

JOURNALISM, BS-MJ

for the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Master of Journalism in Journalism

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.

Admission

The M.J. program places 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.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 a 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 3.40 or higher may not be admitted.

Letters of recommendation are required. 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/journalism/degrees-programs/masters/>).

Financial Aid

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. students.

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Total hours: 32 for M.J. portion, 152 for B.S. and M.J. combined

The B.S./M.J. is an integrated, accelerated program for Illinois Journalism majors that may be completed in less time than is required to complete both degrees separately and provides sharper focus on professional multimedia skills than would be available with the two existing degrees combined. Students who maintain superior academic performance are eligible to apply as juniors (after earning at least 60 but not more than 89 credit hours). Accepted students then work on both degrees simultaneously and will receive both at the same time, once all requirements for each have been completed.

For additional details and requirements, refer to the department and the Graduate College Handbook (<https://grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

Journalism, B.S. component

Code	Title	Hours
In College of Media		
JOUR 200	Introduction to Journalism	3
JOUR 205	History of American Journalism	3
JOUR 210	Newsgathering Across Platforms	4
JOUR 215	Multimedia Reporting	4
JOUR 220	News Editing	4
JOUR 250	Journalism Ethics & Diversity	3
JOUR 311	Media Law	3
JOUR 315	Adv Public Affairs Reporting	4
JOUR 335	Audio Journalism	4
JOUR 340	Video Reporting & Storytelling	4
Choose one of the following:		4
JOUR 425	Multimedia Editing and Design	
JOUR 445	Video Storytelling 2-Producing	

Unrestricted electives within College of Media	8
Total in College of Media	48

Code	Title	Hours
Outside College of Media		
CS 105	Intro Computing: Non-Tech	3
ECON 102	Microeconomic Principles	3
ECON 103	Macroeconomic Principles	3
PSYC 100	Intro Psych	4
RHET 105	Writing and Research (or Comp. I equivalent)	4
STAT 100	Statistics	3
Campus general education requirements not met by classes listed above		
Recognized minor or one 18-hour specialization or two 9-hour specializations, approved by advisor, from outside College of Media and Department of Communication. May include hours listed above. Students may choose to complete a Public Relations minor in addition to the non-Media minor or specialization.		18
Total outside College of Media		72
Total B.S. component		120

Upon completion of the B.S. component, students must apply and be officially admitted into the Graduate College. They will be issued letters of admission from the Graduate College and the Journalism Department, at which time they will be considered graduate students and assessed graduate tuition beginning with the following semester. Students must satisfy the graduate student minimum residence requirement of 24 graduate credit hours and continue to maintain a graduate GPA of at least 3.0 to remain in the combined program.

Master of Journalism component

May begin after completing 60 hours

Code	Title	Hours
Both of these, completing whichever was not taken for B.S. component:		
JOUR 425	Multimedia Editing and Design	4
JOUR 445	Video Storytelling 2-Producing	4
These three 500-level courses:		
JOUR 500	Current Issues in Journalism	4
JOUR 515	Master's Project (Part 1)	4
JOUR 515	Master's Project (Part 2)	4
Choose 16 hours from the following electives:		16
JOUR 450	Media and Public Opinion	
JOUR 451	Research Methods in Journalism	
JOUR 452	Great Books of Journalism	
JOUR 453	Crisis Communications	
JOUR 454	Propaganda & the News Media	
JOUR 460	Special Topics	
JOUR 470	International Reporting	
JOUR 471	Science Journalism	
JOUR 472	Business Reporting	
JOUR 475	In-Depth Writing Styles	
JOUR 480	Advanced Reporting Topics	
JOUR 481	Literary Feature Writing	
JOUR 482	Immersion Journalism	
JOUR 483	Investigative Journalism	
JOUR 490	Professional Project	
JOUR 495	Internship Seminar	
Total M.J. component		32
TOTAL HOURS FOR BOTH DEGREES		152

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	12
Minimum GPA:	3.5

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Programs in Journalism

Undergraduate Programs:

major: Journalism, BS (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/media/journalism-bs/>)
 major: Journalism, BS-MJ (p. 1)
 minors: Journalism (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/media/minors/journalism/>) | Media (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/media/minors/media/>) | Public Relations (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/media/minors/public-relations/>)

Graduate Programs:

degree: Journalism, BS-MJ (p. 1)
 degree: Journalism, MS (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/media/journalism-ms/>)
 joint degree: Journalism, MS and Law, JD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law_media/journalism-ms-law-juris-doctor/)

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Department of Journalism

Head of Department: Mira Sotirovic
 Director of Graduate Studies: Brant Houston
 Department of journalism website (<https://media.illinois.edu/journalism/>)
 Department of Journalism faculty (<https://media.illinois.edu/journalism/faculty/>)
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College of Media

College of Media website (<https://media.illinois.edu/>)

Admissions

Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)