

Master of Science in Journalism

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The Master of Science in Journalism program prepares graduates to tell the stories society needs to understand and combat the significant challenges facing people and the planet. This program offers students a firm grounding in multimedia journalism and ethics, and helps them develop skills that are increasingly important in our divided society: inclusive communication and community engagement, data journalism and visualization, and solutions-based journalism.

Program Description

The M.S. in Journalism combines traditional reporting, multimedia storytelling and journalistic ethics with cutting-edge issues in the media industry, including data visualization, solutions journalism, and inclusive community engagement. The program is designed to meet the needs of students of varying backgrounds, including those who are new to journalism, recent graduates, and working media professionals seeking to advance their skills and their careers. The 33-credit program is offered by Stony Brook's School of Communication and Journalism, which is accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC).

Students will take classes that enhance their multimedia storytelling skills. They will gain an understanding of media law and fully engage with the ethics of journalism as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists. They will examine data to find and tell stories in ways that are accurate and engaging. They will explore solutions journalism, and learn to look for stories about organizations and communities seeking to solve problems in unique ways. Underpinning these skills, students will learn to question their own biases and recognize how their experiences shape how they see and interact with individuals and societies. Students become media professionals who understand and are committed to working within and among the communities they cover.

Students will learn from leading journalists, including Pulitzer-Prize winners and foreign correspondents, and experts in audience engagement and innovation. They will learn and work in professional spaces, including the School's two-story newsroom and state-of-the-art broadcast studio and control room. They will complete professional projects and network with industry professionals working in and around Long Island and New York City.

Student Learning Outcomes

Our program has been designed to meet programmatic outcomes that are outlined in the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC)'s professional values and competencies (listed below). ACEJMC Professional Values & Competencies require that, irrespective of their particular specialization, all graduates should be aware of certain core values and competencies and be able to:

1. Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
5. Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
6. Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
7. Think critically, creatively and independently;
8. Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
9. Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
10. Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
11. Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts;
12. Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work; and
13. Contribute to knowledge appropriate to the communications professions in which they work.

(See: <http://www.acejmc.org/policies-process/nine-standards/>) All syllabi have been designed to ensure that students develop these competencies and have opportunities to refine them over the course of their program.

Stony Brook University has begun ongoing implementation of a comprehensive “ Plan for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity, ” and is committed to broadening participation of students from historically underrepresented groups in careers in journalism and mass communication. Particularly noteworthy is the SBU Graduate School’s Center for Inclusive Education , which is home to funded projects designed to grow the pool of diverse scholars pursuing full-time graduate studies, advancing into postdoctoral positions and successfully transitioning to competitive careers in research and the Academy.

Admission Requirements

Students can be admitted with degrees in any field. Admissions requirements include:

- Bachelor's degree with a 3.0 GPA or better from an accredited college or university
- Official transcripts from all postsecondary schools
- Three references that can address the applicant’s capacity to complete a course of graduate study and succeed in journalism or related fields. If the applicant is a student who has graduated within the last two years, at least one letter must be from a faculty member with whom the applicant has studied. If the applicant has been working as a journalist, at least one letter must be from an editor or supervisor familiar with the applicant’s work
- A 500-word personal statement
- Optional: GRE scores
- Optional: Portfolio of journalistic or other relevant work (2 samples)
- International students who trained in non-English-speaking schools and live in a non-English-speaking country are required to take the TOEFL exam

A committee consisting of the Graduate Program Director and three program faculty will evaluate all applications, including exceptions to the requirements.

Applicants may be invited to interview via video conference.

Facilities

The School of Communication and Journalism maintains a technologically advanced, \$1.3 million, bi-level Newsroom. It is located in Melville Library, and is equipped with 38 workstations, a collaborative learning system that allows any piece of work to be displayed simultaneously on any or all desktops, and a large projection screen. Each workstation has two displays and industry standard software.

The School of Communication and Journalism also has a fully equipped HD broadcast studio, with multiple studio cameras, teleprompters, an anchor desk, an interview set, chroma key green-screen set and a control room. Mobile equipment available for use by journalism students in the field includes Padcasters to broadcast live remotely, JVC 4K video cameras, Nikon D610 and D7500 DSLR video/still cameras SB700 Speedlights and digital audio recorders. Students can collaborate on projects between the Newsroom and studio spaces using state-of-the-art production software. The broadcast studio includes a podcasting studio, equipped with a mixing board and four professional-level microphones.

Students in the M.S. program will have access to a wide range of library and online resources.

Degree Requirements

To earn the master's degree in journalism, students must complete 33 credits. Faculty advisors will guide students in creating educational plans that best fit their backgrounds, interests and aspirations. The curriculum is built around a core group of required courses:

JRN 510: Reporting and Writing for Journalism

JRN 520: Multimedia Journalism

JRN 521: Solutions Journalism

JRN 577: Communication Law and Ethics

JRN 583: Principles of Inclusive Engagement

JRN 560: Graduate Internship

JRN 600: Master’s Project in Journalism

JRN 615: Data Storytelling

Students must attain a grade of at least B, or a GPA of at least 3.0, in the core courses to have them count toward the degree.

Along with the core courses, students will take skills courses in digital and other forms of reporting, as well as electives ranging from science communication and reporting, to strategic communication. With these electives, students can personalize their degree program to support and enhance their professional goals and career aspirations.

CHOOSE 3 ELECTIVES (9 credits)

JRN 515:Television Reporting and Editing (3 credits)

JRN 525: Health, Environment, Science and Technology Reporting (3 credits)

JRN 530: The Big Story: Science Issues Seminar (3 credits)

JRN 535:Reporting in New York City (3 credits)

JRN 550: Investigative Reporting Techniques (3 credits)

JRN 575: Special Topics in Science Communication (3 credits)

JRN 581:Advanced Digital Media (3 credits)

JRN 587:Independent Study (3 credits)

JRN 603:Storytelling and Narrative Design (3 credits)

JRN 605:Environmental Communication (3 credits)

JRN 622: Reportingfor Radio (3 credits)

Faculty

For an up to date list, see our faculty page.

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.