Journalism, M.J.

LEW KLEIN COLLEGE OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

About the Program

Temple’s one-year Master of Journalism program directly engages with the rich and diverse communities of Philadelphia. Coursework and reporting projects focus on the problems and opportunities of urban life. Hands-on multimedia work is combined with the study of journalism’s evolving roles and practices. Students learn by experiencing what it is like to work in today’s ever-changing media environment. In recognition of the exciting evolution underway in the news industry, the program is designed to help current and aspiring journalists develop into engaged and innovative professionals.

The program benefits greatly from its location at Temple University in the fourth-largest media market in the United States, one ripe with innovation. Philadelphia is full of journalistic initiatives, including startups and nonprofits that are rethinking metropolitan, niche, and ethnic media. The city’s daily newspapers are owned by a nonprofit organization, an experiment many hope will represent a path to sustainability for news organizations around the country. Students interact with journalists and innovators from these organizations. The program takes advantage of rich reporting opportunities in the Philadelphia area, a city with a vibrant culture, a highly diverse population, and significant challenges common to other cities, including crime, development controversies, economic inequity, educational equity, and race relations. Because these issues are ongoing, they are sometimes underreported in the city’s mainstream news media. The Urban Reporting Lab and the capstone reporting project provide opportunities for M.J. students to tackle such problems in innovative ways as they pursue their graduate education and seek to make a difference.

The one-year, 30-credit program is designed to provide rigorous training as a cohort experience, encouraging students to work together and learn from one another as well as Master of Journalism faculty, local journalists, and other innovators. This process begins with an immersive training experience before the first academic term and ends with a capstone project in the summer term in which students do independent reporting work with the goal of producing a journalistic masterwork.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 4 years

Campus Location: Main

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: The degree program is expected to be completed on a full-time basis.

Areas of Specialization: Coursework is demanding and prepares students to work as professional journalists in the media of their choice. Specialized training is available in broadcast journalism, community journalism, entrepreneurial journalism, investigative reporting, podcasting, and various forms of digital journalism. Students develop a specialization through an elective course and a self-guided capstone project.

Job Prospects: The program is dedicated to training professional practitioners in journalism and media careers. Former students have also found success as freelancers and entrepreneurs.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Non-matriculated students are encouraged to begin with introductory and required courses. If accepted to the program, those courses may be applied toward the degree program, provided grade requirements have been met. Consistent with Graduate School regulations, students are permitted to take up to 9 credits before deciding whether to apply formally to the program.

Financing Opportunities: The program offers limited scholarships for outstanding applicants.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall: February 15

Applications are accepted after this date but cannot be guaranteed full scholarship consideration.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

Letters of Reference:

Number Required: 2

From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained from college/university faculty members, professional supervisors, or others familiar with the applicant’s academic and professional competence. At least one letter should be from an academic reference.

Bachelor’s Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A baccalaureate degree is required for admission. Applicants with undergraduate degrees in fields other than journalism and communication are welcome provided they can demonstrate sufficient interest in and proficiency with journalistic communication and practice.

Statement of Goals: In approximately 1,000 words, explain:
• your interest in journalism and your view of its place in society,
• your career goals in journalism, and
• your interests, experiences, and the academic or professional achievements you bring to the program.

This statement is used to assess “fit,” or how you will benefit from our program and what you will contribute to our learning community. Toward this end, please review the descriptions of our program, curriculum, and faculty, and incorporate this content into your statement. The strongest statement integrates your answers to the above prompts into a coherent essay.

**Standardized Test Scores:**
GRE: Optional. Scores submitted are preferred to be at least 65% on the verbal section with a writing score of at least 3.5. If you elect to not submit GRE scores, a writing sample is required.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master’s degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 105
- IELTS Academic: 7.0
- PTE Academic: 72

**Resume:** Current resume required.

**Writing Sample:** Strongly encouraged, but required if not submitting GRE scores. Published journalistic works (e.g., in professional outlets or college media) are preferred as a writing sample. You may also submit a formal academic paper from your undergraduate studies that represents your best writing. In this case, please indicate on a cover sheet when, for what course, and at which institution the paper was produced.

**Transfer Credit:** Graduate credits from an accredited institution may be transferred into the M.J. program, subject to approval of the Master of Journalism committee. Requests to transfer credits must be submitted during the first term of matriculation so that the student’s future curriculum can be planned. The maximum number of credits a student may transfer is 6.

**Program Requirements**

**General Program Requirements:**

*Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate:* 30

**Required Courses:**

### Year 1

#### Summer II
- JRN 5301 Introduction to Urban Journalism 3

#### Fall
- JRN 5302 Urban Reporting Lab 1 6
- JRN 5303 Journalism Concepts 3
- JRN 5304 Editing the News 3

#### Spring
- JRN 5305 Urban Reporting Lab 2 6
- JRN 5306 Journalism and the Public Interest 3
- JRN Elective 3

#### Year 2

#### Summer I
- JRN 5307 Capstone Reporting Experience 3

**Total Credit Hours:** 30

**Culminating Events:**

*Capstone Project:*
JRN 5307 Capstone Reporting Experience constitutes the culminating event.

Contacts
Program Web Address:
https://klein.temple.edu/academics/graduate-programs/master-journalism

Department Information:
Master of Journalism Program
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215-204-8560

Submission Address for Application Materials:
https://apply.temple.edu/Klein/

Department Contacts:
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Chairperson:
David Mindich, Ph.D.
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Courses
JRN 5001. Crit Perspectives Journ. 3 Credit Hours.
This course examines the concepts and functions of journalism in American society. Students explore underlying values associated with journalism, relationships among journalism and other social institutions, and current issues facing journalists. Students will also examine the nature of journalistic content.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5002. Reporting and Writing I. 4 Credit Hours.
Accelerated, in-depth instruction in various forms of writing, nature of news, structuring news stories, style, information gathering, copy editing fundamentals, with emphasis on multimedia reporting.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5004. Computer-Assisted Reporting and Research. 4 Credit Hours.
Computer-based exploration of the Internet, World Wide Web, databases and on-line libraries to develop information gathering and presentation skills. Research approaches and data analysis emphasized.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
JRN 5005. Communication Law. 3 Credit Hours.
Legal and philosophical study of government regulation of information transmission from 15th century to the present. Emphasis on legal descriptive research methods.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5012. Reporting and Writing II. 3 Credit Hours.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5002|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

JRN 5013. Editing the News II. 3 Credit Hours.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5003|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

JRN 5102. International Reporting. 3 Credit Hours.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5002|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

JRN 5121. Magazine Writing. 3 Credit Hours.

Intended for graduate students who want to write non-fiction for a variety of publications and outlets. It will examine the styles of various writers and publications; development of ideas into saleable magazine articles for major periodical publications.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5002|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

JRN 5151. Literary Writing in Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.

This graduate-level course will examine the 50-year trend, begun by the New Journalism of the 1960s, which uses the storytelling techniques of fiction and the documentation of journalism to create works of powerfully-told emotional truth.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5002|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

JRN 5201. The American Magazine. 4 Credit Hours.

Analysis of content, editorial policy and trends in American magazine journalism; discussion of publishing procedures; marketing, circulation, and advertising problems; reader research. Class project: create prototype issue of magazine, with prospectus, advertising, and promotional materials.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5001|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.
**JRN 5211. Media Management. 4 Credit Hours.**
Comparison of the organizational structures of news media; editorial content, advertising, circulation, and business aspects.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5001|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

**JRN 5212. The Entrepreneurial Journalist. 3 Credit Hours.**
New opportunities exist for aggressive journalists. In this course, we'll discuss the various ways to be a content generator - from freelancing to blogging, from starting magazines and newspapers to creating multimedia web sites.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5001|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

**JRN 5213. Solutions Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.**
This course introduces students to the practice of solutions-oriented reporting, an outcome-focused form of journalism, and assesses its impact on communities and issues. Students will develop reporting projects on specific solutions-based themes.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**JRN 5221. Journalism and Mass Communication History. 3 Credit Hours.**
Study of the technological and social development of communication systems from ancient to present times with emphasis on historical/descriptive research methods.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5001|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

**JRN 5251. Mass Communication Research Methods. 4 Credit Hours.**
This course offers a study of the methods for researching journalism and mass communication, including quantitative and qualitative approaches.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**JRN 5252. Models of Journalism Around the World. 3 Credit Hours.**
This course introduces students to current issues, debates, and practices relating to the dissemination of news in a global context. We will first examine and discuss the key theoretical concepts associated with the creation, distribution, and reception of news in an increasingly global environment, as well as the broader debates surrounding issues of transnational influence. In the second half of the semester, we will take a closer look at the current nature and organization of media systems in various parts of the world through a number of case studies. By the end of the semester students will be familiar with the global context in which news is produced and distributed, and demonstrate a critical understanding of the challenges and concerns facing both American journalists covering international issues and foreign journalists operating in different media environments.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**
JRN 5001|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.
JRN 5301. Introduction to Urban Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is a bootcamp designed to ensure all incoming students have the skills necessary to dive into the Urban Reporting Lab in the fall semester. It covers (1) News literacy: how consume news, and why. What is a news story? How does it get produced? What should it accomplish? (2) Storytelling tools: an overview of the mediums and technologies involved in multimedia storytelling.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5302. Urban Reporting Lab 1. 6 Credit Hours.
This is a coached, multimedia news production class in which students cover urban issues, publishing their work on the lab's news site and developing areas of individual expertise. This work is continued in JRN 5305, Urban Reporting Lab 2.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5303. Journalism Concepts. 3 Credit Hours.
This weekly seminar gives students an overview of the norms and philosophies that guide journalistic practice, with a particular emphasis on journalism's role in the social, cultural, political and historical fabric of the city. Students will learn about the professional concepts that will guide their work as journalists while also understanding how those concepts have developed over time and contribute to journalism’s role in society.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5304. Editing the News. 3 Credit Hours.
Accelerated, in-depth instruction in AP style, copy editing, legal problems of the editor, editorial judgment, accuracy, fairness, clarity, balance in copy, headline writing, fundamentals of page makeup and design, use of photography, tables, graphs, charts and maps.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5305. Urban Reporting Lab 2. 6 Credit Hours.
This course is a continuation of Urban Reporting Lab 1. Students work together to tackle a single, urban problem, issue, or topic that the class chooses together, producing a regular stream of news to be published on a collectively owned, multimedia, data-centric class website. Students may hone a chosen specialization through this course by having a particular role in the class project.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites:
JRN 5302|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

JRN 5306. Journalism and the Public Interest. 3 Credit Hours.
This course prepares students to work in an ethical way as responsible members of their profession and their communities. It covers the ethical aspects of technological and economic change, the main legal issues that journalists face, the challenges of reporting on powerful institutions, and journalists' obligations to their subjects and audiences.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

JRN 5307. Capstone Reporting Experience. 3 Credit Hours.
In this class, students do their own independent reporting projects, within an area of specialization if appropriate. The goal is to produce a journalistic masterwork (analogous to a thesis) that will lead to professional publication.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
JRN 5601. Temple Journalism Review. 3 Credit Hours.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
Pre-requisites: (JRN 5012|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently
AND JRN 5013|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently)

JRN 5602. Documentary Journalism. 3 Credit Hours.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
Pre-requisites: (JRN 5012|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently
AND JRN 5013|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently)

JRN 5603. Urban Reporting Lab. 3 Credit Hours.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
Pre-requisites: (JRN 5012|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently
AND JRN 5013|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently)

JRN 5700. Seminars in Communication. 4 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5710. Seminars in Communication. 4 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5720. Seminars in Communication. 4 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5730. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5740. Seminars in Communication. 4 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5750. Seminars in Communication. 4 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
JRN 5760. Seminars in Communication. 4 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5770. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5780. Seminars in Communication. 4 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5790. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5800. Seminars in Communication. 3 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5810. Seminars in Communication. 2 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5820. Seminars in Communication. 2 Credit Hours.
Special-topic courses in a broad range of communication areas including print and broadcast news, magazines, and new technologies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5890. Seminars in Communication Abroad. 6 Credit Hours.
Subject matter and location vary each semester. Please consult the Course Schedule for further information.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5982. Directed Projects. 1 to 8 Credit Hour.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

JRN 5983. Directed Readings Comm. 1 to 4 Credit Hour.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
JRN 5986. Internship. 1 to 4 Credit Hour.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.