

Journalism



Journalism is the collection and distribution of current news and information. Journalists write, photograph, manage, edit, record video, publish and present news for the public through various forms of media including online publications, newspapers, magazines, specialty publications catering to unique audiences, radio and television. It is essential to the functioning of all democratic societies.

In our program, public relations is taught in the Journalism curriculum. It is a strong and growing career field that benefits from a deep awareness of journalistic skills and concepts. Special courses focused on public relations further prepare students for in-demand careers including social and digital media.

Program Details

Our program provides you with a broad-based liberal arts education combined with various skills and theory courses. Students have a high degree of success in obtaining internships and viable employment through our vast network of alumni and organizations.

The major in journalism prepares you to function effectively in a multimedia and multicultural environment, using ethics in communication while maintaining the professional standards of journalism.

Engaged Learning

Journalism students often work on the independent student newspaper, The Northern Star, and are able to gain valuable experience. A campus institution, the Star has been in publication since 1899. Our students regularly join the newspaper's staff as reporters, photographers, editors and more.

Professional Development

You can work individually with faculty members on independent study courses. You can also join several journalistic and/or public relations advocacy organizations, such as the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), Students in Illinois News Broadcasters Association (SINBA), Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society and the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Communication

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

B.A. or B.S. in Journalism

The major requires a minimum of 36 credit hours in journalism courses. This major also requires students to complete a minor or a second major.

The exact requirements for the major can be found at go.niu.edu/journalismrequirements

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niu.edu/comm



Journalism/PR Courses Include:

- Opinion and article writing and editing
- Broadcast television news production
- News reporting and news editing
- Photojournalism and graphic design
- Research and information gathering
- Contemporary issues in journalism
- Critical analysis of news
- Media convergence
- History of journalism
- International journalism
- Mass media and society
- News and entertainment
- Public relations principles and writing
- Topics courses in Online/Social Media and Sports Journalism

Careers in Journalism/PR

- Correspondent
- Public Relations Representative
- Publicity Manager
- Reporter
- Photographer
- News Writer
- Photojournalist
- Production Manager
- Copy Editor
- Camera Operator
- Newspaper or Magazine Editor
- Layout and Page Designer
- Columnist
- Editorial Writer
- Newscaster
- Social Media Manager

Who Studied Journalism at NIU?

- Erika Wilson, B.A. '15**
News Producer at WHEC-TV – Rochester, NY
- Mike Buda, B.A. '11**
Sports Director at WIFR – Rockford, IL
- Janel Sheehan, B.S. '07**
Interactive Designer
- Kartikay Mehrotra, B.A. '05**
Legal Reporter at Bloomberg News
- Markos Moulitsas Zúniga, B.A. '96**
Founder and Publisher of The Daily Kos, co-Founder of Vox Media
- Patrick Sandusky, B.A. '87**
Chief External Affairs Officer for United States Olympic Committee
- Mark Ricotta, B.A. '85, M.A. '00**
Public Relations Specialist
- Robert Allegrini, B.A. '85**
Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, Hilton Worldwide
- Peter Gross, B.S. '71**
Professor and former Director of University of Tennessee School of Journalism and Electronic Media



**Northern Illinois
University**