

JOURNALISM, MS

for the degree of 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.

Admission

The M.S. 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.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 only. Because the master's program has an enrollment ceiling, some 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.

Letters of recommendation are required for application. 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

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. A limited number of merit-based scholarships are available for M.S. students.

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The Director of Graduate Studies must approve any non-Journalism courses chosen as electives to meet the requirements below. For additional details and requirements, refer to the department

and the Graduate College Handbook (<https://grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/>).

Master of Science in Journalism

Code	Title	Hours
JOUR 505	Journalism Proseminar	4
JOUR 515	Master's Project	4
Electives		24
Minimum of 12 hours of elective coursework in journalism. The Director of Graduate Studies must approve any non-journalism courses chosen as electives. Students in the online Science & Technology Journalism specialization will be required to take all 24 hours of electives in Journalism online.		
Total Hours		32

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required	16
Overall:	
Minimum GPA:	3.0

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1. Knowledge of principles of journalism and its history and trends.
2. Expertise in news gathering through documents and data, interviews, and field observation.
3. Expertise in one of the major presentations methods in journalism, choosing among text, audio or video presentation, with an understanding of all of these presentation methods include the use of mobile devices.
4. An understanding of professional journalism, including its changing business models, job descriptions and increasing cross-disciplinary collaborations.
5. An understanding of various qualitative and quantitative methods in data journalism.

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Department of Journalism

Head of Department: Mira Sotirovic

Director of Graduate Studies: Melita Garza

Department of Journalism website (<https://media.illinois.edu/journalism/degrees-programs/masters/>)

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/>)