

JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION, M.A.

Graduate programs in journalism and mass communication are designed for advanced academic preparation in the various fields of mass communication and journalism, and for training in research and teaching.

Students interested in the M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication should refer to one of the two named options:

1. Professional M.A. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/journalism-mass-communication/journalism-mass-communication-ma/journalism-mass-communication-professional-ma/>) prepares students for careers in news and information production. The program provides a mix of practical communication skills, conceptual knowledge of journalism and mass communication, and an area of specialization (credits in multi-media communication and topic specialization).
2. Research M.A. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/journalism-mass-communication/journalism-mass-communication-ma/journalism-mass-communication-research-ma/>) focuses on developing skills in mass communication research and typically leads to enrollment in a doctoral program, including our own PhD in Mass Communications (credits in theory and methods).

Both programs offer flexibility. Students, in consultation with their faculty advisors, select coursework based upon their interests and career goals.

FACILITIES

The Center for Journalism Ethics (<https://ethics.journalism.wisc.edu/>) advances the ethical standards and practices of democratic journalism through discussion, research, teaching, professional outreach, and newsroom partnerships. Students, faculty, leading journalists and members of the public participate in conferences, workshops, and publications. The center tracks and analyzes ethical issues for all media platforms on its website. The center contributes to the teaching of ethics in the school's curriculum. Students have the opportunity to write for the center's website, cover conferences, and contribute to research.

Founded in 2006, Madison Commons (<https://madisoncommons.org/>) provides news and information from all of Madison's neighborhoods. It is a collaboration between Madison citizens from every part of the city and faculty and students at SJMC, focusing on coverage of education, food, transportation and neighborhood news. It provides a lab for research on community, civic and public journalism.

The Mass Communication Research Center (<https://mrc.journalism.wisc.edu/>) is an interdisciplinary research facility that conducts research into all phases of communication and provides a common meeting ground for scholars with an interest in communication behavior. It also provides an opportunity for graduate students to participate in research programs and to initiate and conduct their own thesis projects.

The Center for Communication and Democracy (<https://ccd.journalism.wisc.edu/>) is a research and action project at UW-Madison. The goals of the center are to study how citizens can use new

communications technologies to advance democratic discussion and civic participation; to explore the relationships between geographic communities and the emerging world of cyberspace; to explore the structural relations among communications and information markets, the civic sector, and government to find relationships necessary to build and sustain a public sphere in communication that is not dominated by the market, while sustaining economic growth and technological innovation; and to ask what government policies are most appropriate for combining the vibrancy of the market with the common needs of citizens in the sphere of communication.

Qualitative Inquiry and Research Group (<https://journalism.wisc.edu/graduate/research-centers/>) meetings are devoted to providing feedback on pre-circulated graduate student papers, completed or in-progress. Call for paper proposals are sent out at least twice per year.

The Mass Communication History Center (<https://journalism.wisc.edu/graduate/research-centers/>), a part of the Wisconsin Historical Society, provides scholars access to private collections, papers, and various types of unpublished materials relating to the growth of mass communication in the United States and other parts of the world. The Wisconsin Historical Society also has a large collection of bound and microfilm files of American and foreign newspapers.