

M.A. in Journalism and Public Affairs (Print/Economics)

(Degree Requirements, effective as of Academic Year 2009–2010)

The 33 credit hours of coursework must include:

Required SOC Courses	Semester	Grade
<p>COMM-624: Principles and Practices of Journalism An introduction to news reporting and news writing across media platforms, learning multimedia storytelling and development of some technology skills for the Web. Previous students have dubbed this course “Boot Camp” because of its intensity and difficulty. The three-week course introduces you to Washington, D.C., to essential principles for reporting on government and public affairs issues, and to the rigors of graduate-level work in SOC. Involves extensive field reporting and critiques, as well as career preparation through sessions with industry leaders and key alums. (Must earn “B” (3.0) or better)</p>	Summer 2009	
<p>COMM-535: Online News Production Writing and editing the online news publication, <i>The American Observer</i>. Improving grammar, learning AP style, editing, headline writing, good news judgment, story and visual selection, discussion of legal and ethical issues and trends in news coverage and audiences.</p>	Fall 2009	
<p>COMM-710: Seminar in Public Affairs Exploration of the rapidly changing world of journalism in the 21st century. A critical examination of important issues in contemporary journalism with an emphasis on confronting and challenging assumptions about the news media and their influence. Current issues in the making of domestic, international, and economic public policy in Washington with emphasis on the role of the media. Includes a major reporting project. (Must earn “B” (3.0) or better)</p>	Fall 2009	
<p>COMM-724: Reporting of Public Affairs Training in writing news as a Washington correspondent with emphasis on the coverage of domestic, international, and economic public policy issues. Students will learn news judgment, news writing, how to gather information, the rules of the Associated Press Stylebook, interviewing and note-taking skills, basic journalism ethics, resourcefulness and accountability.</p>	Fall 2009	
<p>Economics Course (see below)</p>	Fall 2009	
<p>COMM-545: Business and Economic Journalism Current economic and business issues and their coverage by the news media. The performance of the media in providing the necessary depth of business and economic reporting. How journalists can improve their knowledge and skills.</p>	Spring 2010	
<p>COMM-720: Seminar in Journalism Examines ethical and economic issues affecting the press and initiates studies to add to the literature of media criticism. Students become acquainted with team journalism and magazine writing through in-depth projects focusing on press issues. (Must earn “B” (3.0) or better)</p>	Spring 2010	
<p>COMM-621: Online News Production II Print and online production training in editing news and feature stories. Writing and editing the online news publication, <i>The American Observer</i>. Emphasis is on the dynamics of stories and the refinement of stories for publication. Advanced Editing (strongly recommended)</p>	Spring 2010	
<p>COMM-601: Legal Aspects of Communication Students will gain a working understanding of the American system of freedom of expression, a firm grasp of substantive mass communication law, working knowledge of the structure of the judicial system, a familiarity with legal reasoning and the skills needed to conduct fundamental legal research online. This course will focus on the U.S. Supreme Court’s legal rulings and the reasoning the justices apply to expand or limit the expressive rights of the press in the conventional mass media as well as the Internet.</p>	Spring 2010 or Summer 2010	
<p>Economics Course (see below)</p>	Spring 2010 or Summer 2010	
<p>Economics Course (see below)</p>	Spring 2010 or Summer 2010	

Required Economics Courses (9 credit hours from the following courses)	Semester	Grade
<p>ECON-500: Microeconomics Theory of resource allocation and price system; theory of demand, production, and distribution; and market structure and performance.</p>		
<p>ECON-501: Macroeconomics Keynesian model of income determination; consumption, investment, and interest rate theories; Keynesian and classical systems compared.</p>		
<p>ECON-546: Industrial Economics The structure of industrial markets and the behavior of business firms. Theoretical and empirical appraisal of welfare implications of alternative market structures and business behavior, both in the United States and abroad. Impacts of international influences on behavior of domestic firms.</p>		
<p>ECON-573: Labor Economics Contemporary theories of wages, employment, and prices; collective bargaining; the effect of collective bargaining on wages in the American economy; theories and empirical studies of wage differentials.</p>		
<p>ECON-579: Environmental Economics A systematic introduction to the policy issues associated with the changing role of energy and other resources in modern economics. Specifically, a microanalytic approach is used to evaluate complex policy problems associated with economic growth, energy development, and environmental externalities.</p>		
<p>ECON-603: Introduction to Economic Theory The major analytical tools of price and income theory.</p>		
<p>ECON-619: United States Economic History The pace and structure of economic growth, the institutional transformations involved in economic development, and the social and economic consequences of economic change in the United States since colonial times. Focus is on a variety of causal models and methods for explaining economic and institutional change.</p>		
<p>Comprehensive Exam: All students must take and pass the Comprehensive Exam, which is given every spring semester for this program.</p>	Spring 2010	