MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, MEDIA, INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

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For students who want to research, report and produce journalism that matters, Medill offers the combination of a top-ranked university and a best-in-class journalism education.

At Medill, reporting and writing are just the start. Students experiment with emerging media, explore global journalism and prepare not only to work in a changing media world but to lead it.

Students learn by doing, taking passions like social justice, politics, global affairs, entrepreneurship, technology, the arts or sports into expertise.

Medill’s curriculum allows students to solidify their writing and editing skills and comprises three components:

- The core curriculum is built to put all first-year students on the same page. In these core courses, Medill faculty teach reporting, writing, editing and thinking critically.
- In addition to those core classes, every student selects a concentration in a discipline outside Medill. This allows them to explore political science, history, economics, a foreign language, computer science and much more. Students take a wide variety of courses to ensure a well-rounded education.
- Finally, Medill offers a wide variety of journalism electives. Choose courses that will help you build expertise in the areas you are most passionate about.

Medill also offers a certificate in Integrated Marketing Communications. This allows students to learn how to use data and consumer insights to engage with customers today.

Developed at Medill, the IMC field includes marketing, strategic communications, advertising, digital strategy, social media, marketing analytics and more. Medill offers all Northwestern undergraduates the opportunity to learn more about integrated marketing communications by earning an IMC certificate. You will be eligible for an even wider range of career opportunities because business skills you will learn in the certificate program are applicable to journalism, media and many other fields.

Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Journalism

All Medill undergraduates pursue the bachelor of science in journalism degree. They must complete a minimum of 45 units to earn the BSJ. In addition to their studies in journalism, they acquire a strong background in the arts and sciences. The following policies apply:

- Independent of the requirements set by Medill, all students must satisfy the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/undergraduate-registration-requirement/).
- Of the 45 units, at least 27 must be earned in courses outside Medill and at least 14 Medill courses.
- Journalism students must acquire significant professional experience to earn the BSJ. The requirement may be satisfied through a 4-unit Journalism Residency.
- No course may be counted in more than one requirement category, with one exception: Medill students completing a double major in Weinberg College may apply courses used to meet Medill’s distribution requirements toward the second major.
- Exceptions to any degree requirements must be approved by the Medill Student Affairs. Petitions and rules for filing them are available on the Medill Canvas site.

Grade Requirements

Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.0 (C) in all nonjournalism courses taken for a letter grade and a minimum GPA of 2.25 (C+) in journalism courses. In addition, all journalism students are subject to the following grade requirements:

- The journalism GPA is an average of the grades (including F’s) in all journalism courses attempted.
- Students who earn a grade of D or worse in a journalism course must retake the course until they have earned a C– or better.
- When courses, including journalism courses, are repeated, both grades are computed in the GPA; one course does not substitute for another.
- Before starting Journalism Residency, students must earn a grade of C+ or better in JOUR 201-1 Reporting & Writing, JOUR 201-2 Multimedia Storytelling, JOUR 202-0 Philosophy of Modern Journalism, JOUR 301-0 Journalism in Practice or JOUR 301-1 Journalism in Practice, JOUR 302-0 Media History, JOUR 370-0 Media Law & Ethics and at least 2 300-level journalism courses outside the core requirement.
- Students may earn grades of D or worse in no more than one-fifth of the courses taken at Northwestern and offered for graduation.
- Students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirements are placed on academic probation. Continued poor performance will result in further academic disciplinary action, including academic probation, suspension, or dismissal.
- Medill undergraduates are required to take the following courses for letter grades (A, A–, B+, B, B–, C+, C, C–, D, F):
  - All distribution requirements
  - All journalism courses except Journalism Residency
  - Courses for the foreign language requirement
  - WCAS concentration courses
- Other courses may be taken pass/no credit (P/N) if that option is available. No more than 3 courses taken P/N may be counted toward the 45 units required for graduation (excluding Journalism Residency). Only 1 course per quarter may be taken P/N.

Academic Policies

Academic Warning, Probation, and Dismissal

The University’s policies about academic probation and dismissal are on the Academic Standing (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/student-status/academic-standing/) page. Medill adheres to these policies with the following exceptions and additions:
A warning letter is sent by email when the student
• Has a GPA below a C (2.0) for one quarter but a cumulative GPA
  above 2.5.
• Receives a grade of D, F, W, X, or Y.
• Merits probation for any reason during his or her first two quarters at Northwestern.

• Academic probation occurs when the student
  • Fails to maintain a C+ average (2.25) in journalism courses.
  • Receives a D or an F in a journalism course.
  • Fails to fulfill the journalism curriculum requirements.
  • Receives more than one grade of W, X, or Y in any one quarter.
  • Has earned consistently low grades over multiple quarters.
• Students receiving academic warning or probation must meet with
  their academic adviser and/or the Associate Dean for journalism to
develop a plan for improvement.
• Academic standing may affect a student’s eligibility to participate in
  any of Medill’s off-campus programming.

Medill Integrity Code
All Medill students are required to uphold the Medill Integrity Code,
which, among other things, requires adherence to principles of honesty,
fairness, and integrity in academic efforts and related professional media,
journalism, and marketing communications work, whether students are
in school, on an internship or a job, or acting as volunteers in a professional
or academic activity.

Academic Options
Dual Bachelor’s Degree Program
Northwestern offers talented students the opportunity to earn in five
years both a BSJ from Medill and a BMus degree from the Bienen School
of Music. This dual bachelor’s degree program prepares exceptional
students for journalism careers emphasizing music and arts reporting.
Prospective students typically apply to this joint program when they
apply for undergraduate admission to Northwestern. For a detailed
description of the dual-degree program, see the Dual Bachelor’s Degrees (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/dual-bachelors-degrees/) page.

Integrated Marketing Communications Certificate Program
The Integrated Marketing Communications Certificate Program focuses
on effective marketing communications strategies, tactics, and tools
for an increasingly consumer-controlled environment. It prepares
students for entry-level marketing communications positions in such
fields as advertising, public relations, corporate communications, and
direct, database, e-commerce, and interactive marketing. Students
who receive the undergraduate IMC certificate and are admitted into
the full-time MSIMC program within five years of their undergraduate
graduation can complete the master’s program in just four quarters,
rather than the five quarters required for students without the certificate.
See the Integrated Marketing Communications Certificate (https://
catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/journalism-media-integrated-
marketing-communications/integrated-marketing-communications/
integrated-marketing-communications-certificate/) page and the Medill
website for more information.

Bay Area Immersion Experience
At the new Northwestern educational space based in downtown San
Francisco and anchored by Medill and McCormick, students learn
from and contribute to the Bay Area’s entrepreneurial culture through a
customized immersion experience. Students who apply and are accepted
into the program take four courses that focus on experiential learning
in, and critical thinking about, areas such as design innovation, digital
communication, and the intersection of technology and culture.

Medill Investigative Lab
Through real-time, on-the-ground reporting in Chicago, Washington, D.C.
and beyond, students in the Medill Investigative Lab probe power brokers
and programs that promise to provide a safety net to tens of millions
of vulnerable Americans. Through this high-profile program, students
learn to think, research and write like an investigative reporter, publishing
groundbreaking social justice stories from the ground up. Undergraduate
and graduate students at Medill apply to take part in the lab and spend
two terms—one in Evanston or Chicago and one in Washington, D.C.—
working side-by-side with veteran journalists on an investigation of
national importance.

Medill on the Hill Program
A select group of Medill students may study for one quarter in Medill’s
Washington, DC, news bureau. These students take two intensive
journalism electives and a political science course approved by Weinberg
College.

Medill on the Hill is an interdisciplinary program that exposes students
to the challenging dynamics of Capitol Hill, public policy, political
organizations, think tanks, and federal agencies. It is best suited to
students interested in learning more about the political process and
covering important national and global issues from the nation’s capital in
a rigorous, web-driven reporting environment.

Internships, Field Studies, and Special Programs
Internship employment may be available to Medill students, particularly
during the summer. Many employers look to Medill for talented journalists
who can be introduced to their organizations through internships. The
school encourages these opportunities as a means of enriching students’
education but gives academic credit only for Journalism Residency.

Medill students also may seek internship or field study credit
through other schools at Northwestern. If these experiences involve
work in journalism (newspaper, magazine, radio, television), mass
communications, public relations, advertising, and/or direct marketing,
students should communicate with their academic adviser before
applying internship or field study credit to the 45 units required for the
BSJ degree.

ROTC Course Credits
ROTC course credits may be used as part of the 45 units required for
graduation. They are considered elective courses.

Early Graduation
Students who plan to graduate early must meet with an academic adviser
at least three quarters before the expected date of graduation. These
students also should check with the Office of the Registrar to make sure
they have fulfilled the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (https://
catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/
undergraduate-registration-requirement/).
Advising
Each entering student is assigned an academic adviser in Medill Student Affairs. Advisers offer support and guidance and are valuable sources of information regarding courses and career goals.

Advisers help students make the most of their time at the University. They assist students with a variety of issues, including course planning, degree requirements, registration, study abroad, interschool transfers, petitions to graduate, and resources within and outside Medill.

Medill Career Development and Advising helps students through career advising and employment services. It works with academic departments and individual faculty members, student services, employers, alumni, and other constituencies to enhance student and alumni career development.

Activities
Through student publications, student broadcast media, and professional organizations, Medill students have many journalism-related opportunities outside the classroom.

Professional organizations that promote high standards among journalists maintain chapters on campus, including the Society of Professional Journalists, the Native American Journalists Association, the Asian American Student Journalists student group, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. Top scholars in the senior and graduate classes are initiated into Kappa Tau Alpha, the national journalism honor society.