



School of Journalism and Mass Communication

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

UW-Madison's School of Journalism and Mass Communication offers a 30-credit master's degree in journalism. Students combine a mix of courses on practical journalism skills, conceptual knowledge of mass communication, an area of specialization and an internship to complete the degree.

Core Skills Requirements

Every professional-track student must take at least 12 credits of core skills in the school. All students take J335: Principles and Practices of Reporting their first semester. Courses that qualify for the other eight credits include in-depth reporting, creative nonfiction, multimedia design, long-form video, magazine publishing, storytelling through sound and more. (All skills courses are four credits.)

Journalistic Concepts Class Requirements

Professional master's students also take least seven credits of concepts courses that stress the relationship between journalism and major social institutions and publics. This course will be selected with consideration of the student's specialty. Examples of concepts courses include history of mass communication, mass communication and society, mass media and political behavior, literary aspects of journalism and more. (Concepts classes are three or four credits.)

Track of Specialty Study

By the end of their first semester, students will choose a track of study and design a program proposal outlining the topic of interest, relevant coursework and overall goals for the program. Students in the professional master's degree program are required to take at least six elective credits outside the school tailored to the student's area of specialty. Our department offers some

specialties, including science, health and technology, political and civic journalism, and hyperlocal reporting. However, students are not limited to these topical areas and can devise their own specialties.

Internship

Students are required to obtain an internship at a journalism-related media company during the program. Students are guaranteed a summer internship through Madison Commons (madisoncommons.org), the school's hyper-local online magazine, although they are encouraged to seek out other opportunities at media outlets that interest them. Students funded through the David Maraniss Fellowship are eligible for a paid summer internship (\$6,000 for the summer) with the Capital Times newspaper. Students from underrepresented groups are eligible to apply for a paid summer internship (\$6,000 for the summer) with the Wisconsin State Journal. Students with a focus in personal finance reporting are eligible for the paid Stark summer internship on the business desk at the Wisconsin State Journal (\$6,000 for the summer).

Final Portfolio

At the end of the program, professional-track students will present a developed portfolio with at least five significant, professional clips or projects (text, electronic, photography or multimedia) from classes, independent projects, freelance work or internships.

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journalism.wisc.edu/protrack