

Morgan State University



School of Graduate Studies Catalog 2014-2015

School and College Sections

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATION

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SCHOOL OF GLOBAL JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATION

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Mission Statement

“We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us”

When Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm wrote these words nearly two centuries ago in *Freedom’s Journal*, this nation’s first black newspaper, the voices they wanted to empower belonged to an enslaved people. Today, the mission of Morgan State University’s School of Global Journalism and Communication is to give voice to a broader group of people—people who struggle to contribute to the public discourse that shapes this nation and the world. We serve this cause with innovative teaching, cutting edge research and exemplary service to Maryland, our nation and the world.

Our goal is add to the diversity of thoughts, opinions and beliefs by offering students from a wide range of backgrounds the education and skills training they need to effectively communicate ideas – to plead their own causes and to accurately tell the stories of others.

In our global school, students travel the world in their classes and assignments, without leaving the campus. They may also see the world through interactions with partner programs at universities in this country and abroad – and they may have opportunities to travel abroad. All of this is possible because the great advances in technology have turned the world into a global village. Our school seeks to make our graduates effective communicators in every way – and in every corner of this village.

MASTER OF ARTS – JOURNALISM (M.A.)

Objective

The Master of Arts degree program in Journalism is designed to ensure that students are receiving the education, skills and experiences needed to be successful journalists in the 21st Century.

The Program

The Master of Arts in Journalism is an advanced program that is solidly grounded in knowledge-based journalism, which is multi-disciplinary and designed to train future journalists to undertake in-depth reporting on the kinds of complex issues facing today's world. Such areas could include, but would not be limited to political/social policy, arts and culture, international relations, business and economics, science and technology, health, environmental issues, urban planning, etc.

This program requires students to write and edit for various delivery platforms, including print and online media, social media, mobile applications and other delivery systems used for reporting the news. Moreover, as with real world journalism, our program requires students to record and edit audio and video material for use across all media platforms.

Graduates of the program will be able to fill the market demand for reporters with a strong knowledge of specific topics, like science, business, engineering, education and public health. In this multi-disciplinary journalism education program, students enhance their newsgathering and reporting skills through advanced journalism courses and immersion in a specific area of reportorial interest.

Admission

Admission to the program is open to those holding a bachelor's degree in journalism or a related discipline or to those who may have earned a bachelor's degree in unrelated field but who have a job history in professional journalism. In addition to meeting the admission requirements of the Morgan State University School of Graduate Studies, applicants must have earned a minimum undergraduate academic grade point average of 3.0 in their major area of study. Applicants who completed their bachelor's degree fewer than five years ago must also demonstrate satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The GRE will be waived for applicants who earned their bachelor's degree five or more years ago. At the discretion of the Dean of the School of Global Journalism & Communication and the School of Graduate Studies, an applicant may be conditionally admitted with an undergraduate grade point average of less than 3.0.

In addition to the admissions criteria listed in the previous paragraph, other admissions criteria include recommendations from three practicing journalism, other professionals or academicians. Applicants also must submit a portfolio of professional writing, which may include print, broadcast or digital samples, with a combination of such samples from a variety of media being preferred.

Students will be admitted only in the fall semester and will be expected to take the three core courses in their first semester.

General Requirements

The Master of Arts program in Journalism requires students to complete 36 graduate course credits. Included in these credit hours are 9 credits of core courses required of all students in the program, 15 credits in the discipline, 9 credits in a single discipline outside of the SGJC and a 3 credit Master's Project.

Core Courses

9 credits

JOUR 501: Writing for Knowledge-Based Journalism	3 credits
JOUR 502: Information Gathering and Research	3 credits
JOUR 503: Media Law and Ethics	3 credits

Courses in the Discipline

Choose 15 credits

JOUR 510: Editing Techniques	3 credits
JOUR 511: Computer Assisted Reporting	3 credits
JOUR 512: Investigative Reporting	3 credits
JOUR 513: Feature Writing	3 credits
JOUR 514: Advanced News Writing and Reporting	3 credits
JOUR 515: Profile and Biography Writing	3 credits
JOUR 516: Writing and Producing the Documentary	3 credits
JOUR 517: Seminar in Converging Media	3 credits
JOUR 518: Writing and Editing for the Internet & Multimedia	3 credits
JOUR 519: International Crisis Reporting	3 credits
JOUR 540: Broadcast News Practice	3 credits
JOUR 541: Electronic Field Production	3 credits
JOUR 542: Web Editing and Management	3 credits
JOUR 543: Interactive Media	3 credits
JOUR 560: The Media Business	3 credits
JOUR 561: Seminar in Cultural Literacy	3 credits
JOUR 562: International Journalism	3 credits
JOUR 563: International Crisis Journalism	3 credits
JOUR 596: Special Topics	3 credits
JOUR 598: Master's Project II	3 credits
JOUR 599: Master's Project III	3 credits

Out-of-Unit Content Area

9 credits

Students will take three courses for which they may qualify in a single discipline in which Morgan State University offers a master's degree. The content area must be approved as part of the student's advising process. The courses the student wishes to take must also be approved by the student's advisor in advance of enrolling for them.

JOUR 597: Master's Project

3 credits

The student will undertake a single major journalistic project focused in the student's out-of-unit content area. The project will test the student's ability to conduct research, to organize bodies of information and to write and report using multiple platforms.

Total:

36 credits

COURSE OFFERINGS

JOUR 501: Reporting and Writing for Knowledge-Based Journalism

Three Hours: 3 Credits

The emphasis of this core course is on news values, news writing skills and reporting techniques used in a variety of media, including print, broadcast, digital, social and mobile. The classroom will serve as a news room, but students will use the entire city as their beats to develop, write and produce stories on a variety of issues.

JOUR 502: Information Gathering and Research

Three Hours: 3 Credits

This core course focuses on information gathering and research for media professionals. Specific areas of focus include critical thinking, computer search tools, writing, editing, information use, language use, interviewing, research tools, library use, government documents (including Freedom of Information Act requests), business documents, human sources, etc. The course prepares students to conduct research and to assess and use information in media-related decision making. Emphasis will also be given to the ethical collection and reporting of information discovered during the research process.

JOUR 503: Mass Communication Law and Ethics

Three Hours: 3 Credits

This core course in the master's program in journalism provides aspiring journalists with a practical and substantive "knowledge-based" understanding of global media law—and its protections and constraints—along with various significant ethical problems, which confronts today's journalists, in general, and emerging integrated digital media journalists, in particular, who work within a developing world context. It examines major free speech principles and trends in U.S. and international media law and ethics. The course analyzes a wide range of issues and practical considerations pertaining to the First Amendment in the U.S. and related press freedoms and challenges abroad. Specifically, it may include the following areas: censorship, speech distinctions, emotional distress and physical harm, privacy, libel, newsgathering, reporter's privilege, media and the courts, obscenity, indecency and violence, advertising (commercial speech), intellectual property (copyright and trademarks), and electronic media regulation.

JOUR 510: Editing Techniques

Three Hours: 3 Credits

This course focuses on the study of the application of more complex editing skills required of news editors, including learning advanced news and feature editing techniques, copy editing, line editing, editing for background and context and utilizing quotes, statistics, maps, graphs and charts.

JOUR 511: Computer-Assisted Reporting

Three Hours: 3 Credits

This is course in the major elements of computer-assisted reporting, such as research, data analysis, reporting and editing. Students will use computer spreadsheet and database programs to find details, leads and stories in collections of electronic records. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to acquire, organize, analyze and present data to general news audiences.

JOUR 512: Investigative Reporting**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course requires students to apply their skills in research and writing to produce investigative stories on societal, governmental and/or scientific issues for print, broadcast and online formats. The goal is to examine an issue that goes beneath the surface to discover not only the publicly available information, but also harder-to-find information that seeks to present the fullest possible picture. The course will also require students to confront the ethical issues and problems that face investigative journalists, to learn to develop and protect sources and to think critically and skeptically.

JOUR 513: Feature Writing**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course emphasizes advanced elements of stylized, long-form, storytelling used in magazine and newspaper features. This literary, poetic and sometimes "spoken word" journalism combines the finest elements of creative and expository writing.

JOUR 514: Advanced News Writing and Reporting**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is designed to develop more advanced writing and reporting skills to create content for various media. The classroom will function as newsroom, with students going out on assignment to develop and cover stories on campus and in local areas. The course is writing intensive.

JOUR 515: Profile and Biography Writing**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

Students in this class will hone their nonfiction profile-writing skills in their own work and in careful analysis of their classmates' pieces. They will study long-form narrative profiles to learn about structure, voice, theme and style and then apply what they learn by writing extended profiles, drawing on the practice of immersion reporting.

JOUR 516: Writing and Producing the Documentary**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course focuses on non-fiction (non-narrative) storytelling for film and video. Students will work with research, various writing styles, shooting, lighting, sound, editing and production management to produce a short documentary 10 – 20 minutes in length.

JOUR 517: Seminar in Converging Media**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course takes the skills that have been developed in JOUR 516 and uses them to produce a short documentary involving computer text, graphics, photography, animation, speech, sound and video. The final project will incorporate the various media into a time-based multimedia presentation.

JOUR 518: Writing and Editing for the Internet and Multimedia Production**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course focuses on web-content writing and editing, including the theory and practice of writing online, interactive multimedia text. This is a writing-intensive course in which students must complete both individual and collaborative projects to learn to produce well-written, accurate, well-organized, easy-to-find and audience-appropriate content.

JOUR 519: International Crisis Reporting**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course focuses on the specialized writing and reporting skills needed to cover international news and issues. Emphasis is placed on understanding and communicating with other cultures and writing with sensitivity toward those cultures. Additionally, students will understand the role crisis communication managers play in providing vital internal crisis information which allows for timely and accurate reporting of the details of a crisis.

JOUR 540: Broadcast New Practice**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

In this course, students will produce broadcast newscasts. While the focus will be on radio and television news, students will learn to write, edit and produce on all platforms.

JOUR 541: Electronic Field Production**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

The course is designed to provide an overview of the electronic field production process. The goal of the class will be to provide skills in single camera production techniques as well as to develop an aesthetic understanding of creative composition, production design and editing. Students will become familiar with how to use a camera, lights, microphones and non-linear editing.

JOUR 542: Web Editing and Management**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

The course takes a problem-solving approach to the creation and management of interactive features, including evaluating the effectiveness of websites and the strategies and problems of site development.

JOUR 543: Interactive Media**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

The course is an introduction to planning, media integration, and production techniques and tools of interactive media. Through practical exercises, this course will expose students to major component media, including computer text, graphics, photography, animation, speech, sound, and video.

JOUR 560: The Media Business**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course reviews the history of U.S. news organizations from the nation's founding to current media trends. Instruction includes a review of why the journalism profession is referred to as the nation's "fourth estate" and why independent media are important to a democratic society. Also explored are the most recent developments in the expansion of broadband, multimedia operations and the convergence of cutting-edge Internet companies with global corporate conglomerates.

JOUR 561: Seminar in Cultural Literacy**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course explores race, ethnicity and cultural identity as they relate to news production and distribution. Students will explore a range of historical figures and events that inform a foundation of understanding our increasingly diverse news and cultural landscape.

JOUR 562: International Journalism**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will introduce students to what has been called “development journalism” or the Dr. Hemant Shah amended approach of “emancipatory journalism.” Students will be exposed to histories and philosophies of journalism as practiced by people in the so-called “Third World.” Students will also be exposed to a variety of international press traditions and competing notions of the press through the lens of the world’s majority (women, people of color and the poor) populations.

JOUR 596: Special Topics**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course provides an opportunity for in-depth study of a selected specialized area of journalism, for a specialized course focused on the specific expertise of a visiting expert or journalist-in-residence or for a specialized course focused on an emerging issues of importance in journalism.

JOUR 597: Master’s Project I**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

The master's project is the student's most sustained effort of the program. The project is designed to develop the student’s ability to conduct in-depth research over an extended period and to gather and organize large amounts of material. The final product of the Master’s Project must focus on the student’s out-of-unit content area and must be produced for multiple platforms. The project is not a master's thesis in the traditional academic sense, but rather an in-depth exploration using the skills of a journalist.

JOUR 598: Master’s Project II**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course designation allows students who have already finished all their course work, but have not yet completed their master’s project, to be registered at the University while completing that project. The three credits earned through this course will be in addition to the 36 credits required for the degree. To register for this course number, students must have already taken JOUR 597.

JOUR 599: Master’s Project III**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course designation allows students who have already finished all their course work, but have not yet completed their master’s project, to be registered at the University while completing that project. The three credits earned through this course will be in addition to the 36 credits required for the degree. To register for this course number, students must have already taken JOUR 597 and JOUR 598.