

JOURNALISM, BACHELOR OF ARTS (736P, 736)

Program Coordinator

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The world of journalism is changing. However, the need for excellent journalists is not. The Journalism major grounds its curriculum in the skills that all employers within the news media and professional communications want: strong writing and editing skills; excellent storytelling skills; the ability to find and process complex information, and share it in a way that helps others understand it.

The core of the curriculum remains reporting, writing, and editing for print and the Web. That core is joined by a range of classes aimed at developing a foundation in multimedia storytelling: digital photojournalism, audio-visual gathering, and editing; and Web site development and content delivery. Ethical and professional standards, First Amendment principles, and media law concepts are incorporated throughout the curriculum to complete the program.

Specific objectives of the Journalism program:

1. To prepare students for professional careers in journalism and media information;
2. To instill in students a high degree of professionalism, which consists principally of practical competence and ethical understanding;
3. To enhance the student's understanding of the role of the press in a democratic society.

Program Admission Requirements

Students wishing to enter the major in journalism initially are admitted as majors seeking admission (reference 736P). Prospective majors may take no more than 15 hours in the major before admission. Students must meet the following requirements before they can be admitted:

1. Completion of a minimum of 24 hours of coursework applicable to a baccalaureate degree;
2. A minimum overall grade point average of 2.5;
3. Completion of ENG 100 with a grade of "C" or better and 9 additional hours in general education;
4. Completion of the following courses with a grade of "C" or better: SOM 101, SOM 102, and JOUR 202.

Students not meeting the above admission requirements will not be admitted to the Journalism major and cannot register for any additional courses in the major.

Program Requirements (42 hours)

A baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 120 unduplicated semester hours. More information can be found at www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php. (https://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php)

Students who began WKU in the Fall 2014 and thereafter should review the Colonnade requirements located at: <https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/colonnaderequirements.php>. (<https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/colonnaderequirements.php>)

The major in Journalism requires 42 semester hours. No course with a grade of "D" or below may be counted toward the major or fulfill prerequisite requirements for any major in the School. One-half of the hours in the major must be at the 300- or 400-level. Students must take a minimum of 72 semester hours in courses outside of the School of Media unit including the general education requirements.

In addition to meeting institutional requirements for graduation, the Journalism major must have a minor or second major outside of the School of Media and Film Studies that is approved by the major faculty advisor. Students may not select a minor in Film Studies, or those offered within the School, unless taken as a second minor.

Code	Title	Hours
SOM 101	Understanding Media Content, Ethics and Technology	3
SOM 102	Media Content, Collaboration and Community	3
ART 243	Digital Media	3
JOUR 202	Introduction to News Writing	3
JOUR 301	Press Law and Ethics	3
JOUR 302	Intermediate Reporting	3
JOUR 323	Multiplatform News Presentation	3
JOUR 325	Feature Writing	3
VJP 131	Fundamentals of Photography	3
VJP 261	Mobile Media Storytelling	3
BCOM 264	Digital Video Production and Distribution	3
Diversity Elective		
Select one from the following:		3
SOM 310	Media Diversity	
ANTH 448	Visual Anthropology	
COMM 463	Advanced Intercultural Communication	
CRIM 446	Gender, Crime, and Justice	
FLK 330	Cultural Connections and Diversity	
SOCL 355	Sociology of Gender	
SOCL 362	Social Institutions: Race, Class, and Gender	
SOCL 375	Diversity in American Society	
SPAN 345	Topics in Spanish	
Diversity class approved by an academic advisor.		
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Select one of the following:		3
JOUR 426	Advanced Reporting	
SOM 402	First Amendment Research and Reporting	
Elective ¹		
Select one of the following		3
BCOM 325	Survey of Electronic Media Writing	
BCOM 368	News Videography and Editing	
JOUR 422	Current Issues in Mass Communication	
JOUR 467	News / Editorial Internship Practicum	
JOUR 481	Problems in Mass Communication	

JOUR 491	Internship or Practicum
ENG 311	Creative Nonfiction Writing
ENG 402	Editing and Publishing
ENG 403	Writing Memoir and Autobiography
FLK 373	Folklore and the Media
VJP 332	Picture Editing
SOM 330	Interactive Design
SOM 421	American News Media History
Total Hours	42

* PS 110 is the pre-requisite for BCOM 301.

¹ Some courses among these electives might have prerequisites. Please check the catalog.

Finish in Four Plan

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SOM 101		3 JOUR 202	3
SOM 102		3 VJP 131	3
ENG 100		3 PS 110*	3
COMM 145		3 Colonnade: Arts & Humanities	3
Colonnade: Quantitative Reasoning		3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science w/lab	3
		15	15
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
BCOM 264		3 JOUR 302	3
ART 243		3 VJP 261	3
JOUR 323		3 Colonnade: Literary Studies	3
HIST 101 or HIST 102		3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science	3
Minor Course or Foreign Language, if needed		3 General University Elective	3
		15	15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JOUR 301		3 JOUR Elective	3
JOUR Diversity Elective		3 Colonnade: Writing in the Disciplines	3
Colonnade: Connections (Social and Cultural)		3 Colonnade: Connections (Local to Global)	3
Minor Course		3 Minor Course	3
Minor Course		3 General University Elective	3
		15	15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JOUR 325		3 JOUR 426	3
Minor Course		3 Colonnade: Connections (Systems)	3
Minor Course		3 Minor Course	3
General University Elective		3 General University Elective	3
General University Elective		3 General University Elective	3
		15	15
Total Hours 120			