

# DIGITAL JOURNALISM MAJOR

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Digital Journalism in the English department is a rigorous, 12-course program designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to understand and take part in today's quickly changing, digital journalism world. The major includes a large focus on ethics, consistent with Fairfield's mission, and a multidisciplinary approach that will draw on courses offered by other departments. It is inspired by the *eloquentia perfecta* approach to which the English Department aspires, consistent with Jesuit ideals.

The Digital Journalism major, alone or in combination with other majors and minors, will prepare students for professional careers in print and online journalism, broadcast journalism, technical writing, online writing, public relations, social media, marketing, law, and other fields. Students taking coursework in this major will build proficiency in media literacy and develop the ability to navigate the digital media spheres in their roles as civic leaders.

By completing a major in Digital Journalism, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate their ability to collect information and report on stories of public interest, using a conventional print format, social media tools like Twitter, and multimedia platform like WordPress.
- Demonstrate their ability to synthesize information from varied sources, including research, interviews, eyewitness accounts; analyze its veracity and usefulness; and build it into stories to help their audience understand an issue.
- Describe and debate the varied and sometimes conflicting roles of the press (to inform and amuse, educate and titillate, give readers what they want and what they need).
- Explain the privileges given to U.S. journalists through the First Amendment and the limitations – legal, ethical, and from professional standards – that guide and influence their work.
- Describe how the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and experience they develop in the program can be used in non-journalism settings such as law, public relations and marketing, and a variety of writing careers.
- Demonstrate their ability to write and communicate clearly across multiple platforms.

Students may start the Digital Journalism sequence as early as their freshman year. Students are also encouraged to gain experience from various campus media outlets such as the *Mirror*, WVOF, or Stag TV.

## Requirements

For a 36-credit major in Digital Journalism, students complete the following:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses</b>		
ENGL 1870	News Writing	3
ENGL 2370	News Writing II: Digital Design	3
ENGL 3330	Big Data Storytelling	3
Select three literature courses: <sup>1</sup>		9
Select one 1000-level English literature course		
Select one 2000-level English literature course		

Select one 3000-level English literature course

### Production Component Courses

Select two courses from the following: <sup>2</sup> 6

COMM 1108	Introduction to Sports Broadcasting
COMM 2252	Broadcast Communication
CPSC 1101	Introduction to Computing
CPSC 1131	Fundamentals of Programming
ENGL 3236	Issues in Professional Writing
ENGL 3340	Photojournalism
FTMA 1011	Introduction to Film and Video Production
FTMA 2231	Documentary Film Production

### Ethics Component Course

AETH 2281	Ethics of Communications	3
ENGL 2384	Media Law and Ethics	3

### Tier I: Digital Journalism Creation

Select at least one of the following: <sup>3</sup> 3-6

ENGL 1872	Introduction to Sports Writing
ENGL 2380	Journalism Editing and Design
ENGL 2382	The Power of Podcasting
ENGL 3160	Creative Writing: Nonfiction II
ENGL 3237	Multimedia Writing
ENGL 3320	Writing the Feature Story
ENGL 3350	Issues in News Writing
ENGL 3360	Literary Journalism
ENGL 3370	Sports Journalism
ENGL 4951	Journalism Practicum

### Tier II: Media Theory

Select up to one of the following: <sup>4</sup> 0-3

COMM 2231	Media Institutions
COMM 3331	American Media / American History
COMM 3334	Comparative Media Systems
COMM 3335	Globalization, Media, and Culture
COMM 4330	Misinformation in Digital Media
COMM 4336	Social Media

### Capstone Course

Select one course from the following: <sup>5</sup> 3

ENGL 4960	Independent Writing Project
ENGL 4980	Internship
ENGL 4951	Journalism Practicum

**Total Credits** 36

<sup>1</sup> Literature courses should be chosen in consultation with your advisor, with an eye toward those more relevant to the broad field of journalism.

<sup>2</sup> Students may substitute production courses with approval of the faculty advisor.

<sup>3</sup> Other courses in Film, Television, and Media Arts; Communication; or Public Relations may also be used if approved by a faculty advisor.

<sup>4</sup> COMM 1130 Mass Media and Society is a prerequisite for all Tier II courses.

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<sup>5</sup> Students may only use one internship and/or one Journalism Practicum course toward completion of the major or minor. Students may take a second internship and/or a second Journalism Practicum as a free elective toward graduation, but it does not count toward the major or minor.