Undergraduate Curriculum

LEVEL 1
- J 301F or J 310 Fundamental Issues in Journalism (required)
- J 302F or J 315 Digital Storytelling Basics (required)

LEVEL 2
- J 310F Reporting: Words (required)
- J 311F Reporting: Images (required)

9 - 15 hours from Level 3 must be taken

LEVEL 3
- Public Affairs Reporting (3 hrs required)
- Specialized Journalistic Skills (3 hrs required)
- Understanding and Reporting Social Issues (3 hrs required)

3 - 9 hours from Level 4 must be taken

LEVEL 4
- J 360 or J 350F Media Law (required)
- J 351F Journalism, Society and the Citizen Journalist
- J 352F Ethics in Journalism
- J 353F Historical Perspectives of Journalism

LEVEL 5
- J 360F Internship (required)
- J 362F Journalism Portfolio (required)

Either Reporting Texas or the Internship may be taken

LEVEL 5
- J 361F Reporting Texas
Our New Curriculum

At a meeting in April 2011, the faculty of the School of Journalism unanimously agreed to adopt a converged undergraduate curriculum that demolishes the old walls between print, photojournalism, multimedia and broadcast, introduces digital tools and critical thinking from Day One, stresses good writing, and streamlines the number of courses and the path from entry to graduation. The new curriculum also requires a professional internship and provides a capstone experience through a multimedia newsroom course that prepares students for the fast-changing world of professional journalism in the digital age. But even for those students who decide not to pursue a journalism career, the new curriculum provides the tools and sensibility---solid independent research, critical thinking and direct, accessible writing---that can help them succeed in a wide variety of fields.

The Blueprint

Level I – Foundations (6 credits)

Students will start the program with two required courses that introduce them to the critical values and sensibility at the heart of the journalistic method and the digital tools to communicate that method. Fundamental Issues in Journalism grounds students in the role of news media in a democratic society and focuses on the changing nature of the profession and key controversies journalists have faced and created. Digital Storytelling Basics presents multiple technologies for digital delivery of text, photos, audio and video news across journalism platforms. Students also learn to create their own personal websites, which will become the digital portfolio for all of their work at the school and their calling card when they seek jobs and professional internships.

Fundamental issues in journalism
Digital storytelling basics
Photographic communication (not required)

Level II – Applications (6 credits)

All good journalism begins with reporting---the gathering of a wide range of information in a comprehensive, independent, even-handed, thorough and ethical manner and the critical processing of that information. Reporting: Words focuses on reporting, writing and editing skills for print, web and broadcast. Its companion course, Reporting: Images does the same with photography, video and design. They are both required for journalism majors.

Reporting: Words
Reporting: Images
Level III - Specialized Issues and Skills (9 to 15 credits)

Having acquired basic digital journalism tools, skills and sensibility in Levels I and II, students are now ready to drill down into specialized, content-driven courses that give them the opportunity to do in-depth reporting and go deeper into various subjects and themes, as well as the chance to develop more specialized journalistic skills. The idea is to deepen our students’ skills, knowledge and critical thinking, while at the same time prepare them for a professional world where journalists increasingly need to be specialists in their fields.

Students must take one course from each of three baskets:

---Basket One: Public Affairs Reporting

These are the traditional beat reporting courses in areas such as cops, courts, city hall, schools and state government. We require you to take one of them, so that every student undergoes the experience of learning and covering a beat.

- Covering cops and courts
- Reporting on city and county government
- Navigating state government
- Education reporting
- Business and financial reporting
- Covering politics

---Basket Two: Specialized Journalistic Skills

These are theme-oriented courses in a broad range of areas such as education, health, environment, sports, business, women and minorities, African-Americans, Latinos, technology, business, politics, poverty, urban development, religion and international affairs. They provide historical context, depth and critical thinking as well as opportunities to do reporting and/or research. Some will be more scholarly, others more practical, depending upon the subject matter and the expertise of the teacher.

- Oral history as journalism
- Digital entrepreneurship
- Graphic design for online and print
- Television reporting and producing
- Long form feature writing
- Podcasting
- News editing for online and print
- Social media journalism
- Magazine writing and production
Investigative reporting
Computer-assisted reporting
Producing social documentaries for TV news
Storytelling in a digital world
Creative non-fiction for magazines and books
Cultural survey of photography
Advanced visual journalism – photo
Advanced visual journalism – video
Opinion writing

---Basket Three: Understanding and Reporting Social Issues

Here’s where students master journalistic tools that are sharper and more sophisticated but not necessarily connected to a specific topic. Categories include: computer-assisted reporting, investigative, advanced photojournalism, oral history as journalism, documentary storytelling (photo and video), long-form narrative, magazine writing and production, opinion writing, book writing, digital entrepreneurship, community journalism and the various specialized broadcast courses. Most of these are “meets with” courses open to both undergraduates and master’s students.

Reporting on the environment
Covering sports
Urban journalism
Health reporting
Human rights journalism
Reporting religion
Reporting the world, a foreign correspondent’s framework
Covering the global economy
Cultural history of photography
Exploring digital media and society
Women and the news
Understanding African-Americans and the media
Covering the U.S. Latino community
Reporting on gender and sexuality
Social issues reporting
Domestic issues and global perspective
Reporting Asia
Reporting Latin America
Documentary tradition in Latin America
Covering border issues

Level IV – Professional Principles (3 to 9 credits)

After drilling down deeply into various topics and skills in Level III, Level IV brings you
back up to the surface and helps you climb the peaks to survey the profound role of journalism in society. There are four offerings: **History, Ethics, Media Law** (Required), and **Journalism, Society and the Citizen Journalist**.

- History of journalism
- Journalism ethics
- Media law
- Journalism, Society and the Citizen Journalist

**Level V – Professional Practices (6 credits)**

This final stage offers you the opportunity to produce high-impact journalism across multiple platforms. All students are required to take the capstone course in our new multimedia newsroom that will complete your digital portfolio and help prepare you for the challenges and opportunities of the professional world. You are also required either to undertake a professional internship or participate in Reporting Texas, the school’s multimedia news website.

- Multimedia Newsroom
- Reporting Texas
- Professional Internship