Journalism (JOUR)

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http://www.uark.edu/depts/jourinfo/public_html/

Degree Conferred:
M.A. (JOUR)

Areas of Study: Advanced journalism studies in, or combining courses from, news/editorial, broadcast/documetary or advertising/public relations. Journalism studies are supplemented with graduate-level requirements in a second academic discipline.

The purposes of the interdisciplinary program in the Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism are to refine the conceptual knowledge and skills of graduate journalism students through advanced writing, production and/or theory and methods courses, to offer comprehensive, media-related courses; and to provide expertise in an additional academic discipline.

Prerequisites to Degree Program: Students must have appropriate professional experience and/or an undergraduate degree in the journalism field that is approved by the graduate coordinator or the Journalism Graduate Faculty Committee as preparation for graduate study. A student must have a minimum undergraduate grade-point average of 3.00 and must earn a minimum score of 300 on the verbal and quantitative parts of the Graduate Record Examinations (including a minimum score of 151 on the verbal part), and a minimum score of 4.5 on the analytical writing section.

Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree: In addition to the requirements of the Graduate School (http://catalog.uark.edu/archives/2013-14/graduatecatalog/objectivesandregulations/#degreestext), the Master of Arts degree in Journalism requires a minimum of 30 semester hours with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.00. Students must complete:

1. 12 hours of graduate credit in journalism; all students must take JOUR 5043 Research Methods.
2. 12 hours of graduate credit in a single department other than journalism chosen by the student and approved by the graduate coordinator or the Journalism Graduate Faculty Committee, and
3. A master's thesis (6 semester hours).

Requirements for the Five-Year Bachelors/Master of Arts Degree: In addition to the requirements of the Graduate School, and all requirements for the Journalism Master’s Degree noted above, Five-Year B.A./M.A. students must apply for the program before the end of the first semester of their junior year. All senior year and graduate coursework for the Five-Year Journalism B.A./M.A. program must be taken at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Only those students who are working on a Journalism B.A. degree at the U of A, Fayetteville with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in all semesters may apply to enter the Five-Year program. Only those students who go on to complete a Journalism B.A. degree at the U of A, Fayetteville with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in all semesters are eligible for admission, and if admitted, allowed to continue in the Five-Year program. Application does not guarantee admittance to the Five-Year B.A./M.A. program. All students must expect to enroll in summer school at various times as an undergraduate and graduate student to complete the Journalism B.A.-M.A. program in five years.

Students who apply in the first semester of the junior year, who are conditionally admitted to the Five-Year Master’s program, and have an overall GPA between 3.0 and 3.49, must take the GRE during their senior year. Only students who maintain an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout all semesters of the undergraduate Journalism B.A. program may petition for admission into the Five-Year Journalism M.A. program without taking the GRE. All students who do not maintain a 3.5 overall GPA throughout all semesters of their undergraduate program are required to take the GRE.

Students who complete the Journalism B.A. at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and who are officially admitted to the Five-Year Journalism B.A./M.A. program may request that up to 12 hours of Journalism 5000-level courses taken in the final twelve month period of their undergraduate degree count toward their graduate degree: 1) if these courses were taken on the U of A, Fayetteville campus in the Lemke Journalism Department; 2) if the student was in good standing (e.g., not on probation, etc.); 3) if these were 5000 level courses or above; 4) if these courses were not used for the undergraduate degree; 5) if the student earned a grade of B or better in these courses; and 6) if these courses are approved by the student’s Master’s advisory committee or the Journalism graduate coordinator. Petition will be by the student’s advisory committee or the graduate coordinator to the Graduate School.

Students who complete a Journalism B.A. degree at the U of A, Fayetteville with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher for all semesters may count toward the Five-Year Journalism M.A. degree up to 6 hours of Journalism 5000-level course work at the graduate and undergraduate level. Up to six hours can be counted for the undergraduate and graduate degrees only if the student earned a grade of B or better in those Journalism 5000-level courses and the courses are approved by the student’s Master’s advisory committee or the Journalism graduate coordinator. An additional six hours of Journalism 5000-level courses taken in the final 12-month period of their undergraduate degree may count toward their graduate degree only if all conditions and policies noted in the previous paragraph are met. No student may count more than twelve hours of Journalism 5000 level courses taken as an undergraduate toward the Five-Year Journalism M.A. degree.