University of Minnesota
College of Liberal Arts
Student Services

What about a major in?
cla
Journalism
Mass Communication Track

School of Journalism and
Mass Communication

Information on major requirements is subject to change and is
provided here for information purposes. For current information
about major requirements, contact your CLA student community
or the major department. — 01/02

B.A.
The school offers a B.A. major program in journalism with
two professional tracks: journalism and strategic commu-
nication; and a mass communication track

Admission Requirements
The school admits a limited number of undergraduates
annually. A student should apply for formal admission to
the major after completing or enrolling in Jour 1001 and at
least 30 graded (A-F) credits, including one
semester of study (12 credits minimum) in CLA.
Admission to major status is required before
enrolling in Jour 3004, which is a prerequisite for
most professional journalism courses. Majors are expected
to have typing skills before enrolling in Jour 3101.

Students wishing to emphasize journalism in IDIM
(Individually Designed Interdepartmental Major), B.I.S.
(Bachelor of Individualized Studies), or ICP (Inter-College
Program) must have a 2.80 overall GPA and a grade of C-
or higher in Jour 1001. Individualized program students
must include Jour 3004 in their programs. With adviser
approval, 1-3 professional (skills) courses are permitted,
but not required.

A 2.80 overall GPA is required for students in the Program
for Individualized Learning who wish to include journal-
ism courses in their programs.

Degree Requirements
Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate,
including at least 36 (mass communication track) or 37
(professional tracks), but no more than 40, credits in the
major. All major courses must be completed with grades
of C- or higher.

About two thirds of the coursework for the B.A. degree is
outside of journalism in the social sciences, humanities,
and other liberal arts. The 120-credit requirement must
include at least 80 non-journalism credits, including 65
CLA credits. Journalism courses are categorized in the
following way.

Professional (skills) courses: 3101, 3102, 3121, 3155,
3173, 3201, 3202, 3241, 3251, 3279, 3321, 3451, 4131,
4155, 4171, 4174, 4259, 4261, 4263, 4302, 4441, 4442.

Context courses: 3006, 3007, 3008, 3551, 3614, 3741,
3745, 3771, 3776, 3796, 4272, 4274, 4551, 4552, 4615,
4721, 4731, 4801, 5251, 5316, 5501, 5725, 5601, 5606,
5771, 5777, 5825.

Independent study and specialized topics courses: 3990,
3993, 3996, 4990, 4993, 5990, 5993.

Mass Communication Track
The mass communication track is for students who wish to
study the economic, political, legal, and social aspects of
mass communication. Students may develop a program
emphasis in areas such as history, law, media effects,
media industry studies, international communication, or
other aspects of mass communication studies represented
at the School.

Required Courses
• Core Courses: Jour 3004 and 12 credits including one
course from each of these groups:
  • History: Jour 3007, 3614, 4615, 5601, 5606
  • International/Multicultural: Jour 3741, 4801,
    5825
  • Media Effects: Jour 3006, 3008, 5251, 5316,
    5501, 5541
• Media and Society: Jour 3745, 3771, 3776, 3796, 4274, 4721, 5725, 5771, 5777
• Context Courses: 18 additional credits chosen in consultation with a faculty adviser. Independent study and specialized topics courses may be used to meet this requirement. With adviser approval, 1-3 professional (skills) courses are permitted, but not required.
• Supporting Courses: 12 additional credits at the 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx level from other departments chosen in consultation with a faculty adviser.

Major Project
Journalism majors must complete a major project before graduation. For the mass communication track, this requirement is satisfied by completing two 4xxx or 5xxx level context courses.

Minor Requirements
Students must complete 18 credits in the minor program.
- Jour 1001—Introduction to Mass Communication
- Jour 3004—Information for Mass Communication
- Jour 3101—Reporting and News Writing or Jour 3201—Principles of Strategic Communication: Advertising or Jour 3202—Principles of Strategic Communication: Public Relations
- Three context courses, one of which must be 4xxx or 5xxx.
Students must have a 2.80 overall GPA, and a grade of C- or higher in Jour 1001, to qualify for admission to the minor program.

How do I declare a journalism major?
You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Stop in Room 110 Murphy Hall to schedule a pre-major meeting to learn more about the major and its requirements. At this meeting, you will also learn about the application process.

2. The journalism major requires you to submit an application for admission. Applications are due around the sixth week of fall and spring semesters.

3. Once you are admitted to the journalism major, meet with your faculty adviser from the department to complete a Major Program form.

4. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.

5. If you decide to change your major, contact your student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in journalism?

Skills
Journalism majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:
- Writing and editing skills
- Visual communication skills
- Research skills
- Presentation skills
- Computer skills
- Ability to work under pressure of deadline
- Ability to work effectively on group projects

Employment
Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

Today’s workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The Career & Community Learning Center provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, the CLA Link website, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!
You have not declared a major until you have:
- completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
- filed a copy with the major department
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself
# For more information

## About the journalism major:
School of Journalism and Mass Communication Student Services Center  
110 Murphy Hall  
(612) 625-0120  
http://www.sjmc.umn.edu/

## About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
CLA Communications and Media Student Community  
B-16 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-1820  
http://comm.cla.umn.edu  
cam@class.cla.umn.edu

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
http://www.mlk.umn.edu/  
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

## About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
www.cclc.umn.edu  
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

## About graduation with honors:
Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:

CLA Honors Division  
115 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-5522  
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/  
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

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