



Journalism

Major Preparation Sheet 2016-2017

What is Journalism?

Journalism is the investigation and reporting of news. Journalists' most important task is to monitor powerful institutions and expose injustices. However, journalists report on any number of topics, including natural disasters, war, political campaigns, court cases, economic trends, scientific breakthroughs and sports. They may also write political opinions or review movies, restaurants and vacation spots. Their work is aired in several forms, from blogs on the Internet to documentaries on TV. Journalism programs in the U.S. often include Basic Reporting, Advanced Reporting, Feature Writing, Mass Media and Society, Law and Ethics, and Internships.

Contemporary issues in Journalism: The 24/7 news cycle, anonymous sources, ethics, celebrity news, the future of print media and newspapers, diversity in the newsroom, privacy, concentrated ownership, the ethnic press, and the Freedom of Information Act.

Where can I go for help?

Journalism Faculty Advisors

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Where can I transfer?

Students can transfer to a number of public and private colleges and universities in the U.S., but the Direct Transfer Agreement applies only within Washington. The following colleges in Washington offer a bachelor's degree in Journalism, which may require specific courses for admission. Contact the Journalism department at your chosen four-year school(s) for more information.

[Central Washington University](#)

[Eastern Washington University](#)

[Gonzaga University](#)

[Pacific Lutheran University](#)

[Seattle Pacific University](#)

[Seattle University](#)

[University of Puget Sound](#)

[University of Washington - Seattle](#)

[University of Washington - Bothell](#)

[Walla Walla University](#)

[Washington State University](#)

[Western Washington University](#)

[Whitworth University](#)

What can I do with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism?

Graduates of Journalism programs go on to work as reporters, editors, videographers, photo-journalists, documentary filmmakers, speech-writers, public-relations specialists, bloggers, grant-writers, researchers, authors of nonfiction books, private investigators and assorted other professions. The skills learned involve gathering and analyzing information, and then presenting it in a clear, fair, engaging manner to an audience. These skills can be applied to almost any field.

Potential employers include: newspapers, magazines, TV networks and stations, radio stations, blogs, search-engine news sites, online newsletters, wire services, public-relations firms, government agencies, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, private investigation firms and public advocacy groups. For more information, please visit <http://www.shoreline.edu/counseling-services/career-counseling.aspx>.

What courses should I take?*

Below are recommendations for fulfilling the AA-DTA requirements if you are planning to pursue a four-year degree in Journalism.

Strongly Recommended

These are commonly **required** for admission. Check with your chosen four-year program(s) to confirm.

Other Recommendations

These courses are well-matched with this major, but are not commonly required for admission.

I. GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Multicultural Understanding CMST 203

II. DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

Humanities CMST &101, &220

World language if required for university admission or graduation.

Natural Sciences --

Social Sciences CMST &102

Economics, History and Political Science courses.

III. GENERAL ELECTIVES

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CMST &101, 140, &210, &215, &230, 235, 244, 245, 247; World language if required for university admission or graduation.

What does your chosen four-year school require?

Before choosing classes, become familiar with the four-year program where you want to apply: visit the website, email the department, and/or speak with a Shoreline advisor. Below are examples from Washington schools with different admissions and graduation requirements. Check with the school for world language requirements. (Non-native speakers of English are often exempt from this requirement.)

School	Degrees	Requirements
Central Washington University	B.A. in Journalism	Admission requirements - Complete CMST &101 or &220 and CMST &102, with a C or better in each and 3.0 (B) average in both. Students will need to take Media Writing and Communication Orientation at CWU before admission to the major.
Seattle Pacific University	B.A. in Communication-Journalism	Courses required: CMST &210, &220 and 244, 245, or 247. Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in all your college work applicable to the degree, or 3.0 in the 45 credits immediately preceding your application for the major.
Seattle University	B.A. in Journalism	Courses required for B.A.: 15 credits of communication foundation: CMJR 2050, 2250, 2450 (equiv. to CMST &102). CMST &220 and &230 can be used for 200-level major courses.
University of Washington	B.A. in Communication: Journalism	Admission requirement- Cumulative 2.5 GPA or higher; CMST &101 or &102. Both courses are required for graduation. Five credits each are required in economics, political science and history. Students must complete 10 UW credits before applying to the major.
Washington State University	B.A. in Communications with three options	Admission requirements – CMST &102 and &220; students must also complete core communication courses at WSU before being admitted to the major. Direct equivalents include CMST &102 and CMST &230
Western Washington University	B.A. in Journalism	Admission requirement: Submit letter of application; Complete at least 30 college credits with a cumulative 2.50 grade point average; Pass JOUR 207 (or equivalent) and one journalism staff course with a B- or better

**** This unofficial guide is intended to support you as you prepare for your major. Please consult with an advisor and your chosen four-year school(s), as program and admissions requirements vary and may change without notice.**