Undergraduate Degree Requirements (ABJ)
Journalism Major
Public Affairs Journalism Emphasis

Reporting and editing positions in newspapers and magazines, including digital media

The Public Affairs Journalism emphasis teaches students how to make important news interesting. Important news is typically about local, state and federal governments: How we choose our leaders; how we debate and settle on public policies; how government affects health, education, and the economy; how we evaluate government performance. To find a broad, attentive, engaged audience, public affairs journalism must be lively, direct, honest and powerful. This emphasis teaches students the skills necessary to produce such compelling journalistic work.

This is a reporting-intensive and writing-intensive emphasis. Instruction and assignments focus on public affairs journalism in print and online. Students learn the foundations of public affairs reporting and writing; the specialized skills essential to public affairs journalism, including the use of spreadsheets, databases and other innovative online tools; and the techniques of enterprise and investigative reporting. Graduates are fully prepared for entry-level reporting positions on any public affairs assignment in any media.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (16 credit hours)

- JOUR 3310 Intro to Print Media - 3 hrs.
- JOUR 3410* News Writing & Reporting - 4 hrs.
- JRLC 5040 Law of Mass Communication - 3 hrs.
- JOUR 5300 Public Affairs Reporting - 3 hrs.
- JOUR 5600 Investigative Reporting or JOUR 5800 Computer Assisted Reporting or JOUR 5720 Advanced Reporting and Writing - 3 hrs.

* Public Affairs Journalism emphasis students must enroll in the JOUR 3410 lab designated for this emphasis.

MAJOR ELECTIVES (14 credit hours)

- **Choose one 3-hour visual course from the following:**
  - JOUR 3610 Introduction to Photojournalism - 3 hrs.
  - ADPR 3520 Graphic Communications - 3 hrs.
  - NMIX 4110 New Media Production - 3 hrs.
  - TELE 4290 Digital Media Production - 3 hrs.

- **Choose one 3-hour conceptual course from the following:**
  - JOUR 5410
  - JOUR 5420
  - JOUR 5670
  - JRLC 5490

- **Choose an additional 8 hours** from JOUR or JRLC classes, a 1-hour Journalism practicum (JOUR 5100) and/or a 1-3 hour Journalism internship (JOUR 5010). Students may choose three hours from upper-division ADPR, NMIX or TELE courses.