

Journalism, B.S.J.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science in Journalism

Nature of the Program

The journalism major at the School of Media and Communications prepares students for careers as journalists working in the fields of broadcast, video and audio production, digital, and newspaper journalism. All students in the journalism major must complete a series of shared core requirements (15 credit hours) and a shared capstone experience (3 credit hours). In addition, students will take two upper-level courses of their own choosing in one of several focus areas: video and audio, visual/photo journalism, documentary or reporting and writing. Students will also take 6 credit hours in journalism skills classes, such as podcasting, voice performance, AR/VR, video editing and drone journalism in addition to six credits of approved journalism electives.

Journalism majors have the opportunity to participate in such immersion journalism courses as Visual Storytelling, WVU News, Audience Engagement, and Adventure Travel Writing and Photography, along with numerous other special topics classes. The School houses student chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists; National Association of Black Journalists; WVU Film Club; Association for Women in Sports Media; Radio, Television, Digital News Association; and Mirage Magazine. Journalism majors who wish to pursue law school or other graduate study have a solid basis in writing and research. The School offers a 3 + 3 degree program with the College of Law for high achieving students.

Admissions for 2025-2026

- Admission to the School of Media and Communications (p. 1)
- Scholarships (p. 1)
- Choosing a Major (p. 1)
- Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program (p. 1)

Admission to the School of Media and Communications

For specific information regarding the admissions requirements for First Time Freshmen to the School of Media and Communications Media, please visit [Admission to the School of Media and Communications](#).

Students who have completed at least one full-time semester of college work (either at WVU or elsewhere) with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher may also qualify for direct admission into the School of Media and Communications irrespective of standardized test scores. Students who do not meet these criteria will automatically be enrolled in WVU's Center for Learning, Advising and Student Success (CLASS). Students advised in CLASS may declare a major in the School of Media and Communications once they have earned a cumulative GPA of 2.0 at WVU. Or, if a student has a 2.0 cumulative GPA at WVU, they may enroll in MDIA 215S (space permitting) or they may declare the College's Multidisciplinary Studies major. If the student earns a C- or better in MDIA 215S and maintains a 2.0 overall GPA at WVU, then the student may then declare a major in the School of Media.

Scholarships

In addition to financial aid from West Virginia University, the School of Media and Communications offers a number of scholarships each year to eligible students. All students applying for scholarships must file a FAFSA form by the deadline, even if they are not eligible for need-based aid.

Choosing a Major

The School of Media and Communications offers five majors: advertising and public relations, integrated marketing communication, journalism, sports and adventure media, and multidisciplinary media studies.

Direct admission students are admitted to the School upon admission to the University and declare their majors at that time. However, to declare a multidisciplinary studies major, students must have earned 29 college credit hours and have a minimum 2.0 overall GPA.

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program

Students in the advertising and public relations or journalism BSJ programs in the School of Media and Communications with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 are eligible for this program. The accelerated MSJ program allows students to customize a research project that is relevant to their interests, whether they are Advertising and Public Relations or Journalism majors. Interested students are identified during their initial year or two at the School, and, if interested, must meet with their academic advisor by the fall of their junior year. Freshmen and sophomores are welcome to stop by to discuss the program as well. Information is posted on the School's website.

3+3 BSJ/JD

Qualifying students may also enroll in the 3+3 BSJ/JD degree program, offered in collaboration with the WVU School of Media and Communications and College of Law. You may learn more about this program on the 3+3 BSJ/JD degree program website (<https://admissions.law.wvu.edu/apply/3-plus-3/>).

Major Code: 3725

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	39
	Non-Journalism/Media Requirements	27
	School of Media and Communications Core Requirements	15
	Journalism Major Requirements	39
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 6, and 7	16
MDIA 191	First-Year Seminar	2
General Electives **		21
Total Hours		39

Non-Journalism/Media Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government	3
STAT 111	Understanding Statistics (GEF 3)	3
HIST 153	Making of Modern America: 1865 to the Present (GEF 5)	3
ECON 200	Survey of Economics	3
BCOR 350	Principles of Marketing	3
	English literature or Creative Writing course	3

Two semesters of any foreign language/computer coding course or one language/coding course +study abroad	6
Select one of the following:	3
PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology	
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology	
ANTH 105 Introduction to Anthropology	
Total Hours	27

School of Media and Communications Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum grade of C- is required in College of Media Core Requirements.		
MDIA 101	Media and Society (may fulfill GEF 4)	3
MDIA 215S	Media Writing	3
MDIA 225S	Media Tools & Applications	3
MDIA 328	Media Ethics and Law	3
Select one of the following:		3
MDIA 401	Making Media in the Digital Age	
MDIA 427	History of American Journalism, Media & Pop Culture	
MDIA 455	Media, Identity, and Power	
MDIA 555	Media, Identity, and Power	
Total Hours		15

Journalism Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum grade of C- is required in Journalism Major Requirements.		
Select three one-credit-hour JRL skills courses, which include, but are not limited to, the following options:		3
JRL 235S	Video Editing	
JRL 236S	Podcast Producing	
JRL 237S	Advanced Video Editing	
JRL 238S	Voice Performance for Broadcasting	
JRL 240S	Immersive Storytelling: AR/VR	
JRL 325S	Podcast Reporting & Producing	
Take each of the following:		
JRL 318S	Beat Reporting	3
JRL 319S	Editing and Curation	3
JRL 341S	Data and Design	3
or JRL 321S	Media Design	
JRL 458	Interactive Media and Audience Building	3
Select one of the following capstones:		3
JRL 411	Experimental Journalism	
JRL 431S	Multimedia Storytelling	
JRL 440S	Documentary Storytelling	
JRL 459S	Multimedia News Publication	
JRL 467S	Public Affairs Show-Morgantown Today	
JRL 487S	Advanced Video Reporting and Producing	
Select two advisor-approved "track" electives from the following or from other advisor-approved upper-level JRL electives:		6
JRL 320S	Advanced Photojournalism	
JRL 340S	Advanced Video Storytelling	
JRL 430S	Social Media and Journalism	
JRL 426S	Investigative Reporting	
JRL 335S	Video and Audio News Writing	
NOTE: JRL 235S must be taken concurrently with JRL 335S and counts as a required one-credit JRL skills course		
JRL 386S	Beginning Video Reporting	

JRL 448S	Digital Publication: Social Video	
JRL 493	Special Topics	
Upper-Division Journalism (JRL) Courses		
Required Minor *		15
Total Hours		39

Code	Title	Hours
English Literature or Creative Writing Courses		
English Literature		
ENGL 131	Poetry and Drama	3
ENGL 132	Short Story and Novel	3
ENGL 139	Contemporary African Literature	3
ENGL 154	African American Literature	3
ENGL 156	Literature of Native America	3
ENGL 226	World Literature	3
ENGL 232	Poetry	3
ENGL 233	The Short Story	3
ENGL 234	Drama	3
ENGL 235	Novel	3
ENGL 236	The Bible as Literature	3
ENGL 241	American Literature 1	3
ENGL 242	American Literature 2	3
ENGL 251	American Folklore and Culture	3
ENGL 252	Appalachian Fiction	3
ENGL 254	African American Literature	3
ENGL 257	Science Fiction and Fantasy	3
ENGL 258	Popular American Culture	3
ENGL 261	British Literature before 1800	3
ENGL 262	British Literature 2	3
ENGL 263	Shakespeare 1	3
ENGL 272	Modern Literature	3
ENGL 273	Contemporary Literature	3
ENGL 285	Images of Women in Literature	3
Creative Writing		
ENGL 111	Introduction to Creative Writing	3
ENGL 212	Creative Writing: Fiction	3
ENGL 213	Creative Writing: Poetry	3
ENGL 214	Creative Writing: Non-Fiction	3

*

Students must complete an officially sanctioned minor outside the School of Media and Communications. However, students may pursue the Sport Communication minor, which is offered jointly by the College of Creative Arts and Media and the College of Applied Human Sciences. Students completing a dual-degree are exempt from the requirement to complete a minor. Students should consult their advisor before starting a minor. Some minors require 18 hours of coursework instead of 15 hours, and some minor courses are offered online primarily during summer terms.

**

General Education and Elective Credits can vary - students must have a minimum of 120 credit hours total to complete the degree.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL Literature or Creative Writing Course	3
MDIA 101 (GEF 4)		3 Language Course	3
MDIA 215S		3 MDIA 225S	3

MDIA 191		2 GEF 2B	4
Language Course		3 General Elective	3
		14	16
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 JRL 318S	3
ECON 200		3 HIST 153	3
JRL 319S		3 Minor Course	3
Minor Course		3 General Elective	3
Select a one-credit-hour JRL Skills Course		1 GEF 6	3
Select one of the following:		3 Select a one-credit-hour JRL Skills Course	1
PSYC 101			
SOC 101			
ANTH 105			
		16	16
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 102		3 BCOR 350	3
MDIA 328		3 STAT 111	3
Minor Course		3 JRL 458	3
JRL 341S or 321S		3 300- or 400-level JRL "track" Elective	3
GEF 7		3 Select one of the following:	3
Select a one-credit-hour JRL Skills Course		1 MDIA 401	
		MDIA 427	
		MDIA 455	
		16	15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
300- or 400-level JRL "track" Elective		3 JRL Capstone Course	3
Minor Course		3 Minor Course	3
General Elective		9 General Elective	6
		15	12

Total credit hours: 120

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program

- B.S.J. in Journalism/M.S.J in Journalism (p. 5)
- B.S.J. in Journalism/M.S.J. in Media Solutions and Innovation (p. 8)

BSJ Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
MDIA 191	First-Year Seminar	2
General Education Requirements		
GEF 1, 2, 6, and 7		16
Non-Journalism/Media Requirements		
HIST 153	Making of Modern America: 1865 to the Present (GEF 5)	3
ECON 200	Survey of Economics	3
BCOR 350	Principles of Marketing	3
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government	3
STAT 111	Understanding Statistics (GEF 3)	3
English literature or Creative Writing course		3

Two semesters of any foreign language/computer coding course or one language/coding course +study abroad	6
Select one of the following:	3
ANTH 105 Introduction to Anthropology	
PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology	
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology	
School of Media and Communications Core Requirements	
A grade of C- or higher must be earned in all major courses.	
MDIA 101 Media and Society (GEF 4)	3
MDIA 215S Media Writing	3
MDIA 225S Media Tools & Applications	3
JRL 528 Media Ethics and Law	3
Choose one capstone course:	3
JRL 531 Multimedia Reporting	
JRL 587S Advanced Video Reporting and Producing	
JRL 559S Multimedia News Publication	
Take 3 one-credit-hour skills classes:	3
JRL 236S Podcast Producing	
JRL 237S Advanced Video Editing	
JRL 238S Voice Performance for Broadcasting	
JRL 240S Immersive Storytelling: AR/VR	
Take each of the following:	
JRL 318S Beat Reporting	3
JRL 319S Editing and Curation	3
JRL 341S Data and Design	3
JRL 458 Interactive Media and Audience Building	3
Select two "track" electives from the following or from other advisor-approved upper-level JRL electives:	6
JRL 320S Advanced Photojournalism	
JRL 321S Media Design	
JRL 335S Video and Audio News Writing	
JRL 340S Advanced Video Storytelling	
JRL 386S Beginning Video Reporting	
JRL 426S Investigative Reporting	
JRL 430S Social Media and Journalism	
JRL 440S Documentary Storytelling	
JRL 593 Special Topics	
Required Minor	15
General Electives	17
Total Hours	113

MSJ Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses		
JRL 500	Introduction to Graduate Studies	1
JRL 504	Mass Media and Society	3
JRL 520	Advanced Journalistic Writing and Research	3
JRL 689	Ethics of Mass Communication	3
JRL 697	Research	3
JRL 698	Thesis or Dissertation	3
Electives (Internal or External to School of Media and Communications)		9
Total Hours		25

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JRL 191		2 ENGL Literature or Creative Writing course	3
MDIA 101 (GEF 4)		3 Language Course	3
MDIA 215S		3 GEF 2B	4
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 Select one of the following:	3
Language Course		3 ANTH 105	
		PSYC 101	
		SOC 101	
		General Elective	3
	14		16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
One-credit-hour JRL Skills course		1 JRL 318S	3
MDIA 225S		3 GEF 6	3
Elective		3 HIST 153	3
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 General Elective	3
BCOR 350		3 Minor Course	3
One-credit-hour JRL Skills Course		1	
	14		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JRL 319S		3 STAT 111	3
GEF 7		3 Minor Course	3
JRL 341S		3 Electives	3
POLS 102		3 ECON 200	3
Minor Course		3 JRL "track" elective	3
One credit-hour-hour JRL Skills Course		1	
	16		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JRL 458		3 JRL Capstone Course	3
JRL 528		3 Minor Course	3
Minor Course		3 Elective	2
JRL 500		1 JRL 520	3
JRL 504		3 JRL "track" elective	3
Elective		3	
	16		14

Fifth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Elective *		3 JRL 689	3
Elective *		3 JRL 697 or 698	3
JRL 697		3 Elective *	3
	9		9

Total credit hours: 138

*

These electives should be at the 500- or 600-level and may come from within or external to the School of Media and Communications.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	28
	Non-Journalism/Media Requirements	27
	School of Media and Communications Core Requirements	12
	Journalism Major Requirements	53
	MESO Requirements	16
Total Hours		136

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 6, and 7	16
MDIA 191	First-Year Seminar	2
	General Electives	10
Total Hours		28

Non-Journalism/Media Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
HIST 153	Making of Modern America: 1865 to the Present	3
ECON 200	Survey of Economics	3
BCOR 350	Principles of Marketing	3
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government	3
STAT 111	Understanding Statistics	3
	English literature or Creative Writing course	3
	Two semesters of any foreign language/computer coding course or one language/coding course +study abroad	6
	Select one of the following:	3
ANTH 105	Introduction to Anthropology	
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology	
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	
Total Hours		27

School of Media and Communications Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
MDIA 101	Media and Society	3
MDIA 215S	Media Writing	3
MDIA 225S	Media Tools & Applications	3
JRL 528	Media Ethics and Law	3
Total Hours		12

BSJ Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum grade of C- is required in Journalism Major Requirements.		
Select three one-credit-hour JRL skills courses, which include, but are not limited to, the following options:		3
JRL 236S	Podcast Producing	
JRL 236S	Podcast Producing	
JRL 237S	Advanced Video Editing	
JRL 238S	Voice Performance for Broadcasting	
JRL 240S	Immersive Storytelling: AR/VR	
Take each of the following:		

JRL 318S	Beat Reporting	3
JRL 319S	Editing and Curation	3
JRL 341S	Data and Design	3
JRL 458	Interactive Media and Audience Building	3
Select one of the following capstones:		3
JRL 531	Multimedia Reporting	
JRL 587S	Advanced Video Reporting and Producing	
JRL 559S	Multimedia News Publication	
Select two advisor-approved "track" electives from the following or from other advisor-approved upper-level JRL electives:		6
JRL 320S	Advanced Photojournalism	
JRL 321S	Media Design	
JRL 426S	Investigative Reporting	
JRL 335S	Video and Audio News Writing	
JRL 340S	Advanced Video Storytelling	
JRL 386S	Beginning Video Reporting	
JRL 430S	Social Media and Journalism	
JRL 440S	Documentary Storytelling	
JRL 593	Special Topics	
Required Minor		15
Shared Graduate Electives		
MDIA 528	Emergent Issues in Media Ethics & Law	3
MDIA 510	Disruptions & Trends in Media Enterprise	3
MDIA 518	Community Journalism	3
MDIA 519	Product Development for Newsrooms	3
MDIA 595	Independent Study	2
Total Hours		53

MESO Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses		
A grade of C# or better is required in all courses.		
MDIA 514	Audience Development	3
MDIA 520	Next Gen News Analytics	3
Community Based Field Experience		6
MDIA 689	Community Based Field Experience	
MDIA 697	Research	4
Total Hours		16

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JRL 191		2 ENGL Literature or Creative Writing course	3
MDIA 101 (GEF 4)		3 Language Course	3
MDIA 215S		3 GEF 2B	4
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 Select one of the following:	3
Language Course		3 ANTH 105	
		PSYC 101	
		SOC 101	
		General Elective	3

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
One-credit-hour JRL Skills course		1 JRL 318S	3
MDIA 225S		3 GEF 6	3
Elective		3 HIST 153	3
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 General Elective	3
BCOR 350		3 Minor Course	3
One-credit-hour JRL Skills Course		1	
		14	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JRL 319S		3 STAT 111	3
GEF 7		3 Minor Course	3
JRL 341S		3 Electives	3
POLS 102		3 ECON 200	3
Minor Course		3 JRL "track" elective	3
One credit-hour-hour JRL Skills Course		1	
		16	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
JRL 458		3 JRL Capstone Course	3
JRL 528		3 Minor Course	3
Minor Course		3 MDIA 519	3
Elective		1 JRL "track" elective	3
MDIA 514		3	
		13	12

Fifth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MDIA 595		1 Field Experience	6
MDIA 518		3 MDIA 689	
MDIA 510		3 MDIA 697	4
MDIA 520		3 MDIA 595	1
		10	11

Total credit hours: 136

Major Learning Outcomes

JOURNALISM

The Reed School of Media and Communications states as its learning goals the values and competencies of its national accrediting body, the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, which appear under information about the B.S. in Journalism degree. In addition, the School faculty have set other specific educational outcomes deemed critical for success as professional communicators. These additional educational outcomes for journalism majors are:

1. Journalism graduates will demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking skills, writing and reporting, and an understanding of basic production skills, allowing them to produce news stories and multimedia projects. Graduates will be adequately prepared to either work in the field or pursue advanced educational opportunities.
2. Journalism graduates will demonstrate a mastery of written and spoken communications, an understanding of the technologies of print, television and digital media, and knowledge and applications of these skills in their chosen careers.
3. Journalism graduates will demonstrate an understanding of how to serve, reflect and engage diverse publics in their reporting and producing.
4. Journalism graduates will demonstrate knowledge of media ethics, law and regulation, including a full understanding of the First Amendment within the context of artificial intelligence and social media.
5. Journalism graduates will demonstrate specialized knowledge of news media interactions with various critical publics, including but not limited to: government at all levels; educational entities; law enforcement; medical, social and humanitarian services; and religious and secular organizations within the community.

6. Journalism graduates will learn to work as collaborative teams to solve problems, create strategies and produce content across all media platforms using the principles of human-centered design.
7. Journalism graduates demonstrate the ability to engage an audience using social media networking and analytics tools.
8. Journalism graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the history of technology and Silicon Valley in the context of media and its impact on acquisition, production, distribution and the economic models of media.
9. Journalism graduates will learn methods for data mining, evaluating sources, and investigating algorithms.
10. Journalism graduates will be introduced to programming for media in one or more modern languages.