

Rationale for Revisions to Journalism Major

In view of rapid changes in the field of journalism, the following revisions are suggested to the journalism program. These changes uphold the core of ethical journalism with the emphasis on good writing and reporting skills while blending in the ongoing technological advancements. The proposed changes are designed to teach journalism majors some important concepts and skills in the discipline while encouraging them to develop expertise in at least one additional area through a learning agreement or a minor or a second major.

The 27-credit core is comprised of the following courses:

Courses added to the Core:

COM 100 Foundations of Communication and COM 210 Critical Thinking and Public Speaking

Rationale: The journalism program already required COM 210 to fulfill the Gen Ed requirement of critical thinking, however, this course along with COM 100 was added to BRC 108 as a department-wide common core requirement.

JLM 419 Journalism Senior Capstone

Rationale: This course is aimed at meeting the college-wide practice of providing a capstone experience to graduating seniors. Students explore advanced theories in news production, journalism practices and prepare for job searches. Each student completes an individual project.

Courses removed from the Core:

BRC 229 Broadcast Newswriting

Rationale: As the push was toward reducing the number of credit hours in the core, BRC 229 was moved to electives. The journalism core courses give the students adequate journalism writing experience. For those interested in learning broadcast newswriting style, BRC 229 would still be an elective option.

COM 380 Communication Ethics

Rationale: The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) code of ethics is emphasized and touched upon in all journalism core as well as elective classes. The journalism majors are required to abide by the SPJ's code of ethics in all of their writing and reporting assignments. This is the reason COM 380 was moved into electives.

JLM 310 Investigative Reporting

Rationale: All of the news writing and reporting classes in the journalism core curriculum teach some research and investigative skills to students. The basics of finding, researching, and interpreting sources and databases for the audience are taught in these classes. For those interested in learning in-depth investigative skills, JLM 310 will still be an option among elective courses.

Electives (15 cr): Select any five courses from the following: *Nine hours must be at the 300 or 400 level.* It is important to note that some of the upper division electives would require students to take related prerequisite courses.

Rationale: The electives are aimed at providing certain skill sets in areas of choice to a student. *Flexibility* is the key in choosing the electives. This is one of the reasons for removal of track titles. The students, therefore, can choose electives from areas ranging from the remaining three majors in the department – Broadcasting and Mass Communication (BRC), Communication and Social Interaction (CSI) and Public Relations (PR) – to something from the Graphic Design or Creative Writing areas.

CSI and PR courses were added to the list of electives to allow journalism majors a concentration in these areas without risking going over 54 credit hours within the major, which would be the case if they were to declare a minor within the department.

Requiring that nine of these hours should be from upper-division classes is to make sure that the students are challenged to a higher level of intellectual and practical rigor.

Cognate Requirements (3cr) Removed:

Rationale: The cognate requirement of either CSC 101 or ISC 110 was removed because computer literacy is infused in the major courses. This infusion was approved by the Gen Ed council in spring 2013.

Learning Agreement (a minimum of 15 cr) or a Minor:

Rationale: This requirement encourages students to develop an expertise in at least one additional area. Journalism is about every aspect of life and society. From the arts to the sciences, from business to politics, journalists report on everything and usually develop expertise in one area. The minor/learning agreement helps journalism students start developing such expertise in their chosen discipline.

Current Journalism Curriculum	Updated Journalism Curriculum
<p>A. Core Requirements (27 cr) BRC 108 Introduction to Mass Media BRC 229 Broadcast Newswriting COM 380 Communication Ethics JLM 209 Introduction to Newswriting/Reporting JLM 220 Copy Editing JLM 309 Advanced Newswriting/Reporting JLM 310 Investigative Reporting JLM 319 Practicum JLM 498 Journalism Internship</p>	<p>A. Core Requirements (27 cr) COM 100 Foundations of Communication BRC 108 Introduction to Mass Media COM 210 Critical Thinking and Public Speaking JLM 209 Introduction to Newswriting/Reporting JLM 220 Copy Editing JLM 309 Advanced Newswriting/Reporting JLM 319 Practicum* JLM 419 Journalism Senior Capstone JLM 498 Journalism Internship</p>
<p>B. Elective Requirements (9-10 cr) Select three courses under advisement, from the following: <i>Six hours must be at the 300 or 400 level</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Writing and Editing: CRW 208, CRW 308, CRW 408, JLM 409, JLM 419 2. Electronic News: BRC 215, BRC 235, BRC 319, BRC 329, BRC 429 3. Graphic Design: ART 105, ART 240, ART 309, ART 442, COM 315, JLM 419 4. Investigative Methods: ISC 220, ISC 300, ISC 325, ISC 380, ISC 390 	<p>B. Electives (15 cr) Select any five courses from the following: <i>Nine hours must be at the 300 or 400 level.</i> It is important to note that some of the upper division electives would require students to take the related prerequisite courses.</p> <p>JLM 101 History of American Journalism JLM 310 Investigative Reporting JLM 312 Sports Reporting and Writing JLM 395 Topics Course JLM 409 News Analysis and Opinion writing BRC 220 Radio Production BRC 222 Introduction to New Media BRC 229 Broadcast News Writing BRC 235 Introduction to Video Production BRC 319 Mass Media and the Law BRC 325 Research Methods for Mass Media BRC 329 Broadcast News Reporting BRC 370 Comparative Studies in World Broadcasting BRC 429 Broadcast News Processing and Producing BRC 450 Topics in Broadcasting COM 212 Interpersonal Communication COM 215 Survey of Public Relations COM 315 Design and Layout for Media COM 360 Persuasion COM 380 Communication Ethics CRW 208 Creative Nonfiction Writing: Introductory CRW 308 Creative Nonfiction Writing: Intermediate CRW 408 Creative Nonfiction Writing: Advanced ART 105 Design Concepts I: 2D ART 207 Digital Media - Static ART 307 Type and Image ART 317 Web Media I</p>
<p>C. Cognate Requirements (3 cr) <i>Select one course from the following:</i> ISC 110: Introduction to Information Science CSC 101: Tools for Computing</p>	<p>C. Learning Agreement (15 cr) Each student, along with a faculty member, will devise a learning agreement. This requirement may be satisfied by a minor or second major, under advisement.</p>
<p>D. Learning Agreement (18-36 cr) Each student, along with a faculty member, will devise a learning agreement containing a minimum of 18 cr, typically a minor or second major program.</p>	<p>* Course name change in progress.</p>
	<p>Students majoring in any degree program in Communication Studies are required to earn at least a C- (C minus) in all core and elective courses credited to the major. Students earning less than a C- should seek advisement before repeating any course.</p>

