

Journalism and Mass Communication, BA

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Students must declare the journalism and mass communication major by the first semester of their sophomore year in order to be eligible for the Four-Year Graduation Plan. The following checkpoints include the required work in journalism and mass communication plus a second area of study, but they do not include the requirements of a second major, because the Four-Year Graduation Plan does not apply to second majors.

Complete during any semester: JMC:1100 Introduction to Media Effects or JMC:1200 Introduction to Media and Culture or JMC:1500 Introduction to Social Media and fulfill the SCRIPT experiential learning requirement by completing an approved course in at least one of the following categories: study abroad, community engagement, research, internship, professional practice, or teaching.

Before the fifth semester begins: JMC:1300 Introduction to Journalism and Strategic Communication and JMC:1600 Writing Fundamentals; choose a second area of study; and complete at least one-half of the semester hours required for graduation.

Before the sixth semester begins: JMC:2600 Freedom of Expression, JMC:2020 Multimedia Storytelling, and JMC:2010 Reporting and Writing or JMC:2030 Visual Communication and Design.

Before the seventh semester begins: JMC:2010 Reporting and Writing or JMC:2030 Visual Communication and Design (if not already taken), JMC:2700 Media Ethics, one managing/planning or one understanding media course, one writing/storytelling or one designing/producing course, and at least three-quarters of the semester hours required for graduation.

During the seventh semester: two additional writing/storytelling or designing/producing courses, and one understanding media or one managing/planning course.

During the eighth semester: one writing/storytelling or designing/producing course, one capstone course, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Journalism and Mass Communication, BA

- No Optional Track
- Multimedia Production and Design Track

- Reporting and Writing Track
- Strategic Communication Track

No Optional Track

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
SCRIPT Experiential Learning Requirement ^a		0 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^b		
Hours		0-4

First Year

Fall		
JMC:1200 or JMC:1100 or JMC:1500	Introduction to Media and Culture ^{c, d} or Introduction to Media Effects or Introduction to Social Media	3
JMC:1600	Writing Fundamentals ^e	1
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^g		3
Hours		15-17

Spring

JMC:1300	Introduction to Journalism and Strategic Communication ^h	3
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ⁱ		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		1
Hours		15-17

Second Year

Fall

JMC:2010	Reporting and Writing ^j	3
JMC:2020	Multimedia Storytelling ^{j, k}	3
JMC:2600	Freedom of Expression ^d	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		2
Choose second area of study by this semester ^l		
Experiential Learning: begin planning for SCRIPT requirement ^a		
Hours		15-16

Spring

JMC:2030	Visual Communication and Design ^k	3
JMC:2700	Media Ethics	3
Major: second area of study course ^l		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		2

Internship: apply for summer internships if planning to do one (may count for SCRIPT requirement)

If interested in an optional track for the JMC major, choose one by this semester^m

Hours	15-16
Third Year	
Fall	
Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX)	3
Major: writing/storytelling course (prefix JMC, numbered 34XX)	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ⁱ	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{i, n}	3
Hours	15
Spring	
Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX)	3
Major: writing/storytelling course (prefix JMC, numbered 34XX)	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ⁱ	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{i, n}	3
Internship: apply for summer internships if planning to do one (may count for SCRIPT requirement)	
Hours	15
Fourth Year	
Fall	
Major: capstone course (prefix JMC, numbered 4100-4400)	3
Major: understanding media course (prefix JMC, numbered 31XX or 2101)	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ⁱ	3
Hours	15
Spring	
Major: managing/planning course (prefix JMC, numbered 35XX or 3720)	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ⁱ	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)	
Hours	15
Total Hours	120-130

- a Every student majoring in journalism and mass communication must complete at least one experiential learning course from any of the following categories: study abroad, community engagement, research, internship, professional practice, or teaching. Courses that satisfy the SCRIPT requirement can be found in the General Catalog.
- b Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

- c Students must complete one of these courses with a grade of C-minus or higher.
- d Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- e Students must complete JMC:1600 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010 or JMC:2020.
- f Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
- g Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- h Students must complete JMC:1300 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010, JMC:2020, and JMC:2030.
- i GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- j Students must complete JMC:2010 and JMC:2020 with a grade of C-minus or higher before taking writing/storytelling courses (JMC:34XX).
- k Students must complete JMC:2020 and JMC:2030 with a grade of C-minus or higher before taking designing/producing courses (JMC:36XX).
- l Students must complete a second area of study. There are three options: 1) complete a second major; 2) complete an undergraduate certificate; or 3) complete an undergraduate minor (except the minor in media management). Students may not double count courses for their journalism and mass communication major and a certificate or minor being used as their second area of study.
- m Students who choose a track will pick from 3000 and 4000-level courses designated for their track.
- n Depending on which major introduction course is taken, students must still complete two of the following GE requirements: Historical Perspectives, Social Sciences, Values and Society.
- o Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

Multimedia Production and Design Track

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
SCRIPT Experiential Learning requirement ^a		0 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^b		
Hours		0-4
First Year		
Fall		
JMC:1300	Introduction to Journalism and Strategic Communication ^c	3
JMC:1600	Writing Fundamentals ^d	1

ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		15-17

Spring

JMC:1100 or JMC:1200 or JMC:1500	Introduction to Media Effects ^{g, h} or Introduction to Media and Culture or Introduction to Social Media	3
JMC:2600	Freedom of Expression ^h	3
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		15-17

Second Year**Fall**

JMC:2020	Multimedia Storytelling ^{i, j}	3
JMC:2030	Visual Communication and Design ^j	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^k		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		1
Experiential Learning: begin planning for SCRIPT requirement ^a		
Hours		15-16

Spring

JMC:2010	Reporting and Writing ⁱ	3
Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX) ^l		3
Major: second area of study course ^m		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		2
Internship: apply for summer internships (not required for the degree but strongly encouraged)		
Hours		15-16

Third Year**Fall**

JMC:2700	Media Ethics	3
Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX)		3
Major: second area of study course ^m		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^k		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{k, n}		3
Hours		15

Spring

Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX) ^l		3
Major: writing/storytelling course (prefix JMC, numbered 34XX)		3
Major: second area of study course ^m		3

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^k		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{k, n}		3
Internship: apply for summer internships (not required for the degree but strongly encouraged)		
Hours		15

Fourth Year**Fall**

Major: capstone course ^l		3
Major: understanding media course (prefix JMC, numbered 31XX or 2101)		3
Major: second area of study course ^m		3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^m		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^k		3
Hours		15

Spring

Major: managing/planning course (prefix JMC, numbered 35XX or 3720) ^l		3
Major: second area of study course ^m		3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^m		3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^m		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^k		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)		
Hours		15
Total Hours		120-130

- a Every student majoring in journalism and mass communication must complete at least one experiential education course from Study Abroad, Community Engagement, Research, Internship, Professional Practice, or Teaching (SCRIPT). Courses that satisfy the SCRIPT requirement can be found in the General Catalog.
- b Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.
- c Students must complete JMC:1300 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010, JMC:2020, and JMC:2030.
- d Students must complete JMC:1600 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010 or JMC:2020.
- e Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
- f Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- g Students must complete one of these courses with a grade of C-minus or higher.

- h Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- i Students must complete JMC:2010 and JMC:2020 with a grade of C-minus or higher before taking writing/storytelling courses (JMC:34XX).
- j Students must complete JMC:2020 and JMC:2030 with a grade of C-minus or higher before taking designing/producing courses (JMC:36XX).
- k GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- l Choose from list of approved courses for this track.
- m Students must complete a second area of study. There are three options: 1) complete a second major; 2) complete an undergraduate certificate; or 3) complete an undergraduate minor (except the minor in media management). Students may not double count courses for their journalism and mass communication major and a certificate or minor being used as their second area of study.
- n Depending on which major introduction course is taken, students must still complete two of the following GE requirements: Historical Perspectives, Social Sciences, Values and Society.
- o Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.

Reporting and Writing Track

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
SCRIPT Experiential Learning requirement ^a		0 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^b		0-4
First Year		
Fall		
JMC:1300	Introduction to Journalism and Strategic Communication ^c	3
JMC:1600	Writing Fundamentals ^d	1
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		15-17
Spring		
JMC:1100 or JMC:1200 or JMC:1500	Introduction to Media Effects ^{g, h} or Introduction to Media and Culture or Introduction to Social Media	3
JMC:2600	Freedom of Expression ^h	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5

Elective course ^f		2
Hours		15-17
Second Year		
Fall		
JMC:2010	Reporting and Writing ⁱ	3
JMC:2020	Multimedia Storytelling ^{i, j}	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^k		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		1
Experiential Learning: begin planning for SCRIPT requirement ^a		
Hours		15-16
Spring		
JMC:2030	Visual Communication and Design ^j	3
JMC:3403 or JMC:3401	Public Affairs Reporting and Writing or Beat Reporting and Writing	3
Major: second area of study course ^l		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		2
Internship: apply for summer internships (not required for the degree but strongly encouraged)		
Hours		15-16
Third Year		
Fall		
JMC:2700	Media Ethics	3
Major: writing/storytelling course (prefix JMC, numbered 34XX) ^m		3
Major: second area of study course ^l		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^k		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{k, n}		3
Hours		15
Spring		
Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX) ^m		3
Major: writing/storytelling course (prefix JMC, numbered 34XX) ^m		3
Major: second area of study course ^l		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^k		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{k, n}		3
Internship: apply for summer internships (not required for the degree but strongly encouraged)		
Hours		15
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Major: capstone course ^m		3
Major: managing/planning course (prefix JMC, numbered 35XX) ^m		3
Major: second area of study course ^l		3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^k		3
Hours		15

Spring

Major: understanding media course (prefix JMC, numbered 31XX or 2101) ^m	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^k	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^o	
Hours	15
Total Hours	120-130

- a Every student majoring in journalism and mass communication must complete at least one experiential education course from Study Abroad, Community Engagement, Research, Internship, Professional Practice, or Teaching (SCRIPT). Courses that satisfy the SCRIPT requirement can be found in the General Catalog.
- b Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.
- c Students must complete JMC:1300 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010, JMC:2020, and JMC:2030.
- d Students must complete JMC:1600 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010 or JMC:2020.
- e Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
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- h Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- i Students must complete JMC:2010 and JMC:2020 with a grade of C-minus or higher before taking writing/storytelling courses (JMC:34XX).
- j Students must complete JMC:2020 and JMC:2030 with a grade of C-minus or higher before taking designing/producing courses (JMC:36XX).
- k GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- l Students must complete a second area of study. There are three options: 1) complete a second major; 2) complete an undergraduate certificate; or 3) complete an undergraduate minor (except the minor in media management). Students may not double count courses for their journalism and mass communication major and a certificate or minor being used as their second area of study.

m Choose from list of approved courses for this track.

n Depending on which major introduction course is taken, students must still complete two of the following GE requirements: Historical Perspectives, Social Sciences, Values and Society.

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Strategic Communication Track

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
SCRIPT Experiential Learning requirement ^a		0 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^b		
Hours		0-4
First Year		
Fall		
JMC:1500 or JMC:1200 or JMC:1100	Introduction to Social Media ^{c, d} or Introduction to Media and Culture or Introduction to Media Effects	3
JMC:1600	Writing Fundamentals ^e	1
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^g		3
Hours		15-17
Spring		
JMC:1300	Introduction to Journalism and Strategic Communication ^h	3
JMC:2600	Freedom of Expression ^d	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		2
Hours		15-17
Second Year		
Fall		
JMC:2010	Reporting and Writing ⁱ	3
JMC:2020	Multimedia Storytelling ^{i, j}	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^k		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^f		4 - 5
Elective course ^g		1
Experiential Learning: begin planning for SCRIPT requirement ^a		
Hours		15-16
Spring		
JMC:2030	Visual Communication and Design ^j	3
JMC:3412	Strategic Communication Writing	3
Major: second area of study course ^l		3

GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^f	4 - 5
Elective course ^g	2
Internship: apply for summer internships (not required for the degree but strongly encouraged)	
Hours	15-16
Third Year	
Fall	
Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX) ^m	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^k	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{k, n}	3
Hours	15
Spring	
JMC:2700 Media Ethics	3
Major: designing/producing course (prefix JMC, numbered 36XX) ^m	3
Major: managing/planning course (prefix JMC, numbered 35XX or 3720) ^m	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^k	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives or Social Sciences or Values and Society ^{k, n}	3
Internship: apply for summer internships (not required for the degree but strongly encouraged)	
Hours	15
Fourth Year	
Fall	
Major: understanding media course (prefix JMC, numbered 31XX or 2101) ^m	3
Major: writing/storytelling course (prefix JMC, numbered 34XX) ^m	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^k	3
Hours	15
Spring	
Major: capstone course ^m	3
Major: second area of study course ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
Major: second area of study course or elective ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^k	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^o	
Hours	15
Total Hours	120-130

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- c Students must complete one of these courses with a grade of C-minus or higher.
- d Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- e Students must complete JMC:1600 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010 or JMC:2020.
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- h Students must complete JMC:1300 with a grade of C-minus or higher before enrolling in JMC:2010, JMC:2020, and JMC:2030.
- i Students must complete JMC:2010 and JMC:2020 with a grade of C-minus or higher before taking writing/storytelling courses (JMC:34XX).
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