

# JOURNALISM-BA PUBLIC AFFAIRS JOURNALISM (PAJ)

2023-2024 Academic Year



This program leads to a tagged Bachelor of Arts in Journalism degree. Requirements for students admitted to the major SU12 and later. **Nine (9) COMM** courses totaling **at least 32 credits** are required. A grade of C- or better is required in all courses in the major. Maintaining a 2.0 GPA in the major is required after admission to the program.

## PROGRAM AREA DESCRIPTION

Public Affairs Journalism (PAJ) teaches you how to investigate and disseminate news. Our multimedia focus prepares you to integrate this training with the skills necessary for packaging news stories with word, still photo, audio, and video. As a journalism student, you also are taught to consider the context in which you will practice in the field, including an understanding of the social, legal, and ethical implications that all journalists encounter.

To emphasize applied learning, students are provided extensive skills training, further reinforced through experience at *The Lantern*, completion of an approved minor, and a required news-related internship.

**REQUIRED PRE-MAJOR COURSES:** 6 credit hours (do not count in the major). *All students must complete two pre-major courses. A grade of C- or better is required in both courses for a Major & Specialization Application to be considered. Admission is competitive and an online application is required. Please see [comm.osu.edu](http://comm.osu.edu) for application deadlines.*

*\*Journalism Direct Admission students should contact their advisor for information about the program review process.*

	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 1100: Communication in Society	3		
COMM 1101: History of Communication	3		

**1. CORE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS:** 19 credit hours. All five courses are required.

	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 2221: Media Writing and Editing	4		
COMM 2223: Lantern Practicum	4		
COMM 3226: Multimedia Journalism	4		
COMM 3404: Media Law and Ethics	3		
COMM 4221 <sup>^</sup> : Data Journalism in Enterprise Reporting	4		

<sup>^</sup> Prereq. of COMM 3160/3163 is highly recommended

**2. RESEARCH METHOD REQUIREMENT:** 4 credit hours. Choose one of the following:

	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 3160 <sup>^</sup> : Communication Research Methods	4		
COMM 3163 <sup>^</sup> : Communication Industry Research Methods	4		

<sup>^</sup> Prereq: Stats 1350, 1450, or equivalent

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

School of Communication Advising Office  
3033 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-8444  
[comm.osu.edu](http://comm.osu.edu)

**3. CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS:** 6 credit hours. Choose at least 2 courses from this list:

	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 3402: Crime and News Media	3		
COMM 3440: Mass Communication & Society	3		
COMM 3597.01: International Perspectives on Communication	3		
COMM 3597.02: Media & Terrorism	3		
COMM 4240: Science Communication	3		
COMM 4814: Political Communication	3		
COMM 4820: Public Opinion and Communication	3		

**4. REQUIRED INTERNSHIP:** 3 credit hours

	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 4191* Internship (1-3 credits, repeatable)	3		

**ADD CREDITS FROM SECTIONS 1, 2, 3 AND 4:** Minimum 32 credit hours.

TOTAL HOURS:	
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**5. REQUIRED MINOR:** 12 credit hours (required credit hours vary by program)

Students should declare the minor by the end of their first semester in the major. Students will select an approved minor from this list in order to develop knowledge in a content area: **Business, Business Analytics, Campaigns and Elections, Capital Program, Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies, Economics, Geographic Information Science, Geography, International Studies, Media Production & Analysis, Political Science, Public Policy, and World Politics.** See [artsandsciences.osu.edu](http://artsandsciences.osu.edu) for minor curriculum information.

Students who feel that a different minor will better relate to their journalism career goals must receive approval from the School of Communication before the minor is declared. A written petition detailing the way in which the unapproved minor provides domain-specific expertise that aligns with career goals must be submitted. Not all petitions are approved. Please contact [commadvising@osu.edu](mailto:commadvising@osu.edu) for more information.

**RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES:** Optional. Not required.

	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 2210: News Design	3		
COMM 2511: Visual Communication Design	3		
COMM 3189**: Freelance Journalism Experience	1-3		
COMM 3225: Photojournalism	3		
COMM 3403: Sports Journalism	3		
COMM 3405: Lantern TV	3		
COMM 3414: Sports Media Relations	3		
COMM 3800: Career Development in Communication	3		
COMM 4202: Feature Writing	3		
COMM 4406: Development of Mass Media in America	3		

\*Repeatable up to 9 credits. Maximum of 3 credits can count towards the major.  
\*\*Repeatable up to 9 credits.