

# JOURNALISM, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

## Program Description

The Journalism minor will offer students the skills required to practice journalism, including researching, writing, interviewing, and using equipment and technology necessary to tell non-fiction stories. Students will also learn journalism theory - the reason journalism and the First Amendment are critical to a functioning democracy as well as the ethics that shape news media decision-making. Courses on the "skills" side of the minor will include COMM 160 and COMM 260W, the foundational journalistic reporting and writing courses that can be followed by upper-division courses in print/digital and broadcast. In addition, students will be able to pursue visual story-telling via photojournalism and multimedia/video courses. At the same time, theory courses such as COMM 271 will introduce students to the history of journalism in this country and show how the news media has reacted to changes in the industry.

## What is Journalism?

The core skill set of journalism is gathering information and organizing it to tell a story in a compelling fashion. While consumption and delivery methods change almost daily for information, journalism exists in more forms than ever before: broadcast, digital, online, multimedia, print, and more. Faculty emphasize a fact-based approach to information that serves the public interest. In the department, professionally focused classes and hands-on opportunities prepare students for an ever-changing and important industry that marries a tradition of history-as-it-happens with cutting-edge technology and information delivery.

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You have an appreciation and understanding of popular culture.
- You have excellent verbal and written communications skills.
- You have an interest in telling stories, no matter the medium, and trying technologies that engage an audience.

## Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	19

## Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Some prerequisites may be required to meet the requirements for this minor.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 160	Basic News Writing Skills	1
COMM 260W	News Writing and Reporting	3

COMM 271	Principles of Journalism	3
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications	3
COMM 409	News Media Ethics	3

### Additional Courses

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 6 credits from the following: 6		
COMM 261	The Literature of Journalism	
COMM 269	Photojournalism	
COMM 360	Radio Reporting	
COMM 362	Podcasting	
COMM 364	Data Visualization for Journalists	
COMM 460W	Reporting Methods	
COMM 461	Magazine Writing	
COMM 462	Feature Writing	
COMM 463	Newspaper Design	
COMM 464W	Editorial, Opinion and Commentary Writing	
COMM 465	Television Reporting	

## Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

## University Park

### Bellisario College Academic Advising

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[commadvisor@psu.edu](mailto:commadvisor@psu.edu)

<https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/current/advising> (<https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/current/advising/>)

## Contact

### University Park

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