

JOURNALISM, BACHELOR OF ARTS (736P, 736)

Program Coordinator

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The world of journalism is changing. However, the need for excellent journalists is not. The Journalism major grounds its curriculum in the skills that all employers within the news media and professional communications want: strong writing and editing skills; excellent storytelling skills; the ability to find and process complex information, and share it in a way that helps others understand it.

The core of the curriculum remains reporting, writing, and editing for print and the Web. That core is joined by a range of classes aimed at developing a foundation in multimedia storytelling: digital photojournalism, audio-visual gathering, and editing; and Web site development and content delivery. Ethical and professional standards, First Amendment principles, and media law concepts are incorporated throughout the curriculum to complete the program.

Student learning outcomes of the Journalism program:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles and laws of freedom of speech/press, professional ethics, cultural proficiency, and the historical role of media institutions in shaping communications
- Apply analytical reasoning skills using tools and technology appropriate to the discipline in the research, presentation, and evaluation of information
- Demonstrate the ability to do ethical journalism
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically

Program Admission Requirements

Students wishing to enter the major in journalism initially are admitted as majors seeking admission (reference 736P). Prospective majors may take no more than 15 hours in the major before admission. Students must meet the following requirements before they can be admitted:

1. Completion of a minimum of 24 hours of coursework applicable to a baccalaureate degree;
2. A minimum overall grade point average of 2.5;
3. Completion of ENG 100 with a grade of "C" or better and 9 additional hours in general education;
4. Completion of the following courses with a grade of "C" or better: SMC 101, SMC 102, and JOUR 202.

Students not meeting the above admission requirements will not be admitted to the Journalism major and cannot register for any additional courses in the major.

Program Requirements (42 hours)

A baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 120 unduplicated semester hours. More information can be found at www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php. (https://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php)

Students who began WKU in the Fall 2014 and thereafter should review the Colonnade requirements located at: <https://www.wku.edu/>

colonnade.colonnaderequirements.php. (<https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/colonnaderequirements.php>)

The major in Journalism requires 42 semester hours. No course with a grade of "D" or below may be counted toward the major or fulfill prerequisite requirements for any major in the School. One-half of the hours in the major must be at the 300- or 400-level. In addition to meeting institutional requirements for graduation, the Journalism major must have a minor/certificate or second major.

Code	Title	Hours
SMC 101	Understanding Media Content, Ethics and Technology	3
SMC 102	Media Content, Collaboration and Community	3
ART 243	Digital Media	3
JOUR 202	Introduction to News Writing	3
SMC 301	Mass Communication Law and Ethics	3
JOUR 302	Intermediate Reporting	3
JOUR 323	Multiplatform News Presentation	3
JOUR 325	Feature Writing	3
VJP 261	Mobile Media Storytelling	3
VJP 332	Visual Media Editing and Design	3
BCOM 264	Digital Video Production and Distribution	3

Diversity Elective

Select one from the following:		3
SMC 310	Media Diversity	
AFAM 343	Communities of Struggle	
ASL 302	Deaf Culture in America	
COMM 363	Interracial Communication	
COMM 365	Intercultural Communication	
COMM 371	Communication in Multinational Organizations	
CRIM 361	Race, Class, and Crime	
CRIM 446	Gender, Crime, and Justice	
FLK 330	Cultural Connections and Diversity	
FLK 373	Folklore and the Media	
GWS 375	American Masculinities	
HIST 302	Disability in the United States	
HIST 343	Communities of Struggle	
LEAD 450	Leadership in Global Contexts	
PH 410	Global Perspectives on Population Health	
PS 373	Minority Politics	
SOCL 355	Sociology of Gender	
SOCL 362	Social Institutions: Race, Class, and Gender	
SOCL 375	Diversity in American Society	
SOCL 376	Sociology of Globalization	
SPS 400	Foundations of Global Citizenship	
SWRK 300	Diversity and Social Welfare	
Captone		3
JOUR 426	Advanced Reporting	

Elective ¹

Select one of the following		3
BCOM 325	Survey of Electronic Media Writing	
BCOM 368	News Videography and Editing	
JOUR 467	News / Editorial Internship Practicum	
JOUR 481	Problems in Mass Communication	
JOUR 491	Internship or Practicum	
ENG 311	Creative Nonfiction Writing	
ENG 402	Editing and Publishing	
ENG 403	Writing Memoir and Autobiography	
FLK 373	Folklore and the Media	
SMC 402	First Amendment Research and Reporting	
SOM 421	American News Media History	

Total Hours **42**

¹ Some courses among these electives might have prerequisites. Please check the catalog.

Finish in Four Plan**First Year**

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JOUR 202		3 Colonnade Human Communication COMM 145 (F-OC)	3
SMC 101		3 PR 255 or other Colonnade Social and Behavioral (E-SB)	3
Colonnade College Composition (F-W1)		3 SMC 102	3
Colonnade Quantitative Reasoning (F-QR)		3 Colonnade World History (F-SB)	3
World Language (if needed) or University Learning		3 VJP 261	3
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
BCOM 264		3 SOM 310 or other Colonnade Socio-Cultural (K-SC)	3
ART 243		3 Colonnade Natural & Physical Science w/ Lab (E-NS, SL)	3
Colonnade Natural & Physical Science (E-NS)		3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3
Colonnade Literary Studies (F-AH)		3 PS 220 or other Colonnade Systems (K-SY)	3
COMM 200 or other Colonnade Writing in the Disciplines (F-W2)		3 AD 240 or other Colonnade Local to Global (E-LG)	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP 332		3 JOUR 323	3
SMC 301		3 Major upper-division elective	3
JOUR 302		3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3

2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3
2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3
15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JOUR 325		3 JOUR 426	3
2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course		3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3
2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course		3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3
2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course		3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3
2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course		3 2nd Major/Certificate/Minor course	3
15		15	

Total Hours 120

* PS 110 is the pre-requisite for BCOM 301.