

# JOURNALISM

College of Arts and Letters

## Program Description

The Sacramento State Journalism program provides both a general academic experience and professional preparation. Sacramento's program emphasizes writing, editing, writing for interactive media, and other courses necessary to prepare students for success in media-related jobs; it also includes courses that critically examine media as an institution.

Journalism majors are the core of students who write for *The State Hornet* a weekly newspaper with a website updated daily at [www.statehornet.com](http://www.statehornet.com) (<http://www.statehornet.com>).

A student at Sacramento State may major either in Journalism or in Government-Journalism. A minor in Journalism is valuable to the student entering a career field in which journalism plays a role.

The Journalism graduate who wants to work for a newspaper should expect to serve an apprenticeship with a small newspaper before moving up to a metropolitan daily. Journalism graduates also work as magazine editors and writers, as publications employees in government agencies and associations, in broadcast journalism, and in public affairs.

## Special Features

- The location of Sacramento State in the state's capital provides uncommon advantages for the student interested in journalism. Many students take internships with state agencies or news operations that provide both experience and opportunities unlikely to be found elsewhere.
- Sacramento State offers the only Government-Journalism degree program in the nation, tailored to take advantage of the Department's location at the hub of state politics. The Department has more than 100 internships available to upper-division journalism majors.
- Journalism majors have the opportunity to take classes from both Department faculty and community journalists. The full-time faculty are practicing professionals who contribute regularly to publications on a freelance basis. Good use is also made of professionals from the area media both as guest lecturers and as part-time instructors.
- The University's association with the Washington Center makes it possible for CSU Sacramento students to undertake internships in Washington, D.C. There are many opportunities for Government/Journalism majors to do an internship to meet their unique interests through this program.

## Career Possibilities

Reporter · Editor · Columnist · Editorial Writer · Magazine Writer · Speech Writer · Correspondent · Public Affairs Manager · Legislative Assistant · Press Relations Officer · Public Information Specialist · Technical Writer/Editor · Broadcast Journalist · News Director · Disc Jockey · News Producer · Online Journalist

## Contact Information

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DUGAN, MOLLY

HUMPHREY, ROBERT

LUDWIG, MARK

NASER, MD

## Undergraduate Programs

### BA Degree in Journalism

Units required for Major: 37 plus a required minor  
 Minimum total units required for the BA: 120

Majors must complete each required lower and upper division course with a grade of "C-" or better.

### Pre-major to Journalism

Prior to acceptance as a Journalism major, students must first complete a pre-major consisting of all required lower division courses plus JOUR 130A and JOUR 130B. Students must successfully complete each pre-major course with a grade of "C-" or better. Students with a Sacramento State grade point average of 2.3 or better may request early admission to the major.

#### Required Lower Division Courses (7 Units)

JOUR 20	Style For Media Writers	1
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR/COMS 55 or JOUR 50	Media Communication and Society Mass Media and Critical Thinking	3

#### Required Upper Division Courses (18 Units)

JOUR 128	News Editing	3
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting 	3
JOUR/COMS 153	Mass Media Law and Regulation	3
Select one of the following:		3

JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	
JOUR 197A	Journalism Laboratory	
JOUR 197B	Journalism Laboratory	

#### Electives (12 Units)

Select 12 units <sup>1</sup>		12
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#### Required Minor

Consult advisor for selection of an appropriate minor		
Total Units		37

<sup>1</sup> Elective units chosen in consultation with an advisor from among Journalism faculty. At least 9 of the 12 units must be upper division. No more than a total of nine units in JOUR 195/JOUR 197A/JOUR 197B/ **OR** JOUR 199 combined may be counted toward the Journalism or Government-Journalism major, and no more than 6 units of any one of these courses is counted toward the major.

**Note:** Up to 6 units of coursework from photography or graphic design may be applied toward a major or minor in Journalism with approval of a Journalism advisor.

## BA Degree in Government/Journalism

Units required for the Major: 51

Minimum total units required for the BA: 120

Majors must complete each required lower and upper division Journalism course with a grade of "C-" or better.

### Required Lower Division Courses (9 Units)

GOVT 1	Essentials Of Government <sup>1</sup>	3
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR/COMS 55 or JOUR 50	Media Communication and Society Mass Media and Critical Thinking	3

### Required Upper Division Courses (33 Units)

<i>Government</i>		
GOVT 170	Public Policy Development	3
GOVT 180	California State and Local Government	3
Select one of the following:		3
GOVT 153	The American Presidency	
GOVT 154	Political Parties in America	
GOVT 155	The Legislative Process	
GOVT 156	Interest Groups	
GOVT 157	Politics, Opinion, and Participation	
GOVT 159A	Campaigns and Elections	
GOVT 184	Introduction to Urban Politics	
Select one of the following:		3
GOVT 120A	Constitutional Law	
GOVT 120B	Constitutional Rights and Liberties	
Select one of the following:		3
GOVT 130	International Politics	
GOVT 131	International Organization	
GOVT 135	American Foreign Policy	
<i>Journalism</i>		
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
JOUR/GOVT 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media	3
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting 	3
JOUR/COMS 153	Mass Media Law and Regulation	3
<i>Internship</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
GOVT 195 series		
JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	
<b>Electives (9 Units)</b>		
Select 6 units of upper division courses in Government		6
Select one upper division course in Journalism		3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>51</b>

<sup>1</sup> If a student has not taken GOVT 1 or its equivalent, then GOVT 150 may be used in place of GOVT 1 or as its equivalent as a prerequisite.

**Note:** Government/Journalism majors should have both an advisor in the Government Department and a Journalism Advisor in the Communication Studies Department.

The University's association with the Washington Center makes it possible for California State University, Sacramento students to

undertake an internship in Washington, D.C. There are many opportunities for Government-Journalism majors to do an internship to meet their unique interests through this program.

## Minor - Journalism

Units required for Minor: 21

### Required Courses (9 Units)

JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR/COMS 55	Media Communication and Society	3
JOUR 100	Principles of Journalism	3

### Electives (12 Units)

Select 12 additional units of upper division elective courses <sup>1</sup>	12
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>21</b>

<sup>1</sup> No more than 3 units may be from JOUR 195, JOUR 197A, or JOUR 199.

**JOUR 20. Style For Media Writers. 1 Unit**  
Intensive review of grammar, word use, spelling, and principles of clear, concise writing.  
Credit/No Credit

**JOUR 30. News Writing. 3 Units**  
**Corequisite(s):** JOUR 20.  
Fundamentals of news gathering and news writing. Emphasis on language and style used in feature and news stories.  
**Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended.

**JOUR 50. Mass Media and Critical Thinking. 3 Units**  
**General Education Area/Graduation Requirement:** Critical Thinking (A3)  
Introduction to reasoning skills useful to the journalism major and general education student alike in interpreting and judging information, entertainment and advertising in the mass media. Emphasis on how to assess the quality of news as information, and on how to think critically about the effects of mass-produced culture.

**JOUR 55. Media Communication and Society. 3 Units**  
Introduction to the basic concepts of mass communication, including the effects, uses, and functions associated with the goods and services of mass media. Examination of the ways mass media combine with other institutions to affect the organization, design, and comprehension of communication messages, as well as political thought, cultural beliefs, and economic behavior.  
Cross Listed: COMS 55; only one may be counted for credit.

**JOUR 100. Principles of Journalism. 3 Units**  
Theory and development of American journalism, with an emphasis on ethical and socially responsible practice.

**JOUR 120. History Of The Media. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** COMS 55/JOUR 55 or equivalent; may be taken concurrently with prerequisite.  
Examination of development of major media of mass communication in the U.S. and how the economics, content, regulation and audience use of the media have been affected by the way the media have evolved. Current issues and trends are discussed, as well as possible future development.  
Cross Listed: COMS 120; only one may be counted for credit.

- JOUR 123. Writing For Public Information. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** GEAR certification before Fall 09; or WPJ score of 80+; or 3-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W; or 4-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X; or WPJ score 70 or 71 and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X.  
 Organization and operation of communication media; practice in publicity and public relations techniques. Emphasis on clear writing and correct public relations formats such as releases, PSAs, articles, and speeches.  
**Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended. Cross Listed: COMS 123; only one may be counted for credit.
- JOUR 125A. Writing for Broadcasting: Copywriting. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 1A or equivalent.  
 General broadcast, radio, cable, and video writing course which emphasizes aural style and writing requirements for various genres. Topics include commercial writing, corporate/instructional scriptwriting, interview scripting, and broadcast news writing.
- JOUR 125B. Broadcast News: Theory and Practice. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 125A.  
 Introduction to the theory and practice of contemporary broadcast news with emphasis on identifying, reporting, writing and delivering broadcast news. Explores the ethical considerations of broadcast journalism and the application and effects of law and regulation.
- JOUR 128. News Editing. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 20, JOUR 30.  
 Instruction and practice in editing, headline writing, caption writing, and design for print and online publications.
- JOUR 130A. News Reporting I. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 20, JOUR 30.  
**Corequisite(s):** JOUR 130B.  
 Instruction and practice in journalistic research, interviewing, and reporting skills.  
**Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended.
- JOUR 130B. News Reporting II. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 20, JOUR 30.  
**Corequisite(s):** JOUR 130A.  
 Practice in covering a news beat, writing news and feature stories on a weekly basis. Instruction includes reporting on local government.  
**Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC OS) recommended.
- JOUR 131. Column and Review Writing. 3 Units**  
 Offers advanced journalism and broadcast students the opportunity to expansion of reporting skills beyond the traditional summary and interview style of reporting, to in-depth research into issues and controversies of the times in order to write interpretative, critical and analytical articles. Students will analyze issues, situations, events and behaviors and predict future trends. Styles or writing will focus on writing with opinion, including editorials, columns, reviews and analyses.
- JOUR 132. Magazine Writing. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 30, and GEAR certification before Fall 09, WPJ score of 70+, or at least a C- in ENGL 109 M/W.  
 Writing and submitting feature articles to magazines as well as analysis of markets for freelance work. In addition to improving writing skills, students prepare and submit professional quality manuscripts for publication.  
**Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC-OS) recommended.
- JOUR 134. War, Peace and the Mass Media. 3 Units**  
**General Education Area/Graduation Requirement:** GE AREA D  
 Concerned with the relationship of mass media to war and the possibilities for peace, with emphasis on recent concepts of political communication.  
 Cross Listed: GOVT 134; only one may be counted for credit.
- JOUR 135. Public Affairs Reporting. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B; GEAR certification before Fall 09; or WPJ score of 80+; or 3-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W; or 4-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X; or WPJ score 70 or 71 and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X.  
**General Education Area/Graduation Requirement:** Writing Intensive Graduation Requirement (WI)  
 Preparation and practice for covering California public issues, with a focus on state government.  
**Note:** Computer familiarity (MAC OS) recommended.
- JOUR 153. Mass Media Law and Regulation. 3 Units**  
 Examines the laws and regulations that govern print, broadcast, and the electronic mass media in the U.S. The process by which laws and regulations are enacted and interpreted are discussed as well as legal and regulatory issues concerned with the content, control, political role and responsibilities of media practitioners, regulators, Congress and the public.  
 Cross Listed: COMS 153; only one may be counted for credit.
- JOUR 158. Public Relations Planning and Management. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** COMS 118 and JOUR 123 or COMS 123 with grade of "C-" or better.  
 Application of theoretical concepts to the solution of problems for pre-selected non-profit and campus clients by forming small group PR agencies; completing needs assessments; profiling target and secondary audiences; developing and implementing a strategic public relations plan; producing targeted messages for media kits and other uses; developing and evaluating formative and summative evaluation plans; and making formal in-class presentations to peers, clients and invited PR professionals. Students will also learn how to negotiate contracts, maintain client relations, track work on projects and develop timelines and budgets.  
 Cross Listed: COMS 158; only one may be counted for credit.
- JOUR 172. Women in the Mass Media. 3 Units**  
**General Education Area/Graduation Requirement:** GE AREA D  
 Exploration of women's role in mass media, with particular emphasis on advertising and news reporting, and development of alternative methods and perspectives; a study of women's professional involvement in newspaper/magazine journalism and radio/television broadcasting; student participation in media project, i.e., production, research, community contact.
- JOUR 175. Minorities, Social Change and the Press. 3 Units**  
 Examination of the relationship between Africans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans and the mass media. Focuses on issues involving this interaction and its effect on ethnic minority groups, their portrayal in the mass media, and the varying perceptions of a culturally pluralistic and racially diverse society. Provides a critical analysis and discussion of the role played by mass media in racial, gender and cultural change in the U.S. over the past 150 years.

- JOUR 193. The Business of News. 3 Units**  
Examination of issues related to the contemporary delivery of journalism, including exploration of various business models for dissemination online, in print, and by broadcast.  
**Note:** Instructor approval required
- JOUR 194. Journalism Related Work Experience. 3 - 6 Units**  
Supervised employment in a company or agency working on journalism-related assignments, arranged through the Department of Communication Studies and the Cooperative Education Program office. Requires preparation of application packet, completion of a 6 month full-time or part-time work assignment, and a written report.  
**Note:** Open only to upper division or graduate students with appropriate course preparation. Units MAY NOT be used to meet the Journalism major or minor. Consent of Communication Studies Department advisor required. No more than 12 units will count toward the degree.  
Credit/No Credit
- JOUR 195. Internship In Journalism. 1 - 6 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 130A, JOUR 130B and minimum 2.3 overall GPA.  
Directed work experience through the internship program with public agencies or with journalistic publications, organizations or agencies. Supervision is provided by both the instructional staff and the cooperating agency.  
**Note:** Student must make arrangements with the internship coordinator upon admittance to the course. Limited to Journalism majors and minors and Government-Journalism majors. No more than six units of JOUR 195 may be counted toward the Journalism major.  
Credit/No Credit
- JOUR 196. Experimental Offerings in Journalism. 3 Units**  
One time and new classes in journalism will be scheduled as needed. 2.0 - 3.0 units
- JOUR 197A. Journalism Laboratory. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 30.  
Working as a staff member of the State Hornet Newspaper as a writer, photographer, graphic designer or advertising salesperson.  
**Note:** Journalism majors are required to take either JOUR 197A, JOUR 197B, or JOUR 195.
- JOUR 197B. Journalism Laboratory. 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** JOUR 30 and instructor permission.  
Working as an editor or manager of the State Hornet. Responsibilities may include copy editing, layout and design and/or staff management.  
**Note:** Journalism majors are required to take either JOUR 197A, JOUR 197B or JOUR 195.
- JOUR 199. Special Problems. 1 - 3 Units**  
**Prerequisite(s):** Instructor permission.  
Individual projects or directed reading open to students who wish to attempt independent work. Faculty approval required.  
**Note:** Journalism majors or minors may submit no more than 6 units of JOUR 199 and JOUR 299 toward their degrees.  
Credit/No Credit
- JOUR 299. Special Problems. 1 - 3 Units**  
Individual projects or directed reading. Open only to students who are competent to carry on individual work.  
**Note:** Departmental petition required. Journalism majors or minors may submit no more than 6 units of JOUR 199 and 299 toward their degrees.  
Credit/No Credit