

# JOURNALISM MAJOR

**Program Director:** Rafael Lorente, Dean and Professor

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism prepares students for careers in newspapers, magazines, TV news, newsletters and online journalism outlets. The undergraduate journalism program culminates in a B.A. degree in journalism.

The College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

Students learn in college programs such as Capital News Service, a daily wire service in College Park, Washington, D.C., and Annapolis and UMTV, a cable station operated by the college.

Students majoring in journalism take approximately one-third (42-48 credits) of their total coursework in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Journalism courses are designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the tools and concepts they will need to perform as top-flight professional communicators. Courses offered by this department may be found under the following acronym: JOUR.

The remaining approximately two-thirds (74-80 credits) of undergraduate coursework consists of a variety of other subjects such as history, economics, government, sociology and psychology. This exposure acquaints students with fundamental problems and issues they will encounter in their careers. Within these credits, journalism students must choose a "Concentration" (a core of advanced work in a substantive field) to establish competency in a specialized area of knowledge they will be able to use as professionals.

## Program Objectives

### About the College

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism is widely considered one of the best journalism programs in the nation, blending a mix of prize-winning journalists, communication scholars and nationally recognized professional programs. The school's mission is simple: to produce the best possible journalists for leading newspapers, magazines, TV, radio and online news outlets. Recent graduates are editors, reporters and producers at The New York Times, The Washington Post, CBS, Los Angeles Times, CNN and many of the nation's other top news organizations.

Located less than 10 miles from the news capital of Washington, students participate in internships during the academic year at The Washington Post, The (Baltimore) Sun, CNN, and a wide array of Washington news bureaus. In the summer, students intern at top news organizations around the country. Broadcast news students produce and anchor a 30-minute nightly news show that reaches more than 400,000 households in suburban Washington on the college-operated UMTV station, and advanced students enroll in Capital News Service, an intensive reporting program in Washington, Annapolis and College Park. Students also participate in some of the school's professional programs.

### The Vision

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism is shaping the future of news and media. As the top journalism school in the Washington, D.C., region and a global leader in journalism education, the college is committed to promoting a strong and independent free press.

- Through its faculty and curriculum, the Merrill College champions the fundamental journalistic values of accuracy, accountability and fairness, and is a trailblazer in using digital and multimedia technologies in dynamic storytelling.
- It prepares its undergraduate students for success in today's exciting and innovative journalism landscape and gives its graduate students the skills and confidence to rise to the top of today's demanding news and media-dependent professions.

## The Mission

The college educates students at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels within a liberal arts context, preparing them for careers in journalism and related fields, as well as careers in academic research and teaching.

- The college works to elevate professional and ethical standards of practice and advocates for increased public knowledge and involvement in democratic processes through dissemination of news.
- The mission of the college is to improve the production, delivery, and access to news, as well as to enhance the understanding of journalism's political, cultural and social roles in the United States and around the globe.

Our undergraduate mission is an uncompromising dedication to the principles of the journalism profession, with training in evolving types of news gathering and delivery.

Our professional master's program provides a post-graduate education to those with a host of undergraduate degrees seeking to enter the field and intensive specialized training for mid-career journalists with a particular focus on investigative, sports, security and computational journalism.

## Program Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the ability to research, write, report and edit relevant news stories acceptable by a professional news outlet.
2. Understand the history of journalism, its relationship with diverse groups in society and its historic special role in a democratic society.
3. Understand the ethical guidelines and practices that govern the profession and the legal implications and considerations that inform the profession.
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply tools, concepts and technology appropriate for the profession.
5. Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the profession.
6. Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts appropriate for the profession.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of grammar, spelling, punctuation and syntax and an ability to apply Associated Press style to news stories in a manner acceptable to professional news outlets.
8. Demonstrate preparedness for the media job market through resumes and published clips.

## REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to earn a minimum of 122 credits. Accredited journalism programs require majors to complete successfully approximately two-thirds of their coursework in areas other than journalism and communication. The Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland adheres to this nationwide policy. In practical terms, this means that of the 122 minimum credits required for graduation, a journalism student must take 42 credits (and may

take up to 48) in journalism (numbered 100 or above). Of the remaining 74-80 credits, a minimum of 65 must be earned in liberal-arts designated courses.

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism stipulates that 57 of the total credits must be taken in upper-level courses (courses numbered 300-499).

Required courses for all journalism majors, whether primary or secondary major:

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Journalism Requirements Outside the College</b>		
Abstract thinking skills requirement:		
Select one of the following:		3
BIOM301	Introduction to Biometrics	
BMGT230	Business Statistics	
CCJS200	Statistics for Criminology and Criminal Justice	
ECON230	Applied Economic Statistics	
ECON321	Economic Statistics	
EDMS451	Introduction to Educational Statistics	
GEOG306	Introduction to Quantitative Methods for the Geographical Environmental Sciences	
GVPT422	Quantitative Political Analysis	
INST314	Statistics for Information Science	
JOUR405	Breaking News With Numbers: Statistics for Journalists	
PSYC200	Statistical Methods in Psychology	
SOCY201	Introductory Statistics for Sociology	
STAT400	Applied Probability and Statistics I (or a more advanced statistics course.)	
Select a minimum of 6 credits through one or a combination of the following options: <sup>1</sup>		6
Language <sup>2</sup>		
Math/Statistics/Computer Science <sup>3</sup>		
Public Speaking:		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM100		
COMM107	Oral Communication: Principles and Practices	
COMM200	Critical Thinking and Speaking	
COMM230	Argumentation and Debate	
History:		
HIST200	Interpreting American History: Beginnings to 1877	3
or HIST201	Interpreting American History: From 1865 to the Present	
Behavioral or Social Science:		
Select one of the following:		3
ANTH260	Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology and Linguistics	
PSYC100	Introduction to Psychology	
or PSYC221	Social Psychology	
SOCY100	Introduction to Sociology	
or SOCY105	Understanding Contemporary Social Problems - Frameworks for Critical Thinking and Strategies for Solutions	
Economics:		

ECON200	Principles of Microeconomics	3
or ECON201	Principles of Macroeconomics	
Government and Politics:		
GVPT170	American Government	3
Supporting Area:		
Select 4 upper upper-level courses for a minimum of 12 credits in a supporting field <sup>4</sup>		12
Select four additional upper-level courses for a minimum of 12 credits <sup>4</sup>		12
<b>Journalism Course Requirements</b>		
JOUR152	Introduction to Storytelling with Code	1
JOUR200	Journalism History, Roles and Structures	3
JOUR201	News Writing and Reporting I	3
JOUR320	News Writing and Reporting II: Multiplatform	3
JOUR352	Interactive Design and Development	3
JOUR396	Supervised Internship	2
JOUR402	Journalism Law and Ethics	3
<b>Journalism and Society Course (One JOUR course from the 410-469 range)</b>		3
<b>Media Research Course (One JOUR course from the 470-479 range)</b>		3
<b>Menu 1 - Visual Menu (One course from the following):</b>		3
JOUR347	News Videography	
JOUR370	Photojournalism	
<b>Menu 2- Exploration Menu (One course from the following):</b>		3
JOUR202	News Editing	
JOUR347	News Videography	
JOUR360	News Writing and Reporting II: Broadcast	
JOUR370	Photojournalism	
JOUR371	Feature Writing	
<b>Journalism Capstone Experience</b>		3-9
<b>Upper-Level Courses of Choice. A minimum of 9 credits must be upper-level JOUR courses, at least 6 of which must be upper-level skills courses in the 321-389 range.</b>		9-15

<sup>1</sup> Should a student choose to combine the options, at least one language course must be at the intermediate level

<sup>2</sup> Up to two courses with at least one course at the intermediate level and no more than one course at the introductory level. (High school equivalency does not satisfy this requirement.)

<sup>3</sup> Up to two courses:

- Any mathematics (MATH) course numbered 107 or higher.
- An approved programming course worth at least three credits, please refer to this page for a current list (<https://merrill.umd.edu/degrees-programs/bachelors-degree/>).

<sup>4</sup> Numbered 300 or higher, cannot be in Communication.

## Specializations

For students seeking to develop skills in particular areas, the Philip Merrill College of Journalism offers optional specializations that fit inside the curricular requirements.

## Broadcast Specialization

Course	Title	Credits
JOUR347	News Videography	3
JOUR360	News Writing and Reporting II: Broadcast	3
An approved capstone <sup>1</sup>		3-9
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>9-15</b>

<sup>1</sup> Several broadcast capstones also require JOUR361

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

- <http://4yearplans.umd.edu>
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success>) section of this catalog

## Investigative Reporting Specialization

Course	Title	Credits
JOUR343	Investigative Reporting	3
or JOUR353	News Bureau: Multimedia Reporting	
JOUR472	Data Journalism	3
An approved JOUR seminar course in the 410-469 range		3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>9</b>

## Sports Specialization

Course	Title	Credits
Sports skills JOUR course from the 321-389 range		3
Sports discussion/seminar JOUR course from the 410-469 range		3
Sports capstone course <sup>1</sup>		3-9
Sports experiential course (an approved sports internship for JOUR396 or a second sports-focused capstone course)		2-6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>11-21</b>

<sup>1</sup> If taking a second capstone for the sports experiential course, limit each to 6 credits

## Specific Journalism Requirements

- Completion of JOUR201: Students must complete JOUR201 with a "C-" or higher. Consult the Undergraduate Catalog or online Schedule of Classes for a list of prerequisites and restrictions for journalism courses.
- "C-" Requirement: Students must earn a "C-" or higher in the following courses in order to have them count for the major: JOUR152, JOUR200, JOUR201, JOUR202, JOUR320, JOUR347, JOUR352, JOUR360, JOUR361, JOUR370, JOUR371, JOUR402 and any course that qualifies as a Capstone Experience. This minimum grade must be achieved prior to taking courses which the aforementioned courses serve as a prerequisite.

## Placement in Courses

Enrollment in JOUR201 requires proof of grammar competency through the attainment of at least a "C-" in JOUR181 or a score of 80 or higher on the grammar diagnostic exam, completion of ENGL101 (or another FSAW course) with at least a "C-" and completion of JOUR200 with at least a "C-".

## GRADUATION PLANS

Click here (<https://4yearplans.umd.edu/documents/JournalismFourYearPlanDoc.pdf>) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism.