

# VISUAL JOURNALISM AND PHOTOGRAPHY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (752P, 752)

## Program Coordinator

James H. Kenney, james.kenney@wku.edu, (270) 745-6307

With a tradition of highly successful graduates, state-of-the-art facilities, and award-winning faculty, WKU's Visual Journalism and Photography program is regarded as one of the nation's finest. The program is an integral component of the School of Media & Communication and has been a significant contributor to the high quality of the university's student publications. In the William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards competition, often referred to as the Pulitzer Prizes of collegiate journalism, WKU's Visual Journalism and Photography program leads the nation in both the Photojournalism and Multimedia Intercollegiate competitions.

The Visual Journalism and Photography program emphasizes photojournalism, documentary video, and photography. Its comprehensive curriculum prepares students to compete at the highest level as they enter a visual profession that offers numerous employment opportunities in online and traditional publications, nonprofit organizations, businesses, social media content gathering, and independent entrepreneurship ventures. This success is achieved through the practice of producing content-driven stories within the classroom, then reinforced through internships, workshops, freelance opportunities, and overseas educational programs.

The major offers two concentrations: Photojournalism and Documentary (45 hours) and Photography (36 hours). The Photojournalism and Documentary concentration prepares students to enter the visual journalism profession with classes in still photography, documentary video, design, studio lighting, visual business practices, and journalism writing. The Photography concentration is designed for those wanting to obtain skills in still photography, studio lighting, video, and design, applying these to applications outside of the traditional journalism profession, such as commercial, portraiture, advertising, and promotional photography.

## Concentrations

- Photojournalism and Documentary (PJD)
- Photography (PHTO)

## Admission Requirements

Students entering the major in Visual Journalism and Photography are admitted as "seeking admission" (reference 750P). 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 the Colonnade program;

4. Completion of the following courses with a grade of "C" or better: SMC 101, SMC 102, VJP 131, and VJP 330 or VJP 331.

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

## Program Requirements (36-45 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](http://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php). ([https://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 Visual Journalism and Photography with a concentration in Photojournalism and Documentary requires 45 hours, and the concentration in Photography requires 36 hours. Both tracks lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree. 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 the Colonnade and major requirements for graduation, the Visual Journalism and Photography major must have a minor or second major that is approved by a major faculty advisor.

Specific objectives of the Visual Journalism and Photography program:

1. To develop the artistic, technical, and personal qualities of those who want to pursue a professional career in visual media;
2. To develop a background for understanding the role of storytelling through photojournalism, documentary video, and photography in shaping and reflecting contemporary society;
3. To provide instruction in visual theory, principles, ethics, and practice for students pursuing any area of scholarly activity;
4. To provide a conceptual grounding in storytelling principles that will encourage advancement of the professional visual content gatherer.

The major offers two concentrations: Photojournalism and Documentary (45 hours) and Photography (36 hours). These concentrations require the following courses:

Code	Title	Hours
<b>REQUIRED COURSES, BOTH CONCENTRATIONS</b>		
SMC 101	Understanding Media Content, Ethics and Technology	3
SMC 102	Media Content, Collaboration and Community	3
VJP 131	Fundamentals of Photography	3
VJP 331	Photojournalism	3
VJP 330	Short Form Documentary	3
VJP 332	Visual Media Editing and Design	3
VJP 333	Studio Lighting	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>21</b>

## Photojournalism and Documentary Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		
JOUR 202	Introduction to News Writing	3
SMC 301	Mass Communication Law and Ethics	3
VJP 339	Visual Media Business Practices	3
VJP 431	Advanced Photojournalism *	3
or VJP 430	Advanced Short Form Documentary	
VJP 436	Photojournalism and Documentary Projects	3
<b>Restricted Electives</b>		
Two out of the following restricted electives:		6
VJP 390	Cultural History of Photography	
VJP 433	Advanced Lighting	
VJP 430	Advanced Short Form Documentary *	
or VJP 431	Advanced Photojournalism	
JOUR 302	Intermediate Reporting	
BCOM 366	Editing I	
BCOM 380	Editing II	
FILM 377	Film Sound	
SOM 399	Special Topics in Media--Study Abroad	
SMC 402	First Amendment Research and Reporting	
<b>Diversity Elective</b>		
One of the following diversity electives:		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
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>24</b>

\* Either VJP 430 or VJP 431 may be counted towards the Photojournalism and Documentary concentration's required courses. The other may be applied to restricted electives within the Photojournalism and Documentary concentration.

## Photography Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Course</b>		
VJP 433	Advanced Lighting	3
<b>Restricted Electives</b>		
Four of the following restricted electives:		12
VJP 261	Mobile Media Storytelling	
VJP 339	Visual Media Business Practices	
VJP 390	Cultural History of Photography	
VJP 431	Advanced Photojournalism	
VJP 430	Advanced Short Form Documentary	
BCOM 366	Editing I	
SOM 399	Special Topics in Media--Study Abroad	
SMC 402	First Amendment Research and Reporting	
ART 243	Digital Media	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

## Finish in Four Plan

### Photojournalism and Documentary Concentration

<b>First Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
VJP 131		3 VJP 331	3
SMC 101		3 PS 110*	3
SMC 102		3 Colonnade: Arts & Humanities	3
ENG 100		3 Colonnade: Quantitative Reasoning	3
COMM 145		3 Minor Course	3
		JOUR 202	3
	<b>15</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
VJP 330		3 VJP 333	3
VJP 332		3 VJP Elective	3
HIST 101 or HIST 102		3 Colonnade: Literary Studies	3
Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science w/lab		3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science	3
General University Elective or Foreign Language, if needed		3 Minor Course	3
	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Third Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
VJP 339		3 VJP 431 or VJP 430* Select either VJP 430 (fall only) or VJP 431 (spring only).	3

VJP 430 or VJP 431 Select either VJP 430 (fall only) or VJP 431 (spring only).	3 Colonnade: Writing in the Disciplines	3	
SMC 301	3 Colonnade: Connections (Local to Global)	3	
Colonnade: Connections (Social & Cultural)	3 Minor Course	3	
Minor Course	3 Diversity Elective	3	
Minor Course	3		
General University Elective	3		
	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
VJP Elective	3 Colonnade: Connections (Systems)	3	3
Minor Course	3 VJP 436	3	3
Minor Course	3 General University Elective	3	3
General University Elective	3 General University Elective	3	3
	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Total Hours 123</b>			

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

## Photography Concentration

<b>First Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
VJP 131	3 VJP 331	3	3
SMC 101	3 Colonnade: Arts & Humanities	3	3
SMC 102	3 Colonnade: Quantitative Reasoning	3	3
ENG 100	3 Minor Course	3	3
COMM 145	3		
	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
VJP 330	3 VJP 333	3	3
VJP 332	3 VJP Elective	3	3
HIST 101 or HIST 102	3 Colonnade: Literary Studies	3	3
Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science w/lab	3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science	3	3
General University Elective or Foreign Language, if needed	3 Minor Course	3	3
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Third Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Colonnade: Connections (Social & Cultural)	3 VJP Elective	3	3
Colonnade: Social & Behavioral	3 Colonnade: Writing in the Disciplines	3	3
Minor Course	3 Colonnade: Connections (Local to Global)	3	3
Minor Course	3 Minor Course	3	3

General University Elective	3 General University Elective	3
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>
VJP Elective	3 Colonnade: Connections (Systems)	3
Minor Course	3 VJP 433	3
Minor Course	3 General University Elective	3
General University Elective	3 VJP Elective	3
General University Elective	3 General University Elective	3
	General University Elective	3
	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Hours 120</b>		