

University of Connecticut
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Committee on Curricula and Courses

Proposal to Change an existing Major

Last revised: Tuesday, April 8, 2003

See "[Instructions for completing CLAS CC&C forms](#)" for general instructions and specific notes.

1. Date: 4/16/14
2. Department requesting this change: Journalism
3. Title of Major: Journalism
4. Nature of Change: Changes in required classes for major
5. Existing catalog Description of the Major:

Journalism

This department offers professional preparation for students who are planning careers in journalism. It also offers other students the chance to improve their writing, interviewing and research skills and to learn about the news media. Students in writing courses are expected to produce work of professional quality and to publish that work when possible.

Students who major in journalism should also take related courses in history, economics, political science and other liberal arts disciplines as a sound preparation for news reporting. The department strongly urges students to complete a second major. Students also should gain professional experience before graduation, either through part-time jobs, the Co-operative Education Program or the department's internship program. Internships are available at newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines, online publications and political press offices.

In addition to satisfying the requirements of the College, majors must complete 24 credits in journalism at the 2000-level or above, including [JOUR 2000W](#), [2001W](#), [3002](#), [3020](#) and [3030](#). [JOUR 1002](#) is a prerequisite for [JOUR 3002](#).

A journalism education is, by definition, an education in writing and information literacy. A journalism major will fulfill the writing in the major requirement and the information literacy competency by completing the department's core courses ([JOUR 2000W](#), [2001W](#), [3002](#), [3020](#) and [3030](#)).

Students will fulfill the computer technology competency by (a) meeting the university's expectations in computer operation basics, word processing, presentation software, spreadsheets, database basics, graphics and multimedia,

Internet basics and electronic communication, and (b) completing [JOUR 3030](#).

Journalism majors are advised to consult with their advisors about additional computer skills that may be helpful to them, based on individual career plans. Students who major in journalism will be expected to own basic digital audio and imaging equipment for use in classes and professionally. The department's website, www.journalism.uconn.edu, lists current requirements.

Students must apply to the Journalism Department to become majors. They must do so by the end of the third full week of classes in the fall or spring semester. A student who is not accepted initially may reapply in subsequent semesters. Forms can be obtained online or in the Journalism Department Student Resource Room, 457 Oak Hall.

Students must meet the following two requirements:

1. Successful completion of at least 39 credits. (Students who are members in good standing of the University Honors Program may apply after completing 23 credits at UConn.)
2. Cumulative GPA of at least 2.8 - or - successful performance on a timed writing exercise administered by the department. Applicants taking the test must show mastery of the fundamental tools of writing, including spelling, grammar and syntax. The applicant's academic record and goals also will be considered.

Link to: [Journalism Department](#)

Link to: [Course Descriptions](#)

6. Proposed catalog Description of the Major:

Journalism

This department offers professional preparation for students who are planning careers in journalism. It also offers other students the chance to improve their writing, interviewing and research skills and to learn about the news media. Students in writing courses are expected to produce work of professional quality and to publish that work when possible.

Students who major in journalism should also take related courses in history, economics, political science and other liberal arts disciplines as a sound preparation for news reporting. The department strongly urges students to complete a second major. Students also should gain professional experience

before graduation, either through part-time jobs, the Co-operative Education Program or the department's internship program. Internships are available at newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines, online publications and political press offices.

In addition to satisfying the requirements of the College, majors must complete **27** credits in journalism at the 2000-level or above, including [JOUR 2000W](#), [2001W](#), [3002](#), [3020](#) and [3030](#), **the three credit portfolio sequence**, ([JOUR 2111](#), [JOUR 3111](#) and [JOUR 411](#)) and one of the following courses: [JOUR 3000](#) (Public Affairs Reporting), [JOUR 3012](#) (Feature Writing), [JOUR 3013](#) (Magazine Writing), [JOUR 3041](#) (Reporting and Editing TV News) [JOUR 3045](#) (Specialized Journalism), [JOUR 3046](#) (Environmental Journalism), [JOUR 4035](#) (Investigative Reporting) or other advanced courses if accepted with the consent of the department. [JOUR 1002](#) is a prerequisite for [JOUR 3002](#).

A journalism education is, by definition, an education in writing and information literacy. A journalism major will fulfill the writing in the major requirement and the information literacy competency by completing the department's core courses ([JOUR 2000W](#), [2001W](#), [3002](#), [3020](#) and [3030](#)).

Students will fulfill the computer technology competency by (a) meeting the university's expectations in computer operation basics, word processing, presentation software, spreadsheets, database basics, graphics and multimedia, Internet basics and electronic communication, and (b) completing [JOUR 3030](#), [JOUR 2111](#), [JOUR 3111](#), [JOUR 4111](#).

Journalism majors are advised to consult with their advisors about additional computer skills that may be helpful to them, based on individual career plans. Students who major in journalism will be expected to own basic digital audio and imaging equipment for use in classes and professionally. The department's website, www.journalism.uconn.edu, lists current requirements.

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Link to: [Journalism Department](#)

Link to: [Course Descriptions](#)

7. Effective Date (semester, year -- see [Note R](#)):

(Note that changes will be effective immediately unless a specific date is requested.)

Justification

1. Why is a change required?

The addition of the three one-credit journalism portfolio courses requires all students to meet a range of digital journalistic skills and meets department accrediting standards allowing those abilities to be assessed over time. The addition of the requirement to take an advanced journalism course strengthens the curriculum.

2. What is the impact on students? Students will be required to take 27 credits instead of the current requirement of 24 credits.

3. What is the impact on regional campuses? None

4. Dates approved by (see [Note Q](#)):

Department Curriculum Committee: 4/16/14

Department Faculty: 4/16/14

5. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person: Robert Wyss, 486-3030, robert.wyss@uconn.edu.