JOURNALISM, MS

college: Communications

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.

Programs in Journalism

Undergraduate Programs:
- major: Journalism, BS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/media/journalism-bs/)
- major: Journalism, BS-MJ (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/media/journalism-bs-mj/)
- 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 (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/media/journalism-bs-mj/)
- degree: Journalism, MS (p. 1)
- joint degree: Journalism, MS and Law, JD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/law_media/journalism-ms-law-juris-doctor/)

The department does not offer a Ph.D. degree. For the program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy in Communications, see Communications and Media, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/media/communications-media-phd/).

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, 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/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.