

JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION: PROFESSIONAL, MA

This is a named option in the Journalism and Mass Communication MA (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/journalism-mass-communication/journalism-mass-communication-ma/>).

The Professional MA program prepares students for careers in news and information production. The program provides a mix of practical communication skills, conceptual knowledge of journalism and mass communication, and an area of specialization.

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 15
Spring Deadline	April 15
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not exclusively in English, must provide an English proficiency test score earned within two years of the anticipated term of enrollment. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

Refer to the department website (<https://journalism.wisc.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/>) for more detailed admissions information.

FUNDING

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

All applicants who are admitted for graduate studies are automatically considered for support. No separate application is required.

<https://journalism.wisc.edu/graduate/financial-aid/>

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements	Detail
Minimum Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	16 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.25 GPA required for degree conferral. For academic probation and other grading policies, refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	No other grade requirements.
Assessments and Examinations	Students present a portfolio of their work in the last semester.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
JOURN 335	Principles and Practices of Reporting	4
JOURN 903	Professional Master's Colloquium	1
Skills Courses		12
Choose at least 12 credits from the following skills courses in consultation with the program advisor:		
JOURN 401	In-Depth Reporting	
JOURN 404		
JOURN 405	Creative Nonfiction	
JOURN 411	Multimedia Design	
JOURN 415	Science and Environmental Journalism	
JOURN 417	Magazine Publishing	
JOURN 420	Investigative Reporting	
JOURN 425	Video Journalism	
JOURN 426	Community-Based Reporting	
JOURN 450	Sports Reporting and Writing	
JOURN 456	Long Form Video	
JOURN 457	Storytelling Through Sound	
JOURN 475	Special Topics in Advanced Concepts and Skills	
Concept Courses		7
Choose at least 7 credits from the following concept course list in consultation with the program advisor:		
JOURN/ HISTORY 560	History of U.S. Media	
JOURN 561	Mass Communication and Society	
JOURN 563	Law of Mass Communication	
JOURN 564	Media and the Consumer	
JOURN 565	Effects of Mass Communication	
JOURN 566	Communication and Public Opinion	
JOURN/ COM ARTS/ HDFS 616	Mass Media and Youth	

JOURN/ COM ARTS/ LSC 617	Health Communication in the Information Age	
JOURN 618	Mass Communication and Political Behavior	
JOURN 620	International Communication	
JOURN 622	The Impact of Emerging Media	
JOURN/ ART HIST/ HISTORY/ L I S 650	History of Books and Print Culture in Europe and North America	
JOURN 651	Communicating Sports Controversies	
JOURN 658	Communication Research Methods	
JOURN/ ASIAN AM 662	Mass Media and Minorities	
JOURN 664	Social Networks in Communication	
JOURN 669	Literary Aspects of Journalism	
JOURN 675	Topics in Government and Mass Media	
JOURN 676	Special Topics in Mass Communication	
JOURN/L I S 677	Concepts and Tools for Data Analysis and Visualization	
JOURN 678	Legal & Ethical Dimensions of Emerging Media	
JOURN 801	Mass Communication and the Individual	
JOURN 802	Mass Communication and Society	
JOURN 803	Mass Communication and Culture	
JOURN/ HISTORY 808	Mass Communication History	
JOURN 821	Health Communication	
JOURN 822	Global Communication	
JOURN/ ENVIR ST/ LSC 823	Science and Environment Communication	
JOURN 824	Race, Ethnicity and Media	
JOURN/LSC 825	Law and Ethics of Communication and Media	
JOURN/LSC 826	Journalism Theory	
JOURN/ GEN&WS 828	Gender and Sexuality in Mass Communication	
JOURN/ POLI SCI 829	Political Communication	
JOURN/LSC 833	Technology and Society	
JOURN 834		
JOURN 835	News Framing and Social Protest Movements	
JOURN 880	Topics in Mass Communication	
Specialization Courses (outside of Journalism Mass Communication)		6

In addition to the courses listed above, students must complete at least 6 credits of coursework outside the School of Journalism and Mass Communication numbered 300 or above.

Total Credits

30

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special student at UW-Madison

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Refer to the Graduate School: Advisor (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1232/>) policy.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME LIMITS

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)

- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

We offer a career colloquium for all professional MA students and require students to complete an internship during their time in the program. Students receive professional coaching in classes and work with our career advisor who provides support for job and internship search and preparation.

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

For a complete faculty/staff directory, see this website (<https://journalism.wisc.edu/people/faculty-staff/>).