

From: [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#); [Reed, Katie](#)
Cc: [Martin, Andrew](#); [Nagar, Ila](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Jenkins, Mary Ellen](#)
Subject: Informational item--Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 9:41:16 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Public Affairs Journalism Informational Item 12-16-2025.pdf](#)

Dear Randy and Katie,

Please find attached an informational item to share at an upcoming CAA meeting.

Professor Ila Nagar, Chair of ASCC, shared the proposed changes as an informational item at the ASC Curriculum Committee meeting on Friday, January 16, 2026.

Best regards,
Bernadette



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Bernadette Vankeerbergen, Ph.D.

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December 16, 2025

Dear Members of the ASC Curriculum Committee:

I am writing this letter, as the Chair of the Journalism Committee in the School of Communication, to formally request that COMM 4445 (Stereotypes in Media) be added to the Critical Thinking Skills area of the Journalism Major.

I am making this request for two reasons. The first is that the content fits squarely within the Critical Thinking Skills domain for our journalism students. Understanding how stereotypes are deployed in the media (both intentionally and unintentionally) can have important consequences. By teaching students how to reflect upon these representations, we are helping to train our students to be more responsible consumers, and producers, of news. The second reason we are making this request is because a current course option in this area, COMM 3597.02 (Media and Terrorism), will not be offered for the foreseeable future due to a retirement. As such, including COMM 4445 as a consistent option – to replace 3597.02 – allows more flexibility for our students.

If you have any further questions about this request, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Hillary Shulman

Hillary C. Shulman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor | Journalism Program Chair

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JOURNALISM-BA**Public Affairs Journalism (PAJ)**

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 a 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 for application deadlines.

**Journalism DirectAdmit students should contact their advisor for information about the program review process.*

Course Name	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.

Course Name	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: Data Journalism in Enterprise Reporting (prereq of Comm3160/3163 is highly recommended)	4		

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

Course Name	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 3160: Communication Research Methods (prereq: Stat 1350, 1450 or equiv.)	4		
COMM 3163: Communication Industry Research Methods (prereq: Stat 1350, 1450 or equiv.)	4		

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

Course Name	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

Course Name	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: _____

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 <https://artsandsciences.osu.edu/academics/programs/minors> for minor curriculum information.

Students who feel that a different Arts and Sciences 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 for more information.

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES: Optional, not required

Course Name	Credits	Grade	Term
COMM 2210: News Design	3		
COMM 2511: Visual Communication Design	3		
COMM 3189**: Freelance Journalism Experience	3		
COMM 3225: Photojournalism	3		
COMM 3403: Sports Media	3		
COMM 3405: Lantern TV	3		
COMM 3425: Media Management	3		
COMM 4202: Feature Writing	3		
COMM 4406: Development of Mass Media in America	3		

*Repeatable up to 9 credits. Only 3 credits count towards major.

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COMM 4814: Political Communication	3		
COMM 4820: Public Opinion and Communication	3		

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COMM 4202: Feature Writing	3		

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School of Communication – Curricular Map - Journalism

Program learning goals

Goal 1. Students are knowledgeable about the principles of journalism within a social science framework and understand the role of public affairs journalism in society

Goal 2. Students are competent in the practice of multimedia journalism and adapt to an evolving field

Goal 3. Students are sufficiently trained and prepared for jobs in media and journalism

Curriculum map, indicating how program goals are accomplished via specific courses.

	I. Principles of Journalism	II. Skill Development	III. Professional/Career Preparation
Premajor			
1100	Basic		
1101	Basic		
Research Methods (1)			
3160		Intermediate	Advanced
Core Requirements			
2221	Intermediate	Intermediate	
2223		Intermediate	
3226	Intermediate	Intermediate	
3404 (H)			Advanced
4221			Advanced
Internship or Co-Op			
4190		Advanced	Intermediate
4191		Advanced	Intermediate

Critical Thinking (2 courses)	I. Principles of Journalism	II. Skill Development	III. Professional/Career Preparation
3224	Advanced		
3402	Intermediate		Intermediate
3440	Intermediate		Intermediate
3597.01/.02	Intermediate		Intermediate
4240	Advanced		Advanced
4445	Intermediate	Intermediate	
4814	Advanced		Advanced
4820(H)	Advanced		Advanced