

JOURNALISM, B.A.

Program Mission

As journalists we are concerned with stories — who tells them about whom, how they are told, how they arrive at an audience, and what happens to them when they become “public.” Journalism at LMU connects the educational values of the Jesuit and Marymount traditions to the rapidly changing future of global communication. Our program directly engages LMU’s mission of the promotion of justice by critiquing media representations and their immediate social and political impact, and by exploring the history of community journalism. Journalism at LMU is not merely theoretical; we offer hands-on instruction in the reporting, writing, editing, and technological skills across multiple platforms that students need to become professional journalists.

The Journalism Department has as its pedagogical foundation the hands-on approach of project-based learning, which connects our students to communities and lives whose stories transmit issues of social, political, cultural, and moral import. It is also rigorously interdisciplinary, incorporating instruction in video, photography, and audio production; communication studies; digital media; social media; and more. Ethical discussions suffuse the entire curriculum, both in the traditional sense of a basic professional ethics and also in the larger frame of an ethics of representation — who is reporting about whom, and why and how. Telling people’s stories is our mission.

Learning Outcomes

- To acquire fluency in journalism’s fundamental reporting and writing skills
- To instill information and media literacy
- To practice and critique digital modes of journalism
- To employ an interdisciplinary lens to critique the journalist’s role in the media and the media’s role in society
- To produce journalistic narratives through project-based learning
- To understand the ethical guidelines and laws that govern journalism
- To understand the history of literary practices and the history of journalism as a unique field of communication
- The ability to analyze and create within one or more literary and journalistic modes or genres

For more information about the Journalism Department, please contact Acting Chair Rubén Martínez, rmartinez@lmu.edu.

Major Requirements

Students can begin their Major their first year or declare it later. They learn the foundations of reporting and writing journalism in their first two years. In their third- and fourth- years students learn new technological tools for storytelling, explore the ethical and critical issues that affect journalism, and begin their specialization in modes of practice or content focus. They also begin to develop specific projects drawing on LA-based subjects, culminating in a long-form capstone project their senior year. The Major also requires hands-on experience via either an off-campus internship or work with campus media.

A student wishing to declare the Journalism major must be in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of C (2.0).

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Lower Division Requirements		
JOUR 2100	Introduction to Journalism	4
JOUR 2210	Writing for Journalism: Workshop	4
JOUR 2211	History of Journalism	4
One ENGL course of student’s choosing		4
Subtotal		16
Upper Division Requirements		
JOUR 3300	Critical and Ethical Issues in Journalism	4
Select one of the following:		4
JOUR 4402	Journalism Internship	
JOUR 4403	Writing Workshop in Non-Fiction	
ASPA 3610	Asian Media Practicum (can take twice for 4 semester hours total)	
JOUR 4468	Journalism: Capstone	4
JOUR Elective		3-4
JOUR Elective		3-4
Select one of the following:		4
JOUR UD Elective		
FFYS 1000	First Year Seminar (when taken as Writing in L.A.)	
RHET 1000	Rhetorical Arts (when taken as Speaking Out)	
Select three of the following Production/Media Skills Courses: ¹		3-4
JOUR 3100	Shooting and Editing Photos for Journalism	
JOUR 3101	Shooting and Editing for Journalism	
JOUR 3102	Recording and Editing Audio for Journalism	
JOUR 3104	Computing for Journalism	
JOUR 3105	Designing for Journalism	
JOUR 3106	Data Visualization for Journalism	
JOUR 3107	Programming for Journalism	
Subtotal		25-28
Total Semester Hours		41-44

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four are recommended.

A minimum grade of C (2.0) must be obtained in each course in the major.

Journalism Model Four-Year Plan

The normal course load is 16 semester hours (4 classes). By following the model below, a student will complete all lower division core requirements by the end of the sophomore year as well as most major prerequisites. Note that core areas are suggested to provide a distribution of various disciplines every semester. Please be flexible implementing these suggestions, given your own interests and course availability. In four years, this plan meets all common graduation requirements.

Course	Title	Semester Hours
First Year		
Fall		
FFYS 1000	First Year Seminar	4
University Core		3-4
University Core		3-4
Elective		3-4
Semester Hours		13-16

Spring

RHET 1000	Rhetorical Arts (Recommended: Speaking Out)	3-4
University Core		3-4
University Core		3-4
ENGL course of student's choosing		4
Semester Hours		13-16

Sophomore Year**Fall**

English (ENGL) Elective Course		4
JOUR 2100	Introduction to Journalism	4
University Core		3-4
Elective		3-4
Semester Hours		14-16

Spring

JOUR 2210	Writing for Journalism: Workshop	4
JOUR 2211	History of Journalism	4
Production/Media Skills Course		1
Production/Media Skills Course		1
Semester Hours		10

Junior Year**Fall**

JOUR 3300	Critical and Ethical Issues in Journalism	4
Production/Media Skills Course		1
Production/Media Skills Course		1
University Core		3-4
Upper Division Elective		3-4
Semester Hours		12-14

Spring

JOUR Elective		4
JOUR Elective		
Semester Hours		4

Senior Year**Fall**

Select one of the following:		4
JOUR 4402	Journalism Internship	
JOUR 4403	Writing Workshop in Non-Fiction	
ASPA 3610	Asian Media Practicum (can take twice for 4 semester hours total)	
JOUR Elective		4
JOUR Elective		4
Semester Hours		12

Spring

JOUR 4468	Journalism: Capstone	4
Upper Division Elective		3-4
Upper Division Elective		3-4
Upper Division Elective		3-4
Semester Hours		13-16
Minimum Semester Hours		91-104