

BA IN JOURNALISM

Units required for Major: 40

Total units required for BA: 120

Program Description

The journalism program at Sacramento State educates its students in ethical, accurate and effective communication. We employ innovative methods to prepare students, enlighten the public and engage our communities. Our students become committed and versatile professionals with a strong background in both journalism theory and practice.

Sacramento State's program emphasizes research, writing and editing 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 write The State Hornet (<https://statehornet.com/>), a daily multimedia publication.

A journalism degree prepares students for a variety of careers and graduate studies. Graduates work as journalists in a diverse range of media, as public relations representatives, and as communications staff for government agencies, non-profits, and other organizations.

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 "C-" or better.

Students with a Sacramento State grade point average of 2.3 or better may request early admission to the major.


Code	Title	Units
Required Pre-Major Courses (13 Units)		
JOUR 20	Style For Media Writers	1
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR/COMS 55	Media Communication and Society	3
or JOUR 50	Media Literacy and Critical Thinking	
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3

Minimum Grade Requirement

Majors must complete all courses taken in the major with a grade of "C-" or better.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Lower Division Courses (7 Units)		
JOUR 20	Style For Media Writers	1
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR/COMS 55	Media Communication and Society ¹	3
or JOUR 50	Media Literacy and Critical Thinking	
Required Upper Division Courses (21 Units)		
JOUR 128	News Editing	3
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3

JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
JOUR 131	Data Journalism	3
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting  ¹	3
JOUR/COMS 153	Journalism Law and Ethics	3
Select one of the following:		3
JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	
JOUR 197A	The State Hornet-Introduction	
Electives (12 Units)		
Select 12 units ²		12
JOUR 116	Data Visualization	
JOUR 120	History Of The Media	
JOUR 123	Writing for Public Relations	
JOUR 125	Multimedia Storytelling	
JOUR 132	Digital Magazine	
JOUR 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media	
JOUR 158	Public Relations Planning and Management	
JOUR 172	Women in the Mass Media	
JOUR 175	Minorities, Social Change and the Press	
JOUR 193	The Media Business	
JOUR 197B	The State Hornet-Continuing	
Total Units		40

¹ Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

² 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 six units in JOUR 195, JOUR 197A, JOUR 197B **OR** JOUR 199 combined may be counted toward the Journalism or Government-Journalism major. Up to nine units in JOUR 197B may be counted for university credit but no more than three units in JOUR 197B may be counted toward the Journalism or Government-Journalism 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.

General Education Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (6-9 Units)		
A1	Oral Communication	3
A2	Written Communication	3
A3	Critical Thinking ^{2,3}	0 - 3
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)		
B1	Physical Science	3
B2	Life Forms	3
B3	Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)	1
B4	Math Concepts	3
B5	Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)		
C1	Arts	3
C2	Humanities	3

C1/C2 - Area C Course	3
C1/C2 - Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
Area D: The Individual and Society (6 Units)	
Area D Course	3
Area D Course	3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. ²	0
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)	
Area E Course	3
Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)	
Area F Course	3
Total Units	43-46

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

³ Department offers students an "OR" option for JOUR 55 and JOUR 50:

- If student chooses to take JOUR 55 or COMS 55, they will not meet any area of General Education.
- If student chooses to take JOUR 50, they will meet Area A3.

Graduation Requirements¹

Code	Title	Units
Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (6 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government		3
Writing Intensive (WI) ²		0
Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement ³		6

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement.

³ If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>

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The following roadmaps are sample planning resources. Please consult your academic advisor and Academic Catalog for graduation requirements as you develop your individualized academic plan.

Journalism, BA: 4-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
First Semester		
COMS 21	First Year Seminar: Becoming an Educated Person	3
GE Area 1A - English Composition ²		3
GE Area 1C - Oral Communication ²		3
GE Area 3A - Arts ²		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
GE Area 2 - Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
GE Area 3B - Humanities ²		3
GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
GE Area 5B - Biological Science ²		3
GE Area 6 - Ethnic Studies ²		3
Units		15
Year 2		
First Semester		
JOUR 20	Style For Media Writers	1
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR 50 or COMS 55 or JOUR 55	Media Literacy and Critical Thinking ³ or Media Communication and Society or Media Communication and Society	3
ENGL 20	College Composition II	3
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Units		14
Second Semester		
GE Area 5A - Physical Science ²		3
GE Area 5C - Laboratory ²		1
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
GR American Institutions (GOVT) ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		17
Year 3		
First Semester		
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
JOUR 131	Data Journalism	3
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15

Year 4		
First Semester		
JOUR 128	News Editing	3
JOUR 153 or COMS 153	Journalism Law and Ethics ³ or Journalism Law and Ethics	3
JOUR 195 or JOUR 197A	Internship In Journalism ³ or The State Hornet- Introduction	1 - 6
Upper Division Elective		3
Elective of Choice		4
Units		14-19
Second Semester		
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting ✍	3
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15
Total Units		120-125

Journalism, BA: 2-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
First Semester		
JOUR 128	News Editing	3
JOUR 131	Data Journalism	3
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16
Second Semester		
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16
Year 2		
First Semester		
JOUR 153	Journalism Law and Ethics	3
JOUR 195 or JOUR 197A	Internship In Journalism ³ or The State Hornet- Introduction	1 - 6
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
GR American Institutions (GOVT) ²		3
Units		13-18
Second Semester		
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting ✍	3
JOUR Major Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Units		15
Total Units		60-65

2. Please see General Education/Graduation Requirement **course options** (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

3. Please see an academic advisor for elective options.

¹. Any course not completed in the first semester should be taken in the second or a later semester.