JOURNALISM (BS)

Director: Barbara J. Irwin, 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 double 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.

Double Majors

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

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 double 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 double majors and successfully complete 3 or more credit hours in Internships (JRN 488 or JRN 498) 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/minors) 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 Canisius Core Curriculum or All-College 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 or DMA 216</td>
<td>Media Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 490</td>
<td>Senior Project and Portfolio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper-level Concentration Courses (5 courses)</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 359</td>
<td>Sports Field Production II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concentration Electives
Sports Communication – Select one of the following:  
COM 359 Communication and Sports  
SPMT 412 Sport Marketing  
SPMT 430 Sport Communications
Sports Broadcast and Journalism – Select one of the following:  
JRN 201 Advanced Multimedia Storytelling  
JRN 311 Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting  
JRN 322 Feature/Magazine Writing  
COM 361 Introduction to TV Production  
COM 367 Broadcasting in America

Total Credits 15

Narrative Journalism
Code Title Credits
Required Courses  
JRN 311 Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting 3  
JRN 322 Feature/Magazine Writing 3  
JRN 342 Narrative Journalism 3  
Concentration Electives Select two of the following: 6  
JRN 201 Advanced Multimedia Storytelling  
JRN 336 Sports Journalism  
JRN 369 Television Features  
COM 374 Film History  
ENG 294 Introduction to Creative Writing  
ENG 393 Advanced Creative Writing: Memoir & Nonfiction

Total Credits 15

Multimedia Journalism
Code Title Credits
Required Courses  
JRN 201 Advanced Multimedia Storytelling 3  
COM 361 Introduction to TV Production 3  
CSC 108 Introduction to Web Computing 3  
or DMA 342 Introduction to Web Design  
Concentration Electives Select two of the following: 6  
JRN 311 Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting  
JRN 322 Feature/Magazine Writing  
JRN 369 Television Features  
COM 367 Broadcasting in America  
DMA 212 2D Graphics  
DMA 218 Motion Graphics

Total Credits 15

Internships
Internships (JRN 488, JRN 498), awarding up to a maximum of 12 credit hours, may be earned by qualified journalism majors at approved locations in Buffalo or elsewhere. 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.

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  
JRN 200  
Spring  
JRN 301  
COM 203

Sophomore  
Fall  
JRN 310  
Spring  
COM 351 or DMA 216

Junior  
Fall  
Concentration requirement or elective  
Concentration requirement or elective  
Spring  
Concentration requirement or elective

Senior  
Fall  
Concentration requirement or elective  
Spring  
JRN 490

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: Demonstrate the ability to write lively prose that adheres to the principles of objective news: transparently-sourced claims that are free from the writer’s personal opinion.
- Objective B: Demonstrate the ability to write cogently in a structure appropriate for the chosen platform.
Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRN 100 Introduction to Journalism</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: every fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 200 Multimedia Storytelling</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 201 Advanced Multimedia Storytelling</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 308 Pre &amp; Post Production</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 310 Journalism</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: every semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 311 Advanced Journalism and Investigative Reporting</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: occasionally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 322 Feature/Magazine Writing</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: every other year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 336 Sports Journalism</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 342 Narrative Journalism</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 358 Sports Field Production I</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: fall &amp; spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 359 Sports Field Production II</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: every other year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 369 Television Features</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: occasionally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 380 Special Topics in Journalism</td>
<td>3-9 Credits</td>
<td>Offered as JRN 488 and JRN 498 combined. Information about the internship application process is available on the Journalism Program website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 488 Internship I Seminar</td>
<td>3-9 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: every semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 490 Senior Project and Portfolio</td>
<td>3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: every spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN 491 Video Institute I</td>
<td>1-3 Credits</td>
<td>Offered: occasionally.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective C: Demonstrate the ability to produce accurate stories based on facts that they have gathered, verified, analyzed and interpreted, using multiple sources and methods.
JRN 498 Internship II Seminar 3-9 Credits
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.
Restriction: JRN major with junior or senior standing, minimum overall GPA of 2.50, minimum communication studies average of 2.70, & approval by department faculty.
Offered: every semester.

JRN 499 Independent Study 3 Credits
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.