Journalism

Students attracted to journalism are interested in becoming strong communicators and telling the stories of others. Journalists must be able to gather and interpret information and package and disseminate that information to their audiences. This requires a broad liberal arts education coupled with specific training in the techniques of writing, reporting and editing. In addition, multimedia training is necessary to be competitive in the changing landscape of the field of journalism. These basic skills must be carried out with an understanding of the society within which the journalist is working, the needs of that society, and the consequences of the distribution of information within that society.

Pursuing Journalism at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Upon admission to the university, students interested in majoring in journalism are required to apply for admission to the major. (Find application information at comm.ohio-state.edu.) Prior to application, students must complete two pre-major courses, COMM 1100 and COMM 1101. A grade of C- or better is required in both courses to be considered for admission to the major. Honors students do not need to submit a major application, but are required to complete the pre-major courses.

The School of Communication will review applications to the journalism major twice per academic year. Students can apply for admission to the major during autumn or spring semester. GPA cutoffs for admission to the major fluctuate with each application pool. The competitive admissions process is based on cumulative grade point average, pre-major course completion and enrollment capacity.

Beginning courses assume no knowledge of journalism, though prior experiences with high school newspapers can be helpful. Students seeking to major in journalism should have good verbal and mathematical skills and a solid understanding of current events.

Journalism Requirements
Journalism students complete 32 credit hours in public affairs journalism plus additional hours in a required minor. Students are required to complete courses in reporting, interviewing, news writing and feature writing, as well as more interactive journalism such as blogging, micro blogging, social media and multimedia. In addition, students must complete a journalism practicum.

The journalism practicum involves contributing to The Lantern, the Ohio State award-winning student newspaper, broadcast station, website and app. The newspaper averages 12–18 pages per day and has a distribution of 60,000–75,000 per week. The website averages more than 147,000 unique visitors and more than 328,000 page views per month during the academic year, making it the most heavily visited college media site in the country.

For additional professional experience, students will be required to complete a news-related internship for academic credit. In addition, students select from among several advanced courses in mass communication, media law and ethics, visual communication, and media economics. Students also can select courses in public opinion, media management and strategic communication.

Journalism majors are encouraged to build a broad, liberal arts program. Students are required to select a minor program in an approved area such as political science, international studies, criminology or business to provide domain-specific expertise and knowledge in an area related to their journalism interests.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Students can gain valuable, relevant work experience while learning about different work settings and functions of journalists during internships with local newspapers and magazines, marketing and public relations agencies, television and radio stations, non-profit organizations, governmental offices, and communication departments within large corporations and health-related agencies.

The following student organizations are associated with the School of Communication and advised by its faculty:

- The Society of Professional Journalists student chapter at Ohio State has existed for more than 100 years. The purpose of this organization is to be a forum for intellectual exchange about issues related to journalism and mass communication. Student chapters seek to foster relationships between professionals and future journalists.
- The Public Relations Student Society of America holds educational programs, visits local and regional public relations firms and media outlets, and provides opportunities for social interaction.
- Kappa Tau Alpha, an honorary for students planning careers in journalism and mass communication, supports and promotes the academic achievement of its members and sponsors two annual scholarships for journalism and communication students at Ohio State.

For more information, check these websites:

Journalism: comm.ohio-state.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Honors & Scholars Programs
Honors students may choose advanced and challenging courses leading to graduation with Honors. The following courses have been designed explicitly for Honors students:

- Comm 3160H, Communication Research Methods
- Comm 3404H, Media Law and Ethics
- Comm 4820H, Public Opinion and Communication
- Comm 4240H, Science Communication
- Comm 4999H, Thesis Research

The Media, Marketing and Communication Scholars focuses on communication in our society and the critical role of technology in today’s world. Students can explore careers through internships with practicing professionals in fields such as news production, media management, advertising and public relations.

Career Prospects in Journalism
Students will prepare for a career in public affairs journalism in both traditional and emerging media. Students with a bachelor’s degree in journalism can seek employment with daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, and interactive information vendors (blogs, social media and multimedia). The undergraduate degree in journalism is also excellent preparation for further study in mass communication and fields such as law or public policy.

Revised August 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the journalism program, visit comm.ohio-state.edu.