JOURNALISM BA

More Information

Advising Requirement
Advising is mandatory for this program. Consult your department advisor or program coordinator for information.

E-advising Tools
Students are encouraged to use the interactive e-advising tools that have been designed to help them graduate within four years. These tools can be accessed through the Student Center.

The Bachelor of Arts in Journalism has two options: news and public relations.

The option in news. Students who chose this option study the basics of journalism: information gathering, interviewing, reporting, writing, editing and visual presentation skills. The option focuses on thinking, researching, and understanding the diverse society in which we live.

Journalists play an important role in a free and democratic society as they serve a public in need of information about its leaders, political institutions, and the culture. A journalist is part watchdog and part entertainer. The job requires guts, instincts, and talent. At its highest form, journalism educates and provides information that people need in their everyday lives. Students who graduate with a degree in the news option spend at least one semester and often two or three semesters working on the department’s laboratory newspaper, The Orion, which may be the most honored college newspaper in the country. By practicing journalism, our students learn to tell the stories that need to be told.

Students in the news option are trained to

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness, and diversity;
- Think critically, creatively, and independently;
- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style, and grammatical correctness.

The option in public relations. PR practitioners are the facilitators of communication between an organization and the outside world. It’s the job of the PR professional to be the voice of the company, to create goodwill, and to develop relationships with key internal and external audiences, such as employees, consumers, and journalists.

At the same time, the practitioner is responsible for educating upper management about how others perceive an organization’s reputation, brand, image, messages, products, and services.

The PR professional must constantly watch for new trends, monitor the news media and social networks, know what the competition is doing, and be able to identify opportunities and obstacles for organizations.

Students in the public relations option are trained to

- Conduct effective primary and secondary research for clients;
- Help shape informed, ethical decisions that achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for clients and publics;
- Write for print, broadcast, and online media;
- Create strategic communication plans that connect clients with and target messages to a variety of stakeholders;
- Develop methods to measure and evaluate plan success; and
- Identify and engage with emerging technologies and identify their influence on communication.

Grading Requirement
All courses taken to fulfill program course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as credit/no credit grading only.

Course Requirements for the Major: 48 units
Completion of the following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, is required of all candidates for this degree. Courses in this program may complete more than one graduation requirement.

National accreditation standards require a journalism major to take a 48-unit journalism curriculum. Of the 120-unit degree program, it is recommended that 72 units be taken outside of the Departments of Journalism and Public Relations; Communication Arts and Sciences; and Media Arts, Design, and Technology. The following courses, if taken as General Education, will apply to the 72 outside units: CMST 131, CMST 132, CMST 234, CMST 255. Community college transfer students may apply 18 units to the 48-unit major in agreement with the Journalism Transfer Model Curriculum (equivalents to JOUR 101, JOUR 210, JOUR 260W, JOUR 265, lower-division student media, and lower-division photojournalism).

Students must earn a grade of C or higher in JOUR 260W to advance to subsequent writing courses in the Department of Journalism and Public Relations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 255</td>
<td>Digital Literacy and Media Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or JOUR 255W</td>
<td>Digital Literacy and Media Technology (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 260W</td>
<td>Writing for Mass Media (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 320</td>
<td>Mass Communication Law</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOUR 460W</td>
<td>Ethical Problems in Mass Media (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
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Group A: Theory
Select nine units from the following:

- JOUR/MADT 101 Introduction to Communication
- JOUR 210 Pop Culture and Media Innovation
- JOUR/WMST 211 Gender and Sexuality in Media
- JOUR 313 International Communication
- JOUR 411 Race and Diversity in Media
- JOUR/CMST/POLS 424 Public Opinion and Propaganda

Units: 9
Major Course Requirements.

Students must select one of the following options for completion of the Major Option Course Requirements.

**The Option in News: 12 units**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>JOUR 321W</td>
<td>Public Affairs Reporting (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 322</td>
<td>History of American Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOUR 327</td>
<td>Media Editing, Proofreading, and Entry-level Layout</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOUR 329</td>
<td>News Laboratory/The Orion</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Total Units** 12

**The Option in Public Relations: 12 units**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 265</td>
<td>Survey of PR and Media Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 341W</td>
<td>Writing for Public Relations (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 344</td>
<td>Public Relations Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 445</td>
<td>Public Relations Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total Units** 12

**Electives Requirement**

To complete the total units required for the bachelor’s degree, select additional elective courses from the total University offerings. You should consult with an advisor regarding the selection of courses which will provide breadth to your University experience and possibly apply to a supportive second major or minor.

See Bachelor's Degree Requirements [here](https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-degree-requirements/) for complete details on general degree requirements. A minimum of 39 units, including those required for the major, must be upper division.

**General Education Requirements: 48 units**

See General Education [here](https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/general-education/) and the Class Schedule [here](http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/) for the most current information on General Education Requirements and course offerings.

This major has approved GE modification(s). See below for information on how to apply these modification(s).

- JOUR 460W is an approved major course substitution for Upper-Division Arts and Humanities (UD-C).

**Diversity Course Requirements: 6 units**

You must complete a minimum of two courses that focus primarily on cultural diversity. At least one course must be in US Diversity (USD) and at least one in Global Cultures (GC). See Diversity Requirements [here](https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/diversity-requirements/) for a full list of courses. Most courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education [here](https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/general-education/).

**Upper-Division Writing Requirement**

Writing Across the Curriculum (EM 17-009 [here](http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2017-17-009.shtml/)) is a graduation requirement and may be demonstrated through satisfactory completion of four Writing (W) courses, two of which are designated by the major department. See Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning and Writing Requirements [here](https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/)
mathematicsquantitative-reasoning-writing-requirements/) for more
details on the four courses. The first of the major designated Writing (W)
courses is listed below.

- JOUR 460W Ethical Problems in Mass Media (W)

The second major-designated Writing course is the Graduation Writing
Assessment Requirement (GW) (EO 665 (https://calstate.policystat.com/
policy/9585618/latest/)). Students must earn a C- or higher to
receive GW credit. The GE Written Communication (A2) (https://
catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/
general-education/#A2) requirement must be completed before a student
is permitted to register for a GW course.