



Journalism

College of Arts and Letters

Bachelor of Arts • Minor

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Sacramento State Journalism program provides both a general academic experience and professional preparation. Sacramento's program emphasizes writing, editing, writing for interactive media, and other courses necessary to prepare students for success in media-related jobs; it also includes courses that critically examine media as an institution.

Journalism majors are the core of students who write for the *State Hornet* and the *Hornet Online*, a version of the campus paper located at www.csus.StateHornet.com.

A student at Sacramento State may major either in Journalism or in Government-Journalism. A minor in Journalism is valuable to the student entering a career field in which journalism plays a role.

The Journalism graduate who wants to work for a newspaper should expect to serve an apprenticeship with a small newspaper before moving up to a metropolitan daily. Journalism graduates also work as magazine editors and writers, as publications employees in government agencies and associations, in broadcast journalism and in public affairs.

Special Features

- The location of Sacramento State in the state's capital provides uncommon advantages for the student interested in journalism. Many students take internships with state agencies or news operations that provide both experience and opportunities unlikely to be found elsewhere.
- Sacramento State offers the only Government-Journalism degree program in the nation, tailored to take advantage of the Department's location at the hub of state politics. The Department has more than 100 internships available to upper-division journalism majors.
- Journalism majors have the opportunity to take classes from both Department faculty and community journalists. The full-time faculty are practicing professionals who contribute regularly to publications on a freelance basis. Good use is also made of professionals from the area media both as guest lecturers and as part-time instructors.
- The University's association with the Washington Center makes it possible for Sacramento State students to undertake internships in Washington, D.C. There are many opportunities for Government/Journalism majors to do an internship to meet their unique interests through this program.

Career Possibilities

Reporter • Copy Editor • Columnist • Editorial Writer • Magazine Writer • Speech Writer • Correspondent • Public Affairs Manager • Legislative Assistant • Press Relations Officer • Public Information Specialist • Technical Writer/Editor • Broadcast Journalist • News Director • Disc Jockey • News Producer

Faculty

Shirley Biagi, Michael Fitzgerald, Sylvia Fox, Robert Humphrey, Mark Ludwig

Note: See Communication Studies program description for a list of Communication Studies faculty.

Contact Information

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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Requirements • Bachelor of Arts Degree

Units required for Major: 37 plus a required minor
 Minimum total units required for the BA: 120

Courses in parentheses are prerequisites.

Majors must complete each required lower and upper division course with a grade of “C-” or better.

Pre-major to Journalism

Prior to acceptance as a Journalism major, students must first complete a pre-major consisting of all required lower division courses plus JOUR 130A and JOUR 130B. Students must successfully complete each pre-major course with a grade of “C-” or better. Students with a Sacramento State grade point average of 2.3 or better may request early admission to the major.

A. Required Lower Division Courses (7 units)

- (1) JOUR 20 Grammar for Media Writers
- (3) JOUR 30 News Writing (Corequisite: JOUR 20)
- (3) JOUR 50 Mass Media and Critical Thinking **OR**
 JOUR 55 Media Communication and Society

B. Required Upper Division Courses (18 units)

- (3) JOUR 128 Copy Editing and Ethics (JOUR 20, JOUR 30)
- (3) JOUR 130A News Reporting I (JOUR 20, JOUR 30; corequisite: JOUR 130B)
- (3) JOUR 130B News Reporting II (JOUR 20, JOUR 30; corequisite JOUR 130A)
- (3) JOUR 135 Public Affairs Reporting (JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B)
- (3) JOUR 153/ Mass Media Law and Regulation
 COMS 153
- (3) Select one of the following:
 JOUR 195 Internship in Journalism (JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B and minimum 2.3 overall GPA)
 JOUR 197A Journalism Laboratory (JOUR 30)
 JOUR 197B Journalism Laboratory (JOUR 30, instructor permission)

C. Electives (12 units)

- (12) Elective units chosen in consultation with an advisor from among journalism faculty. At least 9 of the 12 units must be upper division. No more than a total of nine units in JOUR 195 / JOUR 197A / JOUR 197B / JOUR 198 / **OR** JOUR 199 combined may be counted toward the Journalism or Government-Journalism major, and no more than 6 units of any one of these courses is counted toward the major.

D. Required Minor

The Journalism major requires a minor. Consult advisor for selection of an appropriate minor.

Note: Up to 6 units of course work from photography or graphic design may be applied toward a major or minor in Journalism with approval of a journalism advisor.

Requirements • Bachelor of Arts Degree – Government/Journalism

Units required for the Major: 51

Minimum total units required for the BA: 120

Courses in parentheses are prerequisites.

A. Required Lower Division Courses (9 units)

- (3) GOVT 1* Essentials of Government
- (3) JOUR 30 News Writing (Corequisite: JOUR 20)
- (3) JOUR 55 Media Communication and Society **OR**
 JOUR 50 Mass Media and Critical Thinking

* If a student has not taken GOVT 1 or its equivalent, then GOVT 150 may count as the prerequisite for the major; however, students are cautioned that if they must direct GOVT 150 to fulfilling the GE requirement in American institutions, they may not also then count GOVT 150 toward the major.

B. Required Upper Division Courses (33 units)

Government

- (3) GOVT 170* Public Policy Development (Passing score on WPE)
- (3) GOVT 180* California State and Local Government
- (3) Select one of the following:
 GOVT 151* Bureaucracy
 GOVT 153* The American Presidency
 GOVT 154* Political Parties and Campaigning
 GOVT 155* The Legislative Process
 GOVT 156* Pressure Groups and Lobbying
 GOVT 157* Politics, Opinion and Participation
 GOVT 184* Introduction to Urban Politics
- (3) Select one of the following:
 GOVT 120A* Constitutional Law
 GOVT 120B* Constitutional Rights and Liberties
 GOVT 125* Politics of Justice
- (3) Select one of the following:
 GOVT 130 International Politics
 GOVT 131* International Organization
 GOVT 135* American Foreign Policy

Journalism

- (3) JOUR 130A News Reporting I (JOUR 20, JOUR 30; Corequisite: JOUR 130B)
- (3) JOUR 130B News Reporting II (JOUR 20, JOUR 30; Corequisite: JOUR 130A)
- (3) JOUR 134/ War, Peace and the Mass Media
 GOVT 134
- (3) JOUR 135 Public Affairs Reporting (JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B)
- (3) JOUR 153 Mass Media Law and Regulation

Internship

- (3) GOVT 195 Government Internship (GOVT 180 or series GOVT 182A) **OR**
 JOUR 195 Internship in Journalism (JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B and minimum 2.3 overall GPA)

C. Electives (9 units)

- (6) Select 6 units of upper division courses in Government. (The Department particularly recommends at least one course in political theory.) GOVT 150 may not be used as an elective.
- (3) Select one upper division course in Journalism.

* Course prerequisite: GOVT 1 or equivalent.

Note: Government/Journalism majors should have both an advisor in the Government Department and a Journalism Advisor in the Communication Studies Department.

Requirements • Minor

Units required for Minor: 21

JOUR 30, JOUR 55, and JOUR 128, are required classes with 12 additional upper division elective units required. No more than 3 units may be from JOUR 195, JOUR 197A, JOUR 198, JOUR 199.

Note: Up to 6 units of course work from Photography or Graphic Design may be applied toward a major or minor in Journalism with approval of a Journalism advisor.

Lower Division Courses

JOUR 20. Style for Media Writers. Intensive review of grammar, word use, spelling, and principles of clear, concise writing. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0.

JOUR 30. News Writing. Fundamentals of news gathering and news writing. Emphasis on language and style used in feature and news stories. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended. **Corequisite:** JOUR 20. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 33. Editing and Production. Practice and theory of editing materials for different types of publications and the analysis of production methods used by those publications. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 30. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 50. Mass Media and Critical Thinking. Introduction to reasoning skills useful to the journalism major and general education student alike in interpreting and judging information, entertainment and advertising in the mass media. Emphasis on how to assess the quality of news as information, and on how to think critically about the effects of mass-produced culture. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 55. Media Communication and Society. Introduction to the basic concepts of mass communication, including the effects, uses, and functions associated with the goods and services of mass media. Examination of the ways mass media combine with other institutions to affect the organization, design, and comprehension of communication messages, as well as political thought, cultural beliefs, and economic behavior. **Cross-listed:** COMS 55; only one may be counted for credit. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 96. Experimental Offerings in Journalism. One time and new courses in Journalism scheduled as needed. **Units:** 3.0.

Upper Division Courses

JOUR 109. Techniques of Factual Writing. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 120. History of the Media. Examination of development of major media of mass communication in the U.S. and how the economics, content, regulation and audience use of the media have been affected by the way the media have evolved. Current issues and trends are discussed, as well as possible future development. **Prerequisite:** COMS 55/JOUR 55 or equivalent; may be taken concurrently with prerequisite. **Cross-listed:** COMS 120; only one may be counted for credit. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 122. Writing for Interactive Media. Writing and editing for visual, audio, and interactive media. How to choose appropriate format and delivery mechanisms for news, websites, kiosks, and CD/DVD. Topics include copyright law and information ethics. **Prerequisite:** ENGL 1A and ENGL 20 or passing score on the WPE. **Cross-listed:** COMS 122; only one may be counted for credit. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 123. Writing for Public Information. Organization and operation of communication media; practice in publicity and public relations techniques. Emphasis on clear writing and correct public relations formats such as releases, PSAs, articles and speeches. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 30 with a grade of C- or better, passing score on the WPE. **Cross-listed:** COMS 123; only one may be counted for credit. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 125A. Writing for Broadcasting: Copywriting. General broadcast, radio, cable, and video writing course which emphasizes aural style and writing requirements for various genres. Topics include commercial writing, corporate/instructional scriptwriting, interview scripting, and broadcast news writing. **Prerequisite:** ENGL 1A or equivalent. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 125B. Broadcast News: Theory and Practice. Introduction to the theory and practice of contemporary broadcast news with emphasis on identifying, reporting, writing and delivering broadcast news. Explores the ethical considerations of broadcast journalism and the application and effects of law and regulation. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 125A. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 128. Copy Editing and Ethics. Instruction and practice in editing, headline writing, caption writing, and journalism ethics. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 20, JOUR 30. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 130A. News Reporting I. Instruction and practice in journalistic research, interviewing, and reporting skills. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 20, JOUR 30. **Corequisite:** JOUR 130B. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 130B. News Reporting II. Practice in covering a news beat, writing news and feature stories on a weekly basis. Instruction includes reporting on local government. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 20, JOUR 30. **Corequisite:** JOUR 130A. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 131. Column and Review Writing. Offers advanced journalism and broadcast students the opportunity to expansion of reporting skills beyond the traditional summary and interview style of reporting, to in-depth research into issues and controversies of the times in order to write interpretative, critical and analytical articles. Students will analyze issues, situations, events and behaviors and predict future trends. Styles or writing will focus on writing with opinion, including editorials, columns, reviews and analyses. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 132. Magazine Writing. Writing and submitting feature articles to magazines as well as analysis of markets for freelance work. In addition to improving writing skills, students prepare and submit professional quality manuscripts for publication. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 30, passing score on the WPE. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 133. Advanced Editing and Design. Hands-on instruction and practice in story selection, editing, page design and composition, as well as retooling content for online platforms. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 128. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 134. War, Peace and the Mass Media. Concerned with the relationship of mass media to war and the possibilities for peace, with emphasis on recent concepts of political communication. **Cross-listed:** GOVT 134; only one may be counted for credit. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 135. Public Affairs Reporting. Preparation and practice for covering California public issues, with a focus on state government. **Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC OS) recommended. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 153. Mass Media Law and Regulation. Examines the laws and regulations that govern print, broadcast, and the electronic mass media in the U.S. The process by which laws and regulations are enacted and interpreted are discussed as well as legal and regulatory issues concerned with the content, control, political role and responsibilities of media practitioners, regulators, Congress and the public. **Cross-listed:** COMS 153; only one may be counted for credit. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 158. Public Relations Planning and Management. Application of theoretical concepts to the solution of problems for pre-selected non-profit and campus clients by forming small group PR agencies; completing needs assessments; profiling target and secondary audiences; developing and implementing a strategic public relations plan; producing targeted messages for media kits and other uses; developing and evaluating formative and summative evaluation plans; and making formal in-class presentations to peers, clients and invited PR professionals. Students will also learn how to negotiate contracts, maintain client relations, track work on projects and develop timelines and budgets. **Prerequisite:** COMS 118 and JOUR 123 or COMS 123 with grade of "C-" or better. **Cross-listed:** COMS 158; only one may be counted for credit. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 172. Women in the Mass Media. Exploration of women's role in mass media, with particular emphasis on advertising and news reporting, and development of alternative methods and perspectives; a study of women's professional involvement in newspaper/magazine journalism and radio/television broadcasting; student participation in media project, i.e., production, research, community contact. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 175. Minorities, Social Change and the Press. Examination of the relationship between Africans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans and the mass media. Focuses on issues involving this interaction and its effect on ethnic minority groups, their portrayal in the mass media, and the varying perceptions of a culturally pluralistic and racially diverse society. Provides a critical analysis and discussion of the role played by mass media in racial, gender and cultural change in the U.S. over the past 150 years. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 190. Literary Journalism. Examination of theory and practice of the application of literary techniques to the journalist's subject matter. The popular label for this type of writing is "The New Journalism." Considers contemporary writers ranging from Tom Wolfe, Gay Talese, John McPhee and Joan Didion to Michael Kerr, Jane Kramer, Lillian Ross and Norman Mailer. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 193. Online Publishing. Overview of current research related to successful models for online publishing. Focuses on the theory of content-based publishing on the Web as it relates to journalism. News, entertainment and sports websites will be given particular attention. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 194. Journalism Related Work Experience. Supervised employment in a company or agency working on journalism-related assignments, arranged through the Department of Communication Studies and the Cooperative Education Program office. Requires preparation of application packet, completion of a 6 month full-time or part-time work assignment, and a written report. **Note:** Open only to upper division or graduate students with appropriate course preparation. Units MAY NOT be used to meet the Journalism major or minor. Consent of Communication Studies Department advisor required. No more than 12 units will count toward the degree. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0-6.0.

JOUR 195. Internship in Journalism. Directed work experience through the internship program with public agencies or with journalistic publications, organizations or agencies. Supervision is provided by both the instructional staff and the cooperating agency. **Note:** Student must make arrangements with the internship coordinator upon admittance to the course. Limited to Journalism majors and minors and Government-Journalism majors. No more than six units of JOUR 195 may be counted toward the Journalism major. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B and minimum 2.3 overall GPA. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0-6.0.

JOUR 196. Experimental Offerings in Journalism. One time and new classes in journalism will be scheduled as needed. **Units:** 2.0-3.0.

JOUR 197A. Journalism Laboratory. Working as a staff member of the State Hornet Newspaper as a writer, photographer, graphic designer or advertising salesperson. **Note:** Journalism majors are required to take either JOUR 197A, JOUR 197B, or JOUR 195. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 30. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 197B. Journalism Laboratory. Working as an editor or manager of the State Hornet. Responsibilities may include copy editing, layout and design and/or staff management. **Note:** Journalism majors are required to take either JOUR 197A, JOUR 197B or JOUR 195. **Prerequisite:** JOUR 30 and instructor permission. **Units:** 3.0.

JOUR 198. Co-Curricular Activities. Co-curricular activities related to the subject matters and intellectual concerns of the Journalism Department, such as special tutoring to EOP students or to students in self-paced, modular courses or serving on the semi-professional journalism association for students. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0-3.0.

JOUR 199. Special Problems. Individual projects or directed reading open to students who wish to attempt independent work. Faculty approval required. **Note:** Journalism majors or minors may submit no more than 6 units of JOUR 199 and JOUR 299 toward their degrees. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. **Graded:** Graded (CR/NC Available). **Units:** 1.0-3.0.

Graduate Courses

JOUR 295. Fieldwork in Journalism. Supervised work experience in an approved government, private or non-profit agency. Work done must be directly related to the field of journalism: newspapers, magazines, publications, public relations or broadcast writing. Also included is work in photography or graphics as they relate to journalism. Supervision is provided by both the instructional staff at the university and the cooperating agencies. Students must maintain a record of activities and assignments and prepare periodic reports. A final written report is required for the internship experience. The internship must meet the minimum undergraduate 10 hours per week requirement. **Note:** Students must meet with the department Internship Coordinator before admission to the course. **Prerequisite:** BA degree. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0-6.0.

JOUR 296. Experimental Offerings in Journalism. Seminar in Journalism will be scheduled as needed. **Units:** 2.0-3.0.

JOUR 299. Special Problems. Individual projects or directed reading. Open only to students who are competent to carry on individual work. **Note:** Departmental petition required. Journalism majors or minors may submit no more than 6 units of JOUR 199 and 299 toward their degrees. **Graded:** Graded (CR/NC Available). **Units:** 1.0-3.0.