

PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING

Catalog Year: Fall 2025

NAME: _____

ENUMBER: _____



GENERAL EDUCATION

LANGUAGE: 9 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
ENG 1001G: Comp & Lang	3		
ENG 1002G: Comp & Lit	3		
CMN 1310G: Intro to Speech	3		

MATH: 3 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Exempt?	Yes	No	
Course	Hours	Grade	Semester

FINE ARTS/HUMANITIES: 9 HRS

Type	Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
Fine Art				
Humanity				
Fine Art/ Humanity				

SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS: 7 HRS

Type	Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
Bio Science				
Phys Science				
Lab				

SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: 9 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
JOU 2001G: Journalism & Democracy	3		
PLS 1153G: American Gov't & Constitution	3		

SENIOR SEM: Requirement met by major capstone class

PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING MAJOR (FA25)

JOURNALISM CORE: 40 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
JOU 2000: Fundamentals of News Gathering	3		
JOU 2001G: Journalism & Democracy	3		
JOU 2101: News Reporting & Writing*	3		
JOU 2902: Copy Editing & Design	3		
JOU 2950: Intro to Visual Communication	3		
JOU 3000: Advanced Reporting*	3		
JOU 3002: Intro to Multimedia JOU	3		
JOU 3610: Broadcast News*	3		
JOU 3750: Social Media Engagement	3		
JOU 3940: History of American JOU	3		
JOU 3970: Race, Gender, & the Media*	3		
JOU 4401: Journalism Portfolio*	1		
JOU 4420: Communication Law & Ethics	3		
JOU 4730: Journalism Capstone Seminar*	3		

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CORE: 9 HRS

Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
PLS 1153G: American Gov't & Constitution	3		
PLS 2703: Intro to Public Policy	3		
JOU 4000: Investigative Reporting*	3		

LIBERAL ARTS REQUIRED COURSEWORK: 6 HRS

Elective Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
PLS 3603: State and Local Government	3		
ECON or SOC:	3		

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ELECTIVES: 6 HRS

Students need 3 hours of JOU and 3 hours of PLS coursework. Student may select and JOU or PLS course as an elective, except JOU 1000G.

Elective Course	Hours	Grade	Semester
JOU course:			
PLS course:			

*Course has pre-reqs. Please see catalog for details.

A minimum grade of "C" is required for all JOU courses and a minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for all JOU coursework.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

An informed citizenry is essential to the healthy functioning of a democratic society, and the news media are essential to that health by educating the public about what elected and appointed officials are doing.

The Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) option gives students, with a keen interest in government, the knowledge and skills necessary to provide accurate news coverage of state and local government. PAR students learn about the activities of the state legislature, local governments, courts, police, and the impact of national and international events on local affairs. Students learn how to find, interpret and use public records to document government action, and organizations and individuals who operate in the public interest.

Students learn to think critically, produce creatively, write precisely, process information quickly, interview thoughtfully, manage people, and develop an excellent work ethic.

WHAT CAREERS CAN I PURSUE?

Our alumni work for broadcast, online and print news media, covering city, county and state governments.

The PAR option also offers excellent preparation for students who wish to work in law, public service, civic engagement, political and government careers, public communications, and non-profit organizations.

The skills required of a journalist are the foundation for any job that requires researching, talking to people, asking questions and synthesizing what is learned into a cohesive, coherent article or report.

RESOURCES

School of Communication & Journalism
www.eiu.edu/cmnpjou/

Journalism Homepage
www.eiu.edu/journalism/

Department Honors
www.eiu.edu/journalism/honors.php

Internship Information
www.eiu.edu/journalism/internships.php

Student Media
www.eiu.edu/journalism/media.php

Scholarship Information
www.eiu.edu/journalism/scholarships.php

Accreditation Council
www.acejmc.org/

The Daily Eastern News
www.dailyeasternnews.com/

News Watch
www.weiu.net/news_watch/index.php

SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE

FRESHMAN	
FALL	SPRING
ENG 1001G CMN 1310G BIO GEN ED JOU 2000 JOU 2001G	ENG1002G MAT GEN ED PHYSICAL SCI GEN ED ART/HUM GEN ED SOC/BEH GEN ED
SOPHOMORE	
FALL	SPRING
JOU 2101 JOU 2950 SOC/BEH GEN ED ART/HUM GEN ED PLS 3603	JOU 2902 PLS 1153G PLS 2703 ART/HUM GEN ED SOC/ECON
JUNIOR	
FALL	SPRING
JOU 3002 JOU 3610 JOU 3750 ELEC/MINOR ELEC/MINOR	JOU 3000 JOU elective PLS elective JOU 3970 ELEC/MINOR
SENIOR	
FALL	SPRING
JOU 3940 JOU 4000 ELEC/MINOR ELEC/MINOR ELEC/MINOR/INTERNSHIP	JOU 4401 JOU 4420 JOU 4730 ELEC/MINOR ELEC/MINOR/INTERNSHIP