

VISUAL JOURNALISM AND PHOTOGRAPHY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (752P, 752)

Program Coordinator

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With a tradition of highly successful graduates, state-of-the-art facilities, and award-winning faculty, WKU's Visual Journalism and Photography program is regarded as one of the nation's finest. The program is an integral component of the School of Media & Communication and has been a significant contributor to the high quality of the university's student publications. In the William Randolph Hearst Journalism Awards competition, often referred to as the Pulitzer Prizes of collegiate journalism, WKU's Visual Journalism and Photography program leads the nation in both the Photojournalism and Multimedia Intercollegiate competitions.

The Visual Journalism and Photography program emphasizes photojournalism, documentary video, and photography. Its comprehensive curriculum prepares students to compete at the highest level as they enter a visual profession that offers numerous employment opportunities in online and traditional publications, nonprofit organizations, businesses, social media content gathering, and independent entrepreneurship ventures. This success is achieved through the practice of producing content-driven stories within the classroom, then reinforced through internships, workshops, freelance opportunities, and overseas educational programs.

The major offers two concentrations: Photojournalism and Documentary (45 hours) and Photography (36 hours). The Photojournalism and Documentary concentration prepares students to enter the visual journalism profession with classes in still photography, documentary video, design, studio lighting, visual business practices, and journalism writing. The Photography concentration is designed for those wanting to obtain skills in still photography, studio lighting, video, and design, applying these to applications outside of the traditional journalism profession, such as commercial, portraiture, advertising, and promotional photography.

Concentrations

- Photojournalism and Documentary (PJD)
- Photography (PHTO)

Admission Requirements

Students entering the major in Visual Journalism and Photography are admitted as "seeking admission" (reference 750P). 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 the Colonnade program;

4. Completion of the following courses with a grade of "C" or better: SOM 101, SOM 102, VJP 131, and VJP 330 or VJP 331.

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

Program Requirements (36-45 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 Visual Journalism and Photography with a concentration in Photojournalism and Documentary requires 45 hours, and the concentration in Photography requires 36 hours. Both tracks lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree. 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.

In addition to meeting the Colonnade and major requirements for graduation, the Visual Journalism and Photography major must have a minor or second major that is approved by a major faculty advisor.

Specific objectives of the Visual Journalism and Photography program:

1. To develop the artistic, technical, and personal qualities of those who want to pursue a professional career in visual media;
2. To develop a background for understanding the role of storytelling through photojournalism, documentary video, and photography in shaping and reflecting contemporary society;
3. To provide instruction in visual theory, principles, ethics, and practice for students pursuing any area of scholarly activity;
4. To provide a conceptual grounding in storytelling principles that will encourage advancement of the professional visual content gatherer.

The major offers two concentrations: Photojournalism and Documentary (45 hours) and Photography (36 hours). These concentrations require the following courses:

Code	Title	Hours
REQUIRED COURSES, BOTH CONCENTRATIONS		
SOM 101	Understanding Media Content, Ethics and Technology	3
SOM 102	Media Content, Collaboration and Community	3
VJP 131	Fundamentals of Photography	3
VJP 331	Photojournalism	3
VJP 330	Short Form Documentary	3
VJP 332	Picture Editing	3
VJP 333	Studio Lighting	3
Total Hours		21

Photojournalism and Documentary Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
JOUR 202	Introduction to News Writing	3
JOUR 301 or BCOM 301	Press Law and Ethics Mass Communication Law and Ethics	3
VJP 339		3
VJP 431 or VJP 430	Advanced Photojournalism * Advanced Short Form Documentary	3
VJP 436	Photojournalism and Documentary Projects	3
Restricted Electives		
Two out of the following restricted electives:		6
VJP 390	Cultural History of Photography	
VJP 433	Advanced Lighting	
VJP 430	Advanced Short Form Documentary *	
or VJP 431	Advanced Photojournalism	
JOUR 302	Intermediate Reporting	
BCOM 366	Editing I	
BCOM 380	Editing II	
FILM 377	Film Sound	
SOM 399	Special Topics in Media–Study Abroad	
SOM 402	First Amendment Research and Reporting	
Diversity Elective		
One of the following diversity electives:		3
AFAM 190	African American Experience	
AFAM 343	Communities of Struggle	
ART 317	Art and Power	
ART 390	Contemporary Art	
ART 405	Art Theory and Criticism	
ANTH 448	Visual Anthropology	
COMM 365	Intercultural Communication	
CRIM 361	Race, Class, and Crime	
CRIM 446	Gender, Crime, and Justice	
ENG 295	Popular Culture and Gender: Signs & Narratives	
FLK 330	Cultural Connections and Diversity	
GWS 200	Introduction to Gender And Women’s Studies	
HIST 343	Communities of Struggle	
SOCL 355	Sociology of Gender	
SOCL 362	Social Institutions: Race, Class, and Gender	
SOCL 375	Diversity in American Society	
SPAN 345	Topics in Spanish	
Total Hours		24

* Either VJP 430 or VJP 431 may be counted towards the Photojournalism and Documentary concentration’s required

courses. The other may be applied to restricted electives within the Photojournalism and Documentary concentration.

Photography Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
Required Course		
VJP 433	Advanced Lighting	3
Restricted Electives		
Four of the following restricted electives:		12
VJP 261	Mobile Media Storytelling	
VJP 339		
VJP 390	Cultural History of Photography	
VJP 431	Advanced Photojournalism	
VJP 430	Advanced Short Form Documentary	
BCOM 366	Editing I	
SOM 399	Special Topics in Media–Study Abroad	
SOM 402	First Amendment Research and Reporting	
ART 243	Digital Media	
Total Hours		15

Finish in Four Plan Photojournalism and Documentary Concentration

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP 131		3 VJP 331	3
SOM 101		3 PS 110 *	3
SOM 102		3 Colonnade: Arts & Humanities	3
ENG 100		3 Colonnade: Quantitative Reasoning	3
COMM 145		3 Minor Course	3
		JOUR 202	3
			15
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP 330		3 VJP 333	3
VJP 332		3 VJP Elective	3
HIST 101 or HIST 102		3 Colonnade: Literary Studies	3
Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science w/lab		3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science	3
General University Elective or Foreign Language, if needed		3 Minor Course	3
			15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP 339		3 VJP 431 or VJP 430 <small>Select either VJP 430 (fall only) or VJP 431 (spring only).</small>	3
VJP 430 or VJP 431 <small>Select either VJP 430 (fall only) or VJP 431 (spring only).</small>		3 Colonnade: Writing in the Disciplines	3
JOUR 301 or BCOM 301		3 Colonnade: Connections (Local to Global)	3

Colonnade: Connections (Social & Cultural)	3	Minor Course	3
Minor Course	3	Diversity Elective	3
Minor Course	3		
General University Elective	3		
		21	15

Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP Elective		3 Colonnade: Connections (Systems)	3
Minor Course	3	VJP 436	3
Minor Course	3	General University Elective	3
General University Elective	3	General University Elective	3
		12	12

Total Hours 123

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

Photography Concentration

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP 131		3 VJP 331	3
SOM 101		3 Colonnade: Arts & Humanities	3
SOM 102		3 Colonnade: Quantitative Reasoning	3
ENG 100		3 Minor Course	3
COMM 145		3	
		15	12

Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP 330		3 VJP 333	3
VJP 332		3 VJP Elective	3
HIST 101 or HIST 102		3 Colonnade: Literary Studies	3
Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science w/lab		3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Science	3
General University Elective or Foreign Language, if needed		3 Minor Course	3
		15	15

Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Colonnade: Connections (Social & Cultural)		3 VJP Elective	3
Colonnade: Social & Behavioral		3 Colonnade: Writing in the Disciplines	3
Minor Course		3 Colonnade: Connections (Local to Global)	3
Minor Course		3 Minor Course	3
General University Elective		3 General University Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
VJP Elective		3 Colonnade: Connections (Systems)	3
Minor Course		3 VJP 433	3

Minor Course	3	General University Elective	3
General University Elective	3	VJP Elective	3
General University Elective	3	General University Elective	3
		General University Elective	3
		15	18

Total Hours 120