed.
Offered: spring.

**JRN 369 Television Features** 3 Credits
Design, write and produce special feature reports, multiple- part series, investigative stories and mini-documentaries. Emphasis on field work.
Offered: every other year.

**JRN 380 Special Topics in Journalism** 3 Credits
Course focus will vary and is designed to provide in-depth study of journalism as it applies to specialized topics and content area that may include legal, business, health and science, environment, international and/or investigative journalism.
Offered: occasionally.

**JRN 488 Internship I Seminar** 3-9 Credits
Student experientially learns communication functions in competitively matched professional setting, locally or out-of- town. Faculty and on-site supervision. Seminar required. Pass/fail. May be repeated as JRN 498; 12- credit limit for JRN 488 and JRN 498 combined. Information about the internship application process is available on the Communication Studies Department website.
Prerequisite: junior or senior standing, minimum overall GPA of 2.50, minimum communication studies average of 2.70, & approval by department faculty. Restriction: must be JRN major.
Offered: every semester.

**JRN 490 Senior Project and Portfolio** 3 Credits
Culminating experience for Journalism majors in which they synthesize what they have learned in their program of study. Students work independently or as part of a reporting/ writing/editing team to produce a publishable multimedia community journalism project.
Prerequisites: min grade of C- in JRN 100, 200, 310 and COM 203.
Offered: spring.
JRN 498 Internship II Seminar
Sequel to JRN 488 for students taking multiple internships. Each student is limited to a combined total of 12 credit hours for JRN 488 and JRN 498. **Prerequisite:** junior or senior standing, minimum overall GPA of 2.50, minimum communication studies average of 2.70, & approval by department faculty. **Restriction:** must be JRN major. **Offered:** every semester.

JRN 499 Independent Study
Student conducts original project or self-designed course of study under the tutelage of a Journalism faculty member. Offered only in very specific circumstances. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean. **Prerequisite:** junior or senior standing; & permission of instructor, chair, & associate dean. **Restriction:** must be JRN major.