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

#### Journalism Requirements Outside the College

**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
- EDM541 Introduction to Educational Statistics
- GEOG306 Introduction to Quantitative Methods for the Geographical Environmental Sciences
- GJWT222 Quantitative Political Analysis
- INST314 Statistics for Information Science
- JOUR405 Breaking News With Numbers: Statistics for Journalists
- PSYC200 Statistical Methods in Psychology
- SOCY100 Introduction to 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: 6

1. **Language**
   - Any language course numbered 200 or higher, except BIOM301.

2. **Math/Statistics/Computer Science**
   - 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/).

3. **Public Speaking**
   - Select one of the following: 3
     - COMM100 Oral Communication: Principles and Practices
     - COMM200 Critical Thinking and Speaking
     - COMM230 Argumentation and Debate

4. **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

5. **Economics**
   - Select one of the following: 3
     - ECON200 Principles of Microeconomics
     - or ECON201 Principles of Microeconomics
     - or ECON202 Principles of Macroeconomics

6. **Government and Politics**
   - GVPT120 American Government

7. **Supporting Area**
   - Select 4 upper upper-level courses for a minimum of 12 credits in a supporting field 4
   - Select four additional upper-level courses for a minimum of 12 credits 4

#### Journalism Course Requirements

- JOUR120 Introduction to Storytelling with Code 1
- JOUR200 Journalism History, Roles and Structures 3
- JOUR201 News Writing and Reporting I 3
- JOUR202 News Writing and Reporting II: Multiplatform 3
- JOUR312 Interactive Design and Development 3
- JOUR396 Supervised Internship 2
- JOUR402 Journalism Law and Ethics 3

#### Journalism and Society Course (One JOUR course from the 410-469 range)
- JOUR403 Journalism and Society 1

#### Media Research Course (One JOUR course from the 470-479 range)
- JOUR404 Media Research 1

#### Menu 1 - Visual Menu (One course from the following):
- JOUR347 News Videography 3
- JOUR370 Photojournalism 3

#### Menu 2 - Exploration Menu (One course from the following):
- JOUR202 News Editing 3
- JOUR347 News Videography 3
- JOUR360 News Writing and Reporting II: Broadcast 3
- JOUR370 Photojournalism 3
- JOUR371 Feature Writing 3

#### Journalism Capstone Experience
- JOUR399 Journalism Capstone Experience 3-9

**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.

1. Should a student choose to combine the options, at least one language course must be at the intermediate level.
2. 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.)
3. 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/).
4. 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOUR347</td>
<td>News Videography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR360</td>
<td>News Writing and Reporting II: Broadcast</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An approved capstone $^1$</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 9-15

$^1$ Several broadcast capstones also require JOUR361

**Investigative Reporting Specialization**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOUR343</td>
<td>Investigative Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or JOUR353</td>
<td>News Bureau: Multimedia Reporting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR472</td>
<td>Data Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An approved JOUR seminar course in the 410-469 range</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 9

**Sports Specialization**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sports skills JOUR course from the 321-389 range</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports discussion/seminar JOUR course from the 410-469 range</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports capstone course $^1$</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports experiential course (an approved sports internship for JOUR396 or a second sports-focused capstone course)</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 11-21

$^1$ 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://drive.google.com/file/d/1t2BhLenni9wZ-BpANJuGXEwk108Xmua7/) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

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