

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE/MASTER OF ARTS
GAYLORD COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Academic Year
For Students Entering the Oklahoma State System for Higher Education Summer 2026 through Spring 2027

General Requirements	
Minimum Total Credit Hours	143-144
Minimum Upper-Division Hours	48
Major Hours	48
Upper-Division Hours within Major	21-30
Minimum Retention/Graduation Grade Point Averages:	
Overall - Combined and OU	3.00
Major - Combined and OU	3.00
Last 60 hours	3.00

Program
Journalism/Journalism and Mass Communication
A610/F610 Q394
Bachelor of Science/Master of Arts

OU encourages students to complete at least 29 hours of applicable coursework each year to have the opportunity to graduate in 5 years.

GENERAL EDUCATION AND COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Courses for fulfillment of General Education and College of Journalism requirements must be from the approved General Education course list. **Courses graded S/U or P/NP will not apply.**

MINIMUM OF 40 HOURS REQUIRED FOR UNIVERSITY-WIDE GENERAL EDUCATION

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Area I: Symbolic and Oral Communication		
<i>English Composition</i>		
ENGL 1113	Principles of English Composition	3
ENGL 1213	Principles of English Composition	3
or EXPO 1213	Expository Writing	
<i>Language</i>		
(0-10 hours, 2 courses in the same language) May be met by successful completion of 2 years of the same language in high school (additional language requirement – see below)		
	Beginning Course	0-5
	Beginning Course, continued	0-5
<i>Mathematics</i>		
	Choose one course	3
Core Area II: Natural Science		
	Choose two courses from different disciplines; one must include a laboratory	7
Core Area III: Social Science		
P SC 1113	American Federal Government	3
	Choose one course	3
Core Area IV: Arts and Humanities		
<i>Artistic Forms</i>		
	Choose one course	3
<i>Western Culture</i>		
HIST 1483	United States to 1865	3
or HIST 1493	United States, 1865 to the Present	
	Choose one course (excluding HIST 1483 and HIST 1493)	3
<i>World Culture</i>		
	Choose one course	3
Core Area V: First-Year Experience		
	Choose one course	3
Total Credit Hours		37-47

ADDITIONAL GAYLORD COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Western Culture		
	Choose one upper-division course outside the major and in addition to University General Education Core IV	3
Language or Humanities		
	Choose one from:	0-3
	a language course at the intermediate level or demonstrated competency at that level	
	Upper-division (3000-4000) level Humanities course must be from Artistic Forms, Western Civilization & Culture, or World Culture	
Total Credit Hours		3-6

FREE ELECTIVES

Electives to bring total applicable hours to the minimum total required for the degree including 48 upper-division hours.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A maximum of 50 hours of Journalism and Mass Communication may be counted in the 120 hours required for graduation. No student will be awarded a BS in Journalism degree without completing at least 70 semester credit hours outside the College.

A grade of C or better is required in all Journalism and Mass Communication courses.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
JMC Core		
JMC 1013	Introduction to Media	3
JMC 2033	Media Writing & Storytelling	3
JMC 4813	Media Law	3
Foundational Courses		
	Choose 5 of the following 6 courses:	5
JMC 1031	Principles of American Journalism	
JMC 1041	Visual Literacy	
JMC 1051	Digital Literacy	
JMC 1061	Journalism Writing & Editing	
JMC 1071	News Judgment & Interviewing	
JMC 1081	Reporting with Numbers	
Intermediate Courses		
JMC 3013	Intermediate Cross-Platform Reporting	3
JMC 3663	Visual Reporting	3
JMC 3683	Digital Reporting	3
JMC 4013	Essential Reporting	3
JMC 4833	Journalism Ethics	3
Advanced Courses		
JMC 4033	Advancing Cultural Proficiency in Media Leadership	3
JMC 4183	Advanced Cross-Platform Reporting	3
JMC 4803	History of Media	3
JMC 4863	Journalism, Ethics and Democracy	3
Journalism Electives		
	Choose two courses (6 hours) from a list maintained by the department. Suggested courses include:	6
JMC 3023	Long Form Storytelling	
JMC 3043	Community Journalism	
JMC 3083	Business of Media	
JMC 3103	News Editing	
JMC 3143	Photojournalism	
JMC 3703	Backpack Reporting	
JMC 3773	Television News	
JMC 4363	Data Journalism	
JMC 4683	Multimedia Content Management	
JMC 4970	Special Topics (Approved topics: Social Media Strategies, The Listening Project, Innovators in Journalism, Reporting in D.C.)	
Practicum		
JMC 3011	Practicum	1
Total Credit Hours		48

REQUIRED MINOR

All Gaylord College students pursuing a baccalaureate major are also required to complete an academic minor of their choice in accordance to JMC policies.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Choose a minor	15-21
Total Credit Hours		15-21

GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS ¹**THESIS OPTION**

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Core		
JMC 5073	Conceptual Issues in Graduate Study in Journalism and Mass Comm	3
JMC 5093	Introduction to Research Methods in Mass Communication	3
JMC 5083	Mass Communication Theory	3
JMC 5113	Qualitative Research Methods	3
or JMC 5133	Quantitative Research Methods	
JMC 5091	Thesis/Project Seminar	1
Electives		
Choose 9 hours of JMC Electives (6 hours shared) ¹		9
Choose 6 hours of Non-JMC Electives (3 hours shared) ¹		6
Thesis		
JMC 5980	Research for Master's Thesis	4
Total Credit Hours		32

¹ 9 hours shared credit.

PROJECT OPTION

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
JMC 5073	Conceptual Issues in Graduate Study in Journalism and Mass Comm	3
JMC 5093	Introduction to Research Methods in Mass Communication	3
JMC 5063	Readings in Mass Communication	3
Choose 3 credits in the following:		3
JMC 5001	Professional Practices	
JMC 5091	Thesis/Project Seminar	1
Electives		
Choose 10 hours of JMC Electives (6 hours shared) ¹		10
Choose 6 hours of Non-JMC Electives (3 hours shared) ¹		6
Project		
JMC 5880	Graduate Project	4
Total Credit Hours		33

¹ 9 hours shared credit.

More information in the catalog: (<http://ou-public.courseleaf.com/gaylord-journalism-mass-communication/journalism-bachelor-science-journalism-mass-communication-master-arts/>).

INFORMATION CONCERNING GENERAL RULES, REGULATIONS AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Information regarding Total Hours; Hours by Examination, Correspondence Study and/or Extension; Repeat of Failed Coursework; and Requirements for Full Admission to the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication can be found in the catalog under Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication: Undergraduate Study.

Attendance: Students who do not attend a JMC class or lab on the first day of classes may be dropped from the class or lab.

Transfer Work: Students may transfer in a maximum of 12 credit hours of journalism and mass communication coursework prior to full admission to the Gaylord College. Once fully admitted to the college, students may petition the faculty to have an additional three (3) credit hours from an outside ACEJMC institution applied to their University of Oklahoma degree. A maximum of fifteen (15) credit hours of JMC transfer coursework may be applied to a degree.

Individual Studies (e.g., courses titled "Independent Study"): A maximum of 12 total semester hours may be counted toward graduation.

Senior Institution Hours: A minimum of 60 semester hours applied toward graduation must be earned at senior (4-year) institutions.

Residency:

- A minimum of 30 semester hours acceptable toward graduation must be earned in residence at OU, including at least 15 of the last 30 hours applied toward the degree.
- At least 15 semester hours of upper-division major work must be completed in residence at OU.
- OU correspondence courses are not considered resident credit.
- Credits earned via examination are neither resident nor nonresident credit.

Application for Graduation: Students must apply for graduation during the term in which they complete their degree requirements in order to graduate in that term. Application forms are available in the Student Services Center, 2533 Gaylord Hall. The deadline for completion of all coursework to graduate in a particular term is the last day of classes in that term.

SUGGESTED SEMESTER PLAN OF STUDY

- **Apply for Admission to the Accelerated BS/MA program.** Student must be a current undergraduate student at Gaylord College, have a minimum GPA of 3.5 overall, and must have completed 60 credits to be eligible to apply. Student may only apply for the area of the program in which they currently major. For more information, please visit www.ou.edu/gaylord.
- **Student must have completed 97 credit hours to be admitted to the program.**
- **Students are eligible for graduate status upon graduation with the BS in Journalism.**
- This plan of study should not be used in lieu of academic advisement.

Year	FIRST SEMESTER		Hours	SECOND SEMESTER		Hours
FRESHMAN	ENGL 1113	Principles of English Composition (Core I)	3	ENGL 1213 or EXPO 1213	Principles of English Composition (Core I) or Expository Writing	3
	HIST 1483 or HIST 1493	United States to 1865 (Core IV) or United States, 1865 to the Present	3	JMC 2033	Media Writing & Storytelling	3
	JMC 1013	Introduction to Media	3		MATH (Core I)	3
		Beginning Language (Core I)	5	P SC 1113	American Federal Government (Core III)	3
		First-Year Experience (Core V)	3		Beginning Language continued (Core I)	5
	CREDIT HOURS		17	CREDIT HOURS		17
SOPHOMORE		JMC Foundational Courses (choose three)	3	JMC 3011	Practicum	1
		Natural Science with lab (Core II)	4		JMC Foundational Courses (choose 2)	2
		Artistic Forms (Core IV)	3	JMC 3663	Visual Reporting	3
		Choose one of the following:	3		Natural Science without lab (Core II)	3
		Intermediate Language			World Culture (Core IV)	3
		Upper-Division Humanities (Core IV) Artistic Forms, Western Civilization & Culture, or World Culture			Social Science (Core III)	3
	Free Elective, lower- or upper-division					
	CREDIT HOURS		13	CREDIT HOURS		15
JUNIOR	JMC 3013	Intermediate Cross-Platform Reporting	3	JMC 3683	Digital Reporting	3
	JMC 3663	Visual Reporting	3	JMC 4013	Essential Reporting	3
		Western Culture (Core IV)	3	JMC 4833	Journalism Ethics	3
		Free Elective, lower- or upper-division	3		JMC Major Elective, upper-division (3000-4000-level)	3
		Free Elective, lower- or upper-division	3		JMC Major Elective, upper-division (3000-4000-level)	3
		Free Elective, lower- or upper-division	1		Upper-division Western Culture outside major (Gen. Ed.)	3
	CREDIT HOURS		16	CREDIT HOURS		18
SENIOR	JMC 4033	Advancing Cultural Proficiency in Media Leadership	3	JMC 4813	Media Law	3
	JMC 4803	History of Media	3	JMC 4863	Journalism, Ethics and Democracy	3
	JMC 4183	Advanced Cross-Platform Reporting	3		Shared Graduate Credit +5000 (Non JMC Course) (BA+MA degree credit)	3
		Shared Graduate Credit +5000 (BA+MA degree credit)	3	JMC 5063 or JMC 5083	Readings in Mass Communication (MA degree credit) or Mass Communication Theory	3
		Shared Graduate Credit +5000 (BA+MA degree credit)	3	JMC 5091	Thesis/Project Seminar (MA degree credit)	1
	JMC 5073	Conceptual Issues in Graduate Study in Journalism and Mass Comm (MA degree credit)	3			
	CREDIT HOURS		18	CREDIT HOURS		13
FIFTH YEAR		Choose one of the following:	8-9		Choose one of the following:	7-9
		Thesis			Thesis	
		Project			Project	
	CREDIT HOURS		9-8	CREDIT HOURS		7-9
FIFTH YEAR		Thesis Option			Thesis Option	
	JMC 5093	Introduction to Research Methods in Mass Communication	3	JMC 5113 or JMC 5133	Qualitative Research Methods or Quantitative Research Methods	3
		JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)	3	JMC 5980	Research for Master's Thesis	4
		5000 level elective (Non JMC)	3			
	CREDIT HOURS		9	CREDIT HOURS		7
FIFTH YEAR		Project Option			Project Option	
	JMC 5093	Introduction to Research Methods in Mass Communication	3	JMC 5880	Graduate Project	4
		Choose one of the following:	3		Choose one of the following:	3
		JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)			JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)	
		5000 level elective (Non JMC)			5000 level elective (Non JMC)	
	JMC 5001	Professional Practices	1	JMC 5001	Professional Practices	1
JMC 5001	Professional Practices	1		JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)	1	
	CREDIT HOURS		8	CREDIT HOURS		9

THESIS OPTION

Fifth Year		Credit Hours
First Semester		
Thesis Option		
JMC 5093	Introduction to Research Methods in Mass Communication	3
JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)		3
5000 level elective (Non JMC)		3
Credit Hours		9
Second Semester		
Thesis Option		
JMC 5113 or JMC 5133	Qualitative Research Methods or Quantitative Research Methods	3
JMC 5980	Research for Master's Thesis	4
Credit Hours		7
Total Credit Hours		16

PROJECT OPTION

Fifth Year		Credit Hours
First Semester		
Project Option		
JMC 5093	Introduction to Research Methods in Mass Communication	3
Choose one of the following:		3
JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)		
5000 level elective (Non JMC)		
JMC 5001	Professional Practices	1
JMC 5001	Professional Practices	1
Credit Hours		8
Second Semester		
Project Option		
JMC 5880	Graduate Project	4
Choose one of the following:		3
JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)		
5000 level elective (Non JMC)		
JMC 5001	Professional Practices	1
JMC 5000 Elective (JMC)		1
Credit Hours		9
Total Credit Hours		17