

JOURNALISM, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	2
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	49

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 160	Basic News Writing Skills	1
COMM 205	Gender, Diversity and the Media	3
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

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 18 credits for completion of a University-approved minor ¹ 18

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better
Select an option 15

¹ Students majoring in journalism must take a University-approved minor outside the Bellisario College of Communications. The minimum requirement for a minor is 18 credits. By careful planning, a student may use General Education and Bachelor of Arts courses to help fulfill this requirement. In lieu of a minor, students may take a concurrent major or concurrent degree, as long as it is outside the College of

Communications. Students should consult with their adviser as soon as possible about this requirement.

Requirements for the Option

Options can be combined but only with the consent of a student's adviser.

Broadcast Journalism Option (15 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 360	Radio Reporting	3
COMM 465	Television Reporting	3

Additional Courses

<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
COMM 362	Podcasting	
COMM 364	Data Visualization for Journalists	
COMM 400	In the Game: TV Sports Magazine	
COMM 402	International Reporting	
COMM 466	Public Affairs Broadcasting	
COMM 480	Television News	
COMM 481	Visual Storytelling for Journalists	
COMM 495	Internship (3 credits) ¹	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3

COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications	
COMM 401	Mass Media in History	
COMM 405	Political Economy of Communications	
COMM 407A	Media and Government	
COMM 407B	Perspectives on American Journalism	
COMM 410	Global Media, Culture, and Society	
COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media	
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society	
COMM 419	Comparative National Media in a Global Context	
COMM 494H	Research Project Courses	
COMM 496	Independent Studies	
COMM 499	Foreign Study--Mass Communications	

¹ Internship in news with newspaper, radio, or TV. See the director of the internship program for specifics.

Digital and Print Journalism Option (15 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 460W	Reporting Methods	3
COMM 467	News Editing and Evaluation	3

Additional Courses

<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
COMM 269	Introduction to Visual Journalism	
COMM 362	Podcasting	
COMM 364	Data Visualization for Journalists	

COMM 402	International Reporting
COMM 461	Magazine Writing
COMM 462	Feature Writing
COMM 463	Newspaper Design
COMM 464W	Editorial, Opinion and Commentary Writing
COMM 474	Depth Reporting
COMM 481	Visual Storytelling for Journalists
COMM 495	Internship (3 credits) ¹

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications
COMM 401	Mass Media in History
COMM 405	Political Economy of Communications
COMM 407A	Media and Government
COMM 407B	Perspectives on American Journalism
COMM 410	Global Media, Culture, and Society
COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society
COMM 419	Comparative National Media in a Global Context
COMM 494H	Research Project Courses
COMM 496	Independent Studies
COMM 499	Foreign Study--Mass Communications

¹ Internship in news with newspaper, radio, or TV. See the director of the internship program for specifics.

Photojournalism Option (15 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

COMM 269	Introduction to Visual Journalism	3
COMM 469	Advanced Production for Visual Journalists	3

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 6 credits from the following: 6

COMM 362	Podcasting
COMM 364	Data Visualization for Journalists
COMM 402	International Reporting
COMM 463	Newspaper Design
COMM 467	News Editing and Evaluation
COMM 468	Graphic Applications in Print Communications
COMM 481	Visual Storytelling for Journalists
COMM 495	Internship (3 credits) ¹

Select 3 credits from the following: 3

COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications
COMM 401	Mass Media in History
COMM 405	Political Economy of Communications
COMM 407A	Media and Government
COMM 407B	Perspectives on American Journalism
COMM 410	Global Media, Culture, and Society
COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media

COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society
COMM 419	Comparative National Media in a Global Context
COMM 494H	Research Project Courses
COMM 496	Independent Studies
COMM 499	Foreign Study--Mass Communications

¹ Internship in news with newspaper, radio, or TV. See the director of the internship program for specifics.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.