Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Journalism offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Science degree and the Master of Journalism degree. The department does not offer a Ph.D. degree. For the program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy in Communications, see Communications and Media (http://catalog.illinois.edu/archivedacademiccatalogs/2017-2018/graduate/graduate-majors/communication).

Master of Science in Journalism

The M.S. program is designed to meet the goals of three types of students: 1) students who have recently earned a bachelor’s degree in Journalism or a related field and want to explore a specific type of journalism in greater depth, 2) mid-career journalists who want to expand their professional skills, and 3) students who either hold or are pursuing a terminal degree in selected fields (including but not limited to science, technology, engineering and math) seeking to complement their expertise with journalistic skills for communicating it to the public.

Master of Journalism

The Department of Journalism offers the M.J. degree as part of a 4+1 program focused on the development of a broad range of professional skills for undergraduates enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Journalism program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Students can apply for the B.S./M.J. program in the first semester of their junior year; admitted students select their remaining undergraduate journalism elective courses according to a plan of study that reserves certain upper-division courses for the graduate portion of their program. Enrollment in the M.J. will begin in Spring, 2019.

Admission

Both the M.S. and M.J. programs place a strong emphasis on journalism, and candidates who are accepted are most often those with a demonstrated interest in practicing journalism. It is imperative that all applicants supply writing samples.

Applicants to the M.S. program must have a 4-year bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. institution or one of recognized standing abroad. A grade point average of 3.0 (A = 4.0) is the minimum requirement for admission to the Graduate College, with exceptions by petition. Applicants with grade point averages of 3.0 or higher may not be admitted. Ordinarily, students are admitted to begin graduate study in the fall semester.

Applicants to the M.J. program must be University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign students in the B.S. in Journalism program with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.40 and have junior standing (at least 60 but no more than 89 credit hours) to be eligible to apply. Because the master’s program has an enrollment ceiling, some applicants with grade point averages of 3.4 or higher may not be admitted.

Letters of recommendation are required for both programs, and the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required of all applicants who do not have either an undergraduate journalism degree from the University of Illinois or an approved post-secondary degree. An interview with the head of the department or director of graduate studies is helpful but not required. Students whose native language is not English must present their official scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination as part of their applications. The department follows the Graduate College’s recommendations for English proficiency. Detailed information about admissions and financial aid can be found on the department’s website (https://media.illinois.edu/node/75/ms-journalism).

Financial Aid

Fellowships are available only for select M.S. students. Fellowships are awarded on a quarter-time basis and carry a waiver of tuition and most fees. M.J. students may not hold assistantships or other tuition and fee waiver-generating appointments. A limited number of merit-based scholarships are available for B.S./M.J. and M.S. students.

Master of Journalism in Journalism (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/journalism/mj)

Master of Science in Journalism (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/journalism/ms)

In order to be considered for the joint degree program in Journalism, students must apply to and be accepted by both programs. Students graduate from both programs simultaneously, upon meeting all the requirements.

- Master of Science in Journalism and Master of Business Administration (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/journalism/journalism-mba)
- Master of Science in Journalism and Juris Doctor in Law (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/journalism/journalism-jd)