JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION: PROFESSIONAL, M.A.

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

The Professional M.A. 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

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/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record</td>
<td>Not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-profi-">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-profi-</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ciency).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g.,</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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/text), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement: 15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School's Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (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, this program follows the Graduate School's policy: 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOURN 335</td>
<td>Principles and Practices of Reporting</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOURN 903</td>
<td>Professional Master's Colloquium</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Skills Courses: Choose at least 12 credits from the following skills courses in consultation with the program advisor:

- JOURN 401 In-Depth Reporting
- 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 Advanced Sports Communication
- JOURN 456 Long Form Video
- JOURN 457 Storytelling Through Sound
- JOURN 475 Special Topics in Advanced Concepts and Skills

Concept Courses: 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 621 Mass Communication in Developing Nations
- JOURN 622 The Impact of Emerging Media
- JOURN/ART HIST/HISTORY/LIS 650 History of Books and Print Culture in Europe and North America
- JOURN 651 Sports Controversies & Communication Professions
- 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/LIS 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 Ethics and Communication
- JOURN/LSC 826 Journalism Theory
- JOURN/POLI SCI 829 Political Communication
- JOURN 880 Topics in Mass Communication

Specialization Courses (outside of Journalism & Mass Communication): In addition to the courses listed above, students must complete at least 6 credits of coursework outside the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and at the 300 level 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 Work from Other Institutions**
This program follows the Graduate School's policy for Satisfying Requirements with Prior Graduate Coursework from Other Institutions. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/))

**UW-Madison Undergraduate**
This program follows the Graduate School’s policy for Satisfying Requirements with Coursework from Undergraduate Career at UW-Madison ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/)).

**UW-Madison University Special**
This program follows the Graduate School's policy for Transfer from UW-Madison University Special Student Career at UW–Madison. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/))

**PROBATION**
This program follows the Graduate School’s Probation policy. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/))

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**
This program follows the Graduate School’s Advisor policy ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1232/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1232/)).

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**
15 credits

**TIME LIMITS**
This program follows the Graduate School’s Time Limits policy ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/)).

**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/](https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/))
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures ([https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure](https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure))
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures ([https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/](https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/))
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs ([https://facstaff provost.wisc.edu/](https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/))
- Dean of Students Office ([https://doso.students.wisc.edu/](https://doso.students.wisc.edu/)) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance ([http://www.eao.wisc.edu/](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://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/](https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/)) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School ([https://grad.wisc.edu/](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/](https://compliance.wisc.edu/)) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards ([https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/](https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/)) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff ([http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/](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/](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**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources ([https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/](https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/)) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**
We offer a career colloquium for all professional M.A. 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**
For a complete faculty/staff directory see this website ([https://journalism.wisc.edu/people/faculty-staff/](https://journalism.wisc.edu/people/faculty-staff/)).