

Rationale for Revisions to Journalism Major

In view of rapid changes in the field of journalism, the following revisions are suggested to the journalism program. These changes uphold the core of ethical journalism with the emphasis on solid writing and reporting skills while blending in the ongoing technological advancements. The proposed changes are designed to teach journalism majors some important concepts and skills in the discipline while encouraging them to develop expertise in at least one additional area through a learning agreement or a minor or a second major.

The 36-credit core comprises the following courses:

Courses added to the Core:

COM 100 Foundations of Communication and COM 210 Critical Thinking and Public Speaking

Rationale: The journalism program already required COM 210 to fulfill the Gen Ed requirement of critical thinking, however, this course along with COM 100 was added to BRC 108 as a department-wide common core requirement.

BRC 223 Integrated Media Writing/Design

Rationale: This course was added as an option to the required course of BRC 229: Broadcast Newswriting. The rationale is to expose students to different newswriting styles. By adding BRC 223 as an option to the core, students can now choose between one of these two courses and still continue to take the left out course as an elective.

BRC 319 Mass Media and the Law

Rationale: It's important to keep BRC 319 in the core as basic Mass Media Law knowledge is a must for working journalists to avoid libel and all other legal pitfalls. Journalism majors were taking this course since the time this major was moved into the Department of Communication Studies about 20 years ago.

JLM 419 Journalism Senior Capstone

Rationale: This course is aimed at meeting the college-wide practice of providing a capstone experience to graduating seniors. Students explore advanced theories in news production, journalism practices and prepare for job searches. Each student completes an individual project.

JLM 497 Practicum

Rationale: This course will be offered as an alternative to JLM 498: Journalism Internship for the students with less than 2.5 GPA, which is a college requirement for formal internship credits. The practicum will meet requirements similar to the internship. Working for the college student media will not be an option for this.

Courses removed from the Core:

COM 380 Communication Ethics

Rationale: The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) code of ethics is emphasized and touched upon in all journalism core as well as elective classes. The journalism majors are required to abide by the SPJ's code of ethics in all of their writing and reporting assignments. This is the reason COM 380 was moved into electives.

JLM 419 Journalism Senior Capstone

Rationale: The capstone experience for journalism majors will be fulfilled through their internship experience.

Electives (9 - 11 cr) Removed: The electives are removed to avoid overload of credits in the major.

Rationale: Journalism majors will still have the flexibility to take 18 more credits within the Communication Studies. Also, having a learning agreement or another minor or major will fulfill the role of electives.

Cognate Requirements (3cr) Removed:

Rationale: The cognate requirement of either CSC 101 or ISC 110 was removed because computer literacy is infused in the major courses. This infusion was approved by the Gen Ed council in spring 2013.

Learning Agreement (a minimum of 15 cr) or a Minor:

Rationale: This requirement encourages students to develop an expertise in at least one additional area. Journalism is about every aspect of life and society. From the arts to the sciences, from business to politics, journalists report on everything and usually develop expertise in one area. The learning agreement/minor helps journalism students start developing such expertise in their chosen discipline.

Journalism Major – B.A. Degree 57-76 cr

Journalism Major – B.A. Degree 48 cr

Current Journalism Curriculum

Updated Journalism Curriculum

A. Core Requirements (27 cr)
 BRC 108 Introduction to Mass Media
 BRC 229 Broadcast Newswriting
 COM 380 Communication Ethics
 JLM 209 Introduction to Newswriting/Reporting
 JLM 220 Copy Editing
 JLM 309 Advanced Newswriting/Reporting
 JLM 310 Investigative Reporting
 JLM 319 Practicum
 JLM 498 Journalism Internship

B. Elective Requirements (9-11 cr) Select three courses under advisement, from the following:
Six hours must be at the 300 or 400 level

1. Writing and Editing:
 CRW 208, CRW 308, CRW 408, JLM 409, JLM 419
2. Electronic News:
 BRC 215, BRC 235, BRC 319, BRC 329, BRC 429
3. Graphic Design:
 ART 105, ART 240, ART 309, ART 442, COM 315, JLM 419
4. Investigative Methods:
 ISC 220, ISC 300, ISC 325, ISC 380, ISC 390

C. Cognate Requirements (3 cr)
Select one course from the following:
 ISC 110: Introduction to Information Science
 CSC 101: Tools for Computing

D. Learning Agreement (18-36 cr)
 Each student, along with a faculty member, will devise a learning agreement containing a minimum of 18 cr, typically a minor or second major program.

A. Core Requirements (33 cr)
 BRC 108 Introduction to Mass Media 3
 BRC 229 Broadcast Newswriting or BRC 223: Integrated Media Writing and Design 3
 BRC 319 Mass Media and the Law 3
 COM 100 Foundations of Communication 3
 COM 210 Critical Thinking and Public Speaking 3
 JLM 209 Introduction to Newswriting/Reporting 3
 JLM 220 Copy Editing 3
 JLM 309 Advanced Newswriting/Reporting 3
 JLM 310 Investigative Reporting 3
 JLM 319 Digital and Social Media Journalism 3
 JLM 498 Journalism Internship/JLM 497 Practicum* 3

C. Learning Agreement (15 cr)

Each student, along with a faculty member, will devise a learning agreement. This requirement may be satisfied by a minor or second major, under advisement.

Students majoring in any degree program in Communication Studies are required to earn a least a C- (C minus) in all core and elective courses credited to the major. Students earning less than a C- should seek advisement before repeating any course.

***JLM 497 is only for those students who have less than 2.5 GPA.**