

JOURNALISM, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Spring 2024 Curricular Update: The program description, entrance requirements, and program requirements detailed on this page are effective beginning Spring 2024. To learn more about what approved curricular changes take effect in Spring 2024, please visit the Changes to the UG Bulletin page (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/using-this-bulletin/#changestotheugbulletintext>). To view the requirements in effect for Fall 2023, please visit the 2023-24 Undergraduate Bulletin PDF (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/pdf/undergraduate.pdf>).

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

| Requirement | Credits |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| General Education | 45 |
| Electives | 2 |
| Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements | 24 |
| Requirements for the Major | 49 |

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|----------------------------|---------|
| Prescribed Courses | | |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> | | |
| COMM 160 | Basic News Writing Skills | 1 |
| COMM 260W | News Writing and Reporting | 3 |
| COMM 271 | Principles of Journalism | 3 |
| COMM 403 | Law of Mass Communications | 3 |
| COMM 409 | News Media Ethics | 3 |

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 18 credits for completion of a University-approved minor ¹ 18

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better
Select an option 18

¹ Students majoring in journalism must take a University-approved minor outside the Bellisario College of Communications. The minimum requirement for a minor is 18 credits. By careful planning, a student may use General Education and Bachelor of Arts courses to help fulfill

this requirement. In lieu of a minor, students may take a concurrent major or concurrent degree, as long as it is outside the College of Communications. Students should consult with their adviser as soon as possible about this requirement.

Requirements for the Option

Options can be combined but only with the consent of a student's adviser.

Broadcast Journalism Option (18 credits)

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|----------------------|---------|
| Prescribed Courses | | |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> | | |
| COMM 360 | Radio Reporting | 3 |
| COMM 465 | Television Reporting | 3 |

Additional Courses

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> | | |
| Select 6 credits from the following: 6 | | |
| COMM 362 | Podcasting | |
| COMM 364 | Data Visualization for Journalists | |
| COMM 400 | In the Game: TV Sports Magazine | |
| COMM 402 | International Reporting | |
| COMM 466 | Public Affairs Broadcasting | |
| COMM 480 | Television News | |
| COMM 481 | Advanced Multimedia Production | |
| COMM 495 | Internship (3 credits) ¹ | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Select 6 credits from the following: 6 | | |
| COMM 180 | Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications | |
| COMM 205 | Gender, Diversity and the Media | |
| COMM 381 | Telecommunications Regulation | |
| COMM 401 | Mass Media in History | |
| COMM 405 | Political Economy of Communications | |
| COMM 407A | Media and Government | |
| COMM 407B | Perspectives on American Journalism | |
| COMM 410 | International Mass Communications | |
| COMM 411 | Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media | |
| COMM 412 | Sports, Media and Society | |
| COMM 419 | World Media Systems | |
| COMM 494H | Research Project Courses | |
| COMM 496 | Independent Studies | |
| COMM 499 | Foreign Study--Mass Communications | |

¹ Internship in news with newspaper, radio, or TV. See the director of the internship program for specifics.

Digital and Print Journalism Option (18 credits)

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|
| Prescribed Courses | | |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> | | |
| COMM 460W | Reporting Methods | 3 |
| COMM 467 | News Editing and Evaluation | 3 |

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits from the following: 6

| | |
|-----------|---|
| COMM 269 | Photojournalism |
| COMM 362 | Podcasting |
| COMM 364 | Data Visualization for Journalists |
| COMM 402 | International Reporting |
| COMM 461 | Magazine Writing |
| COMM 462 | Feature Writing |
| COMM 463 | Newspaper Design |
| COMM 464W | Editorial, Opinion and Commentary Writing |
| COMM 474 | Depth Reporting |
| COMM 481 | Advanced Multimedia Production |
| COMM 495 | Internship (3 credits) ¹ |

Select 6 credits from the following: 6

| | |
|-----------|---|
| COMM 180 | Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications |
| COMM 205 | Gender, Diversity and the Media |
| COMM 381 | Telecommunications Regulation |
| COMM 401 | Mass Media in History |
| COMM 405 | Political Economy of Communications |
| COMM 407A | Media and Government |
| COMM 407B | Perspectives on American Journalism |
| COMM 410 | International Mass Communications |
| COMM 411 | Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media |
| COMM 412 | Sports, Media and Society |
| COMM 419 | World Media Systems |
| COMM 494H | Research Project Courses |
| COMM 496 | Independent Studies |
| COMM 499 | Foreign Study--Mass Communications |

¹ Internship in news with newspaper, radio, or TV. See the director of the internship program for specifics.

Photojournalism Option (18 credits)

| Code | Title | Credits |
|------|-------|---------|
|------|-------|---------|

Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|
| COMM 269 | Photojournalism | 3 |
| COMM 469 | Photography for the Mass Media | 3 |

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits from the following: 6

| | |
|----------|--|
| COMM 362 | Podcasting |
| COMM 364 | Data Visualization for Journalists |
| COMM 402 | International Reporting |
| COMM 463 | Newspaper Design |
| COMM 467 | News Editing and Evaluation |
| COMM 468 | Graphic Applications in Print Communications |
| COMM 481 | Advanced Multimedia Production |
| COMM 495 | Internship (3 credits) ¹ |

Select 6 credits from the following: 6

| | |
|----------|---|
| COMM 180 | Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications |
|----------|---|

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| COMM 205 | Gender, Diversity and the Media |
| COMM 381 | Telecommunications Regulation |
| COMM 401 | Mass Media in History |
| COMM 405 | Political Economy of Communications |
| COMM 407A | Media and Government |
| COMM 407B | Perspectives on American Journalism |
| COMM 410 | International Mass Communications |
| COMM 411 | Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media |
| COMM 412 | Sports, Media and Society |
| COMM 419 | World Media Systems |
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| COMM 496 | Independent Studies |
| COMM 499 | Foreign Study--Mass Communications |

¹ Internship in news with newspaper, radio, or TV. See the director of the internship program for specifics.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

Exploration

- GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.