

Admission Requirements For This Major

1. New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to the Journalism and Communication Department as Premajors.

2. Students may apply for major status upon completion of a minimum of 60 credits, including the Premajor Core requirements, while maintaining a 2.5 cumulative GPA. Majors must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall GPA in order to remain in good standing. Students whose GPA drops below 2.5 will be placed on probation and may be dropped from the major if grades do not improve within one semester. No journalism and communication class may be repeated more than once. All courses in the major must be taken for a grade (not *Pass-Fail*). Courses *must* be taken in sequence.

3. Students transferring from other institutions may be accepted into the major, following completion of premajor requirements, if they have completed University Studies requirements and fulfill these GPA requirements. With approval of an advisor or the department head, as many as 9 semester credits in journalism and communication coursework may be transferred from other institutions to count toward the major.

The Program

The Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism is designed to prepare students for careers in a wide range of communication fields, through instruction in the philosophical groundings, theoretical perspectives, and hands-on applications of communications skills and practice. The curriculum integrates practical mass communications skills training with critical thinking skills and understanding of the processes and effects of communication, and the relationship, roles, and interactions of mass communication with other social institutions.

The Department of Journalism and Communication offers a flexible program of study designed with individual student objectives in mind, and having the following goals:

1. Provide students with theoretical and practical understanding of the workings of mass communication principles and practice.
2. Provide students with abilities and practical skills required to work in communications professions.
3. Provide students with a grounding in the philosophical, ethical, and legal frameworks of mass communication, and an understanding of the role and responsibilities of mass communication in a democratic society.
4. Develop in students critical thinking and analytical abilities, facility in social science research methods, and strong written and oral communication skills, within a broad liberal arts context.

The Department of Journalism and Communication maintains state-of-the-art studios and labs designed to train students in various communications skills. These include the multimedia computer newsroom, a video preproduction studio and full TV studio linked to the USU Aggie TV cable system, and a photographic darkroom. Students receive instruction in traditional communications basics, such as writing, information-gathering and reporting, video productions, *etc.*; in new multimedia technologies of online information gathering; and in critical-thinking skills of media literacy.

Career Opportunities

Serving as interns while still in school, journalism majors often begin their careers in various communication media professions, such as newspapers and magazines, radio and TV broadcasting, public relations, and other corporate communications capacities. Upon graduation, they land jobs in a variety of capacities for journalism businesses, ranging from traditional newspaper and radio-TV work, to PR and business communications, to multimedia and new communications technologies. Jobs such as these require excellent writing and verbal skills, quick thinking, good conceptualization and problem-solving skills, and an understanding of the communications landscape. In recent years, USU Journalism and Communication students have routinely swept state, regional, and national competitions in print and video journalism, multimedia and new technologies, and public relations.

For the best students, these successes readily translate into jobs upon graduation along similar career paths and create a reputation of excellence for USU's journalism program among employers worldwide. Many companies seek out USU journalism students, first as interns and then as full-time employees. Some jobs currently held by USU journalism majors who have graduated in just the past three years include: newspaper reporter, newspaper copy editor, newspaper online news designer, news photographer, radio announcer, radio journalist, graphics artist, Web page designer, telecommunications executive, TV news anchor, TV news producer, videographer, TV and radio reporter, assignment editor, publication designer, writer, magazine staffer, lobbyist, political public information officer, corporate promotions executive, advertising executive, PR spokesman, speechwriter, editorial writer, ad designer, sports PR officer, and more.

Degrees and Programs Offered Through This Department

Journalism: Bachelor of Science (BS) and Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Communication: Master of Science (MS) and Master of Arts (MA)

Academic Advisement

Every student who declares as a Premajor is assigned an academic advisor, and is expected to meet with that advisor every semester before registration for advice on course of study, program planning, electives, minors, and graduation requirements. For requirements outside their major, students are required to meet with advisors in the Science/HASS Advising Center (Taggart Student Center 302) for advisement on University Studies requirements, transfer credits outside their major, and graduation requirements. Students are also urged to meet with advisors in their minor field of study, as appropriate.

Graduation Requirements: BS* Degree in Journalism

*A BA degree requires foreign language training. For further information, see the *General Catalog*.

Minimum University Requirements**

Total credits	120
Grade point average (most majors require higher GPA)	2.00 GPA
Credits of C- or better	100
Credits of upper-division courses (#3000 or above)	40
USU credits (10 of last 40 must be USU credits)	30
Completion of approved major program of study	See department
Credits in minor (if required by department)	12
Credits in American Institutions (ECON 1500; HIST 1700, 2700, or 2710; POLS 1100; or USU 1300)	3
University Studies requirements	See below

**Colleges and departments may require more credits or a higher GPA. See requirements on this sheet.

University Studies Requirements for Journalism Major

Note: Approved University Studies courses and requirements are listed in the back section of each semester's *Schedule of Classes*.

General Education Requirements (27-31 credits)

Competency Requirements (9-13 credits)

Communications Literacy (CL) (6 credits)

ENGL 1010 (3 credits) or satisfactory AP, CLEP, or ACT score

AND

ENGL 2010 (3 credits)

Quantitative Literacy (QL) (3-4 credits)

MATH 1030 or 1050 or STAT 1040 (3-4 credits)

OR

One MATH or STAT course requiring MATH 1050 as a prerequisite

OR

AP Math score of 3 or higher

Computer and Information Literacy (0-3 credits)

Passing grade on six computer and information literacy related examinations. Although no specific course is required, USU 1000 and BIS 1400 teach the required skills.

Breadth Requirements (18 credits)

Select at least one approved course from each of the following six categories: **American Institutions (BAI)**, **Creative Arts (BCA)**, **Humanities (BHU)**, **Life Sciences (BLS)**, **Physical Sciences (BPS)**, and **Social Sciences (BSS)**. At least two of the six breadth courses must be University Studies courses with a **USU prefix** (excluding USU 1000, 1010, 1100, and 3330). (CLEP or AP credit may be used.) JCOM 1000 or 2000 will fulfill the Social Sciences requirement for students in the Journalism major.

Depth Education Requirements

Communications Intensive (CI) (2 courses)

Two courses having CI designation (such as JCOM 2110, 2120, 2310, 3110, 3120, 4210, 4220, and 5300) will meet this requirement.

Quantitative Intensive (QI) (1 course)

One course having QI designation will meet this requirement.

Depth Course Requirements (2 courses)

Select at least one approved 3000-level or above course from each of the following two categories: **Humanities and Creative Arts (DHA)** and **Life and Physical Sciences (DSC)**.

Admission into Journalism Program

A 2.50 overall GPA is required for admission to the major. Should the overall GPA fall below 2.50 in the major, the student will be placed on departmental probation for one semester. If the major GPA is not raised to 2.50, the student will then be dropped as a major from the journalism program.

Graduation Requirements

Journalism majors must complete each of the premajor requirements with a grade of C+ or better. They must also maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 with a GPA of at least 2.5 in all courses taken in the major. All JCOM courses require a minimum grade of C to count toward the major.

Majors must take a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 36 credits in journalism and communication courses, pursuing one of the three course sequences outlined below. Beyond the basic 120 credits needed for graduation, students may take as many journalism and communication courses as they like. In addition, majors must complete a minor/cognate area outside of the Journalism and Communication Department selected with the approval of an advisor. Thus, the basic Journalism major course of study looks like this:

Course Category	Credits
Journalism and Communication Courses	30-36
General Education Requirements	27-31
Depth Education Requirements	15
Minor/Cognate Area	15-21
Non-Journalism and Communication Electives	17-33

Total Credits 120

Journalism Premajor and Major Course Requirements (15 credits)

Premajor Core Requirements (9 credits)

The following courses are required for all majors and must be completed prior to application for major status. A grade of C+ or better is required in each of these courses.

	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 1000 (BSS) Introduction to Mass Communication	3
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 1110 Beginning Newswriting for the Mass Media (prereq: ENGL 1010 or equivalent; English Proficiency test; typing test; and permission of department)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 2000 (BSS) Media Smarts: Making Sense of the Information Age	3

Students completing the premajor courses must file a change of major form in the department office to be admitted to the major. Once students are accepted in good standing as majors, they must complete an additional 21-27 credits in journalism and communication courses as specified below, plus Minor course requirements (see above).

Major Requirements (6 credits)

The following 3 courses are required for all majors, *after* acceptance into the department. Prior to enrolling in these courses, students must have completed University Studies requirements, the Premajor Core, and individual course prerequisites.

	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 2110 (CI) Introduction to Online Journalism (prereq: min. of C+ in JCOM 1000, 1110, and 2000)	2
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 4000 Senior Seminar in Mass Communication (prereq: senior status)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 4030 Mass Media Law (should have junior standing or instructor's permission)	3

Emphasis Areas

The Department of Journalism and Communication offers students the opportunity to focus their studies in one of three distinct emphasis areas, selected in close consultation with departmental advisors to reflect individual student interests.

Note: All Journalism majors must complete the *Premajor Core Requirements* (see previous page) **before** beginning emphasis area coursework and *Major Requirements* once they are accepted to major status. All premajors and majors must meet with their advisor every semester.

Broadcast/Electronic Media Emphasis (30-35 credits)

A. Premajor Core Requirements (9 credits)

Journalism majors must complete the Premajor Core Requirements *before* taking courses in section *B* below.

B. Required Courses (12 credits)

	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 2200 Introduction to Video Media	3
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 2210 Writing for Electronic Media	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional major requirements (JCOM 2110, 4000, 4030)	6

C. Newscast or Corporate Video/Multimedia (6-8 credits)

Students should complete *one* of the two pairs of courses listed below.

<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 4210 (CI) Newscast I (prereq: min. of C in JCOM 2200) (4 cr) and	
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 4220 (CI) Newscast II (prereq: min. of C in JCOM 2210, 4210) (4 cr)	8

OR

<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 4230 Corporate Video (prereq: min. of C in JCOM 1000, 1110, and 2000) (3 cr) and	
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 5210 Website Design and Production (3 cr)	6

D. Communication Electives (3-6 credits)

Students should consult with their advisor to choose appropriate electives.

Print Journalism Emphasis (30-36 credits)

A. Premajor Core Requirements (9 credits)

Journalism majors must complete the Premajor Core Requirements *before* taking courses in section *B* below.

B. Required Courses (15 credits)

	Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 2120 (CI) Reporting Public Affairs	3
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 3110 (CI) Beyond the Inverted Pyramid	3
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 3120 (CI) Copy Editing and Publication Design	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional major requirements (JCOM 2110, 4000, 4030)	6

C. Communication Electives (6-12 credits)

Public Relations/Corporate Communications Emphasis (30-36 credits)

A. Premajor Core Requirements (9 credits)

Journalism majors must complete the Premajor Core Requirements *before* taking courses in section *B* below.

B. Required Courses (12 credits, may be taken concurrently) Credits

<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 2300 Introduction to Public Relations	3
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 2310 (CI) Writing for Public Relations	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional major requirements (JCOM 2110, 4000, 4030)	6

C. Upper-division Required Courses (6 credits; must be taken in sequence after completion of JCOM 2300, 2310)

<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 3300 Corporate Communications	3
<input type="checkbox"/> JCOM 5300 (CI) Public Relations Agency I	3

D. Electives (3-9 credits; at least 3 credits in skills course; 3 credits upper division)

Journalism Minor (18 credits minimum)

To earn a minor in Journalism, students must complete a minimum of 18 credits of coursework with a minimum 2.5 GPA. JCOM 1000 and 1110 are required for the minor. Students must also select at least 9 credits from courses numbered 3000 and above. In consultation with his or her faculty advisor, each student should select courses which correspond to his or her area of interest. The following examples show courses which could be included within specific interest areas. **Broadcast/Electronic Media:** JCOM 2210, 4210, 4220, 5210; **Print Journalism:** JCOM 2210, 3110, 3120, 4530; **Public Relations/Corporate Communications:** JCOM 2310, 3300, 5210, 5300. Course selection for the Journalism minor *must* be approved by the student's faculty advisor.

Requirement Changes

Graduation requirements outlined on this sheet are subject to change. Students are expected to confer with their advisors regularly regarding any potential changes.

Honors Program

The Journalism and Communication Department offers a Departmental Honors option, allowing students to graduate with Departmental Honors in Journalism. For requirements and course listings, consult the departmental honors advisor.

Materials for Persons with Disabilities

This requirement sheet is available in large print, audio, and braille format upon request to the USU Disability Resource Center.

For information contact

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