

Journalism

1100 Knight Hall
(301) 405-2399

<http://www.merrill.umd.edu/undergraduate>

Philip Merrill College of Journalism

Key Features of a Journalism Major

- Because of its location, the College of Journalism offers many opportunities for students to gain “real life” experience through internships at a variety of journalistic enterprises.
- Students gain a breadth of knowledge through coursework in areas such as sociology, economics, government, history, and psychology. Such courses provide a foundation from which students may become acquainted with the issues and problems they will encounter throughout their careers.
- From their first semester as journalism majors, students gain hands-on experience with the technology and equipment necessary to do their jobs.
- Students will learn from a pool of scholars and experienced journalists, including Pulitzer Prize winners and other notable professionals in the field.
- Smaller classes (particularly in the skills areas) allow for greater one-on-one attention from faculty.

Career Options & Salaries with a Journalism Major

Journalism majors find work in a variety of areas. Many become reporters for newspapers, magazines, television, and online news sources. They investigate events and news tips, do research, conduct interviews, organize and edit material, write stories, and take photographs. Some may become on-air reporters or anchors, delivering the news directly to the television or online viewer. A few reporters specialize in particular areas of reporting, such as sports or weather. Others interpret and comment on the news, providing their own opinions about events. Recent graduates are employed in jobs where they write and edit for the web, build websites, perform research using the web, and work in social networking and videography.

In May 2016, the median salaries for common journalism professions were as follows:

Reporters, Correspondents & Broadcast News Analyst	\$37,720
Writers & Authors	\$60,250
Editors (web, newspaper & periodical)	\$56,010
Announcers	\$30,080

**Career description and salary information were taken from Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-2017 ed. (<http://stats.bls.gov/ooh/>)*

Additional information on salaries and careers can be found in the Results: Annual Surveys of Journalism & Mass Communication. (<http://www.grady.uga.edu/annualsurveys/>)

Advising

If you are considering a major in Journalism, you can easily meet with an advisor in the College of Journalism to answer any questions you might have.

- Stop by 1100 Knight Hall to make an appointment.
- Phone: (301) 405-2399

Another place you can find information about being a journalism major is the “Student Handbook,” which has been put together by the College of Journalism. The Handbook may be found at the following web address:

<http://merrill.umd.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/undergraduate-advising/student-handbook/>.

Declaring a Journalism Major

Journalism is a *Limited Enrollment Program* (LEP), which means that students must apply for enrollment in the major after completing certain pre-requisite, or “Gateway,” courses. All students beyond the first semester at the University of Maryland and those off campus wishing to transfer must complete the following requirements before applying to the College of Journalism:

- 1) English 101: Introduction to Writing, with a grade of C-
- 2) Math 110 or higher
- 3) Completion of JOUR 201 with a minimum grade of C- (JOUR 201 requires completion of JOUR181 and JOUR 200 with minimum grades of C-)
- 4) A minimum grade point average of 2.8 in all coursework.

Please also note:

- Only one gateway or performance review course may be repeated to earn the required grade and that course may only be repeated once. When more than one course can satisfy a gateway requirement, taking a second course from the list will count as a repeat. **This policy will be in effect for all students who first matriculated at the University of Maryland in Spring 2015 or later.** A “W” or withdrawal counts as one attempt at a course.
- Students may apply only once to an LEP. Students who are directly admitted and fail to meet the performance review criteria will be dismissed from the major and may not reapply.
- Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the major.
- Any student denied admission or dismissed from the major may appeal in writing directly to the Assistant Dean for Student Services of the College.

Declaration Process:

After you have completed the requirements listed above, you will need to complete the application to declare Journalism as your major. The application is available on the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website: <http://www.admissions.umd.edu/apply/LEPAApplication.php>.

Once submitted, the College of Journalism will contact you regarding the status of your application. After you have been admitted to the major, your records and advising will be housed within the new College, the College of Journalism.

Four Year Plan (Gen Ed)

First Year:

ENGL 101 (AW)	3	Lab Science (NL)*	4
JOUR181	1	COMM 107 or 200 (OC)	3
JOUR200	3	JOUR201	3
Gen Ed Math (MA)	3	Gen Ed Humanities (HU)*	3
GVPT170 (HS)	3	<u>Abstract Thinking 2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Abstract Thinking 1</u>	<u>3</u>		16 credits
	16 credits		

Second Year:

JOUR320 or 360	3	JOUR202 or 262	3
JOUR203	3	JOUR300	3
HIST200 (HU) or 201 (HU+UP)	3	SOCY/PSYC/ANTH	3
Natural Science (NS)*	3	ECON200 (HS) or 201 (HS)	4
<u>I-Series (IS)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>I-Series (IS) + Diversity (UP)</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		16 credits

Third Year:

JOU352	3	JOUR321-389	3
JOUR321-389 or 361	3	JOUR400	3
Concentration 1	3	Concentration 2	3
Non-major (SP)	3	Abstract Thinking 3 (AR)	3
<u>UL Elective 1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>UL Elective 2</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

Fourth Year:

JOUR 410-469	3	JOUR Capstone	3
JOUR 470-479	3	JOUR 480 Capstone Colloq.	1
Concentration 3	3	JOUR396	2
UL Elective 3	3	Concentration 4	3
<u>Professional Writing (PR)</u>	<u>3</u>	UL Elective 4	3
	15 credits	<u>Major Scholar (SP)</u>	<u>3</u>
			15 credits

TOTAL = 122 credits

*All students must complete 2 Distributive Studies courses that are approved as I-series courses.

Courses for the Understanding Plural Societies and Cultural Competence requirements may also fulfill a Distributive Studies requirement

Four Year Plan (CORE)

First Year:

ENGL 101	3	Lab Science (PL or LL)	4
CORE Math	3	COMM 100, 107, 200	
JOUR 181	1	or 230	3
JOUR 200	3	HL	3
ANTH/PSYC/SOCY (SB)*	3	JOUR 201	3
<u>Abstract Thinking Skills 1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Abstract Thinking Skills 2</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits		16 credits

Second Year:

JOUR 320 (M-P) 360 (B)	3	JOUR 300	3
JOUR203	3	JOUR 202 (M-P) or 262 (B)	3
HA	3	GVPT100 or 170 (SB)	3
Non-Lab Science	3	LS or PS	3
<u>HIST156 or 157 (SH)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>ECON 200 or 201 (SB)</u>	<u>4</u>
	15 credits		16 credits

Third Year:

JOUR 352	3	JOUR 400	3
JOUR 321-389(M-P)/361(B)	3	JOUR 399 (Internship)	1
Concentration #1	3	Concentration #2	3
CORE HA/HO/HL/IE	3	Abstract Thinking Skills 3 (Stats)	3
<u>CORE Diversity Class</u>	<u>3</u>	JOUR 321-389/JOUR410-469	
	15 credits	(1 st of 2)	3
		<u>Professional Writing or UL Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
			16 credits

Fourth Year:

JOUR470-479	3	Concentration #4	3
Concentration #3	3	CORE Advanced Studies	3
CORE Advanced Studies	3	JOUR Capstone Course	3
UL Elective (1 of 2)	3	JOUR Capstone Colloquium	1
JOUR 321-389/JOUR410-469		<u>UL Elective (2 of 2)</u>	<u>3</u>
(2 nd of 2)	3		
	15 credits		13 credits

TOTAL = 122 credits

*For this requirement, you must choose ONE of the following courses: PSYC 100 or 221; SOCY 100 or 105; ANTH 260.

Q & A

If I am in my first semester as a freshman, may I declare Journalism without going through a competitive process?

If you did not apply to the College of Journalism when applying to Maryland, you have a small window of time in which you can still apply to Journalism before having to qualify by completing all of the internal transfer requisites. The deadline for applying as a freshman is the end of the drop/add period during the first two weeks of classes. Remember, admission is competitive, but at least you'll possibly get in sooner rather than later if you make the deadline and get accepted. If not, don't worry. You can still apply after having met all of the LEP standards explained earlier in this document.

If I complete all of the Gateway requirements for the Journalism major, can I expect to be admitted or is it competitive?

If you complete all of the requirements (classes and minimum GPA), you may declare the major without issue.

What types of Journalism can I study?

The College of Journalism offers two concentrations: multiplatform and broadcast journalism. The College prepares its majors by providing theoretical foundations, along with practical, real-world experience. Its broad liberal arts focus gives Journalism majors a context in which to frame their studies and future employment experience. For students on the broadcast track, the college-owned cable television station gives majors experience with the technology and state-of-the-art equipment necessary to produce a news broadcast. The proximity of Washington, D.C. offers multiplatform journalists the unique opportunity of gaining practical experience, as well as taking classes from some of the biggest names in the field.

Someone told me I can "test out" of JOUR 181 – is that true?

Yes, it is possible to simply "test out" of JOUR 181. The course offers an introduction to journalistic grammar – the special grammar rules and ways of writing used by journalists in their work. You register for 181 (1 credit) as you would any other class. After a period of introduction, students are offered the chance to take a test based on the knowledge they've gained so far. If they score an 80 or higher on the diagnostic test, they can drop JOUR181 and will have satisfied the journalism grammar requirement. If the score is not high enough, students continue the course for the remainder of the semester.

Is there a minor in Journalism?

There is currently no minor available in Journalism.