

# Journalism (M.J.)

---

## About The Program:

The Master of Journalism program provides both introductory and advanced study for students who wish to begin or advance their careers in news and information, including broadcast and print reporters, magazine editors and writers, media managers, and those working in online news and information. Students receive instruction from award-winning media practitioners from the Philadelphia region and have the opportunity to study under a well-regarded faculty at a Research I institution. Students may find many freelance and internship opportunities in the nation's fourth largest media market.

As of Fall 2018, the M.J. degree program has been restructured to allow students to develop a broader range of skills and deeper knowledge required to work across media platforms. It does so within a curriculum and through reporting projects that focus more directly on the problems and opportunities of urban life. The M.J. requires 30 credits to be completed over the course of one year in a cohort experience. The program begins with an intensive three-week "boot camp" preparatory course offered during the Early Term in August; continues with two 12-credit terms of coursework in the Fall and Spring; and culminates in a capstone project during the Summer I academic term. In addition to the "boot camp" class and the capstone project, coursework is required on journalistic principles, editing, and law and ethics, plus two terms of intensive reporting work in an Urban Reporting Lab. The Reporting Lab allows students to work both individually and collaboratively in order to do in-depth reporting on specific urban issues.

**Job Prospects:** The program is dedicated to training professional practitioners in mass media, newspaper and broadcast reporters, magazine writers, and professionals in emerging fields such as Web design and the Internet. The program also emphasizes critical thinking, development of specialized knowledge bases, ethical concerns, and historical context.

**Non-Matriculated Student Policy:** Non-matriculated students may apply up to 4 credits to the program requirements with the permission of the Master of Journalism Program Director and/or the Master of Journalism Committee.

### Areas of Specialization:

Coursework is offered in communication history; law and ethics; magazine writing; news and magazine management; and news reporting for print, broadcast, and online distribution. Specialized classes are also offered in computer-assisted reporting, documentary photography, electronic information gathering, sports writing, Web design, and other areas.

---

## Requirements of Programs:

- **Total Credit Hours:** 30
- **Culminating Events:** Capstone Project: JRN 5307 Capstone Reporting Experience constitutes the culminating event.

## Required Courses

## **Year 1**

### *Summer II*

**Introduction to Urban Journalism** – This course is a bootcamp designed to ensure all incoming students have the skills necessary to dive into the Urban Reporting Lab in the fall semester. It covers (1) News literacy: how consume news, and why. What is a news story? How does it get produced? What should it accomplish? (2) Storytelling tools: an overview of the mediums and technologies involved in multimedia storytelling.

### *Fall*

**Urban Reporting Lab 1** – This is a coached, multimedia news production class in which students cover urban issues, publishing their work on the lab's news site and developing areas of individual expertise. This work is continued in JRN 5305, Urban Reporting Lab 2.

**Journalism Concepts** – This weekly seminar gives students an overview of the norms and philosophies that guide journalistic practice, with a particular emphasis on journalism's role in the social, cultural, political and historical fabric of the city. Students will learn about the professional concepts that will guide their work as journalists while also understanding how those concepts have developed over time and contribute to journalism's role in society.

**Editing the News** – Accelerated, in-depth instruction in AP style, copy editing, legal problems of the editor, editorial judgment, accuracy, fairness, clarity, balance in copy, headline writing, fundamentals of page makeup and design, use of photography, tables, graphs, charts and maps.

### *Spring*

**Urban Reporting Lab 2** – This course is a continuation of Urban Reporting Lab 1. Students work together to tackle a single, urban problem, issue, or topic that the class chooses together, producing a regular stream of news to be published on a collectively owned, multimedia, data-centric class website. Students may hone a chosen specialization through this course by having a particular role in the class project.

**Journalism and the Public Interest** – This course prepares students to work in an ethical way as responsible members of their profession and their communities. It covers the ethical aspects of technological and economic change, the main legal issues that journalists face, the challenges of reporting on powerful institutions, and journalists' obligations to their subjects and audiences.

## **Year 2**

### *Summer I*

**Capstone Reporting Experience** – In this class, students do their own independent reporting projects, within an area of specialization if appropriate. The goal is to produce a journalistic masterwork (analogous to a thesis) that will lead to professional publication.

---

## Courses:

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the courses below.

- Crit Perspectives Journ
- Reporting and Writing
- Computer-Assisted Reporting and Research
- Communication Law
- Reporting and Writing II
- Editing the News II
- International Reporting
- Magazine Writing
- Literary Writing in Journalism
- The American Magazine
- Media Management
- The Entrepreneurial Journalist
- Solutions Journalism
- Journalism and Mass Communication History
- Mass Communication Research Methods
- Models of Journalism Around the World
- Introduction to Urban Journalism
- Urban Reporting Lab 1
- Journalism Concepts
- Editing the News
- Urban Reporting Lab 2
- Journalism and the Public Interest.
- Capstone Reporting Experience
- Temple Journalism Review
- Documentary JournalismText Mining and Language Processing
- Urban Reporting Lab
- Seminars in Communication
- Seminars in Communication Abroad
- Directed Projects
- Directed Readings Comm
- Internship