

02/06/2017

## PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

***Title of the proposed minor: Proposal to Create an Undergraduate Minor in Journalism***

***Sponsoring unit(s): Department of Journalism, College of Media***

***Contact:*** Professor Nancy Benson, Interim Department Head, Department of Journalism, 244-9327, [nbenson@illinois.edu](mailto:nbenson@illinois.edu)

***Brief description of the program of study:*** Please explain how the proposed minor meets each of the following criteria:

- *The minor program of study should require some depth in the subject, but not as extensive as the major.*
- *Ordinarily, the minor should be 1) a comprehensive study in a single discipline, or 2) an interdisciplinary study focusing on a single theme. If this minor is an exception, please explain and justify.*

The Minor in Journalism allows a student to explore the role of journalism in a democracy and to assess how journalism is meeting its social responsibility to engage, enlighten and empower citizens. The minor equips students to participate in the ever-changing world of media delivery and consumption.

Four required courses establish the principles and practices of journalism in a diverse society. Students explore introductory principles and writing (JOUR200), history (JOUR205), ethics (JOUR250), and law (JOUR311).

Students will choose two elective courses from a list that includes research, literary and practical courses. From that list, students can continue a comprehensive course of study that allows them to build the knowledge they need to participate fully in democratic life and to better communicate the knowledge they gain in their primary fields of study.

The minor requires a minimum of 18 hours. At least six of those hours must be advanced (300 or 400) level courses. Some of the courses also meet the university's general education requirements.

### ***Justification:***

Students in various fields have expressed interest in studying journalism. Elective courses in digital media and specialty areas such as science journalism have attracted students who seek to have a more focused study of journalism. The department seeks to build media literacy and to equip all University of Illinois students to engage in public life. The four required courses (JOUR200, 205, 250, 311) are lecture-discussion in format and have been open to non-majors. Capacity exists to add more students, and if demand warrants, the courses can expand in capacity. The elective courses also have excess capacity. Adding a minor would increase

enrollments in the courses and make better use of departmental resources while serving students throughout campus.

Some of the elective courses are as small as 20 students per section. Those courses (JOUR210, 360, 421, 453, 470, 471, 482, 483) allow students to evaluate and create their own journalistic content. Not all minors will want to move in that direction. They might be more inclined to consider depth from research- or literature-based courses (JOUR361, 450, 451, 452, 454). Any combination of those elective courses provides depth.

The minor includes advanced courses with enough capacity to allow minors to gain depth without limiting access for majors in journalism. The minor is flexible enough that undergraduates can work with their major academic advisers to choose courses that complement and contrast with the major field of study.

***Budgetary and Staff Implications:***

*a. Additional staff and dollars needed*

No additional staff or funds are necessary for the minor as proposed.

*b. Internal reallocations (e.g. change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)*

We hope the minor proves popular enough eventually to cause reallocations. But for now, capacity exists without overburdening teaching loads or student-faculty ratios.

*c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments*

The minor includes courses from the Department of Journalism only. No impact on other departments is anticipated.

*d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.*

Because these courses already exist, impact on the University Library is not expected to change with the addition of a minor. The elective course JOUR210 does require equipment and laboratory use, but capacity exists in that course now. Majors would have priority registration in JOUR210, so impact on equipment and lab space from the addition of a minor is expected to be minimal.

***Requirements:*** List the hours and course requirements for the proposed minor. The minor should consist of at least 16 and no more than 21 hours of course work. At least six hours of the minor must be advanced (300 or 400) level courses. If the proposed minor fails to meet these criteria, please provide a reason.

<b><i>These four courses:</i></b>		
JOUR 200	Introduction to Journalism	3
JOUR 205	History of American Journalism	3
JOUR 250	Journalism Ethics and Diversity	3

JOUR 311	Media Law	3
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Plus any two of these courses:</b>		
JOUR 210	Newsgathering Across Platforms*	4
JOUR 360	The Media and You	3
JOUR 361	Readings in Sports Journalism	3
JOUR 421	Editing for Publication	3
JOUR 450	Media and Public Opinion	3
JOUR 451	Research Methods in Journalism**	3
JOUR 452	Great Books in Journalism	3
JOUR 453	Crisis Communications	3
JOUR 454	Propaganda & the News Media	3
JOUR 470	International Reporting	3
JOUR 471	Science Journalism	3
JOUR 482	Immersion Journalism	3
JOUR 483	Investigative Journalism	3
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>6-7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18-19</b>

\*JOUR200 is a prerequisite for JOUR210

\*\*JOUR200 and Quantitative ReasoningI are prerequisites for JOUR451

**Prerequisites for the minor:** No prerequisites

**Expected enrollment in the minor:** We estimate we'll have at least 30 students graduating each year, once the minor achieves its full enrollment.

**Admission to the minor:** We do not plan to limit enrollment. Students would declare the minor via the provost's provisions for the minor declaration. The minor is NOT open to Journalism majors.

**Minor advisor:** The minor is flexible enough that undergraduates can work with their major academic advisers to choose courses that complement and contrast with the major field of study. Initial inquiries about the minor will be directed to the College of Media advisers or the instructor for JOUR200, Introduction to Journalism, as part of the duties for that course.

**Certification of successful completion:** As outlined in the provost’s guidelines for “How to ‘Declare’ a Minor,” a student must notify his or her college of the intent to complete a minor. Certification would then be by the student’s home college. Any variance from requirements would be approved on the “Minor’s Modification Form” first by the head of the Journalism Department and then the College of Media records officer before submission to the student’s home college.

**CLEARANCES:**

Nancy Benson – Interim Department Head

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Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit:

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Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit:

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Council of Teacher Education:  
(for minors that affect teacher certification)

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Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee:

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2017

**Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog:** *provide a brief description of the minor that includes a list of the specific courses and hours required.*

## Minor in Journalism

Professor Nancy Benson, Department Head  
119 Gregory Hall  
810 S. Wright Street  
PH: 217-244-9327  
<https://media.illinois.edu/node/75/bs-journalism>

The Minor in Journalism allows a student to explore the role of journalism in a democracy and to assess how journalism is meeting its social responsibility to engage, enlighten and empower citizens. The minor equips students to participate in the ever-changing world of media delivery and consumption.

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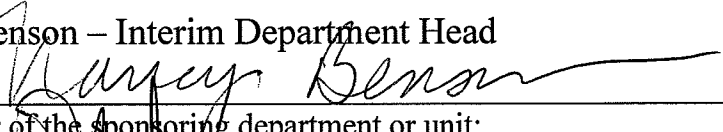
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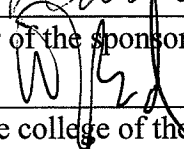
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.17.45

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



December 1, 2016

Bettina Francis, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Media to establish an undergraduate minor in Journalism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn A. Martensen".

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: J. Parrott  
N. Benson  
A. Edwards

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Dean  
College of Media  
119 Gregory Hall, MC-462  
810 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801



December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Kathy Martensen  
Assistant Provost  
207 Swanlund Administration Building  
MC – 304

Dear Kathy:

The College of Media's Courses & Curriculum Committee, on behalf of the faculty of the College, has reviewed and approved the attached proposals.

New Academic Program Proposal for an *Undergraduate Minor in Journalism*

The proposal is now ready for the Provost's review. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Parrott'.

Julian Parrott, Ed.D.  
Associate Dean