

# BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Within GW's Journalism and Mass Communication program, you will study news and public affairs with our faculty of award-winning journalists in the world's most newsworthy city. Providing a strong foundation to meet the challenges of a changing global media landscape, our curriculum provides experiential learning experiences in digital, broadcast, and print reporting through our state-of-the-art production facilities and internship opportunities across D.C. Our students have interned at such organizations as the BBC, CNN, Discovery Communications, Fox News, and Sirius XM Radio. As a graduate of our program, you will understand the media's impact on the way we live, govern, and connect. You will forge the future of journalism and public affairs through careers in new and traditional media organizations, politics, and business.

Visit the program website (<https://smpa.gwu.edu/journalism-and-mass-communication/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationtext>).

Program-specific curriculum:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
34 credits in required courses:		
PSC 1002	Introduction to American Politics and Government	
or PSC 1002W	Introduction to American Politics and Government	

STAT 1053	Introduction to Statistics in Social Science
SMPA 2101	Journalism: Theory and Practice
SMPA 2110W	Introduction to News Writing and Reporting (minimum grade of B required)
SMPA 2111W	Advanced News Reporting
SMPA 2112	Digital Media I: Introduction to Video Production
SMPA 2113	Digital Media II: Introduction to Web Production and Social Media
SMPA 2151	Research Methods
SMPA 2152	Data Analysis for Journalism and Political Communication
SMPA 2173	Media Law
SMPA 3150	Journalism Ethics
<b>Electives</b>	
On advanced writing/reporting course (3 credits) selected from the following:	
SMPA 3230	Reporting in the Digital Age
SMPA 3231	Sustainability Reporting
SMPA 3235W	Broadcast News Writing
SMPA 3242	Investigative Reporting
Five additional courses (15 to 18 credits) selected from the advanced writing/reporting courses listed above or from the following:	
SMPA 2120	Public Opinion
SMPA 2177	Media History
SMPA 3193	Selected Topics in Journalism and Mass Communication Skills
SMPA 3195	Selected Topics in Journalism and Mass Communication
SMPA 3196	Independent Study
SMPA 3197	Internship (Only one, 3-credit internship may count toward the major.)
SMPA 3233	Photojournalism
SMPA 3234	Editing and Design for Print and Web
SMPA 3236W	Broadcast News Reporting
SMPA 3240W	Washington Reporting

SMPA 3241W	Campaign Reporting
SMPA 3243W	Feature Writing
SMPA 3244W	Narrative Journalism
SMPA 3245W	Editorial and Persuasive Writing
SMPA 3246	Specialized Reporting
SMPA 3247	Documentary Production
SMPA 3333	Media Organizations and Audiences
SMPA 3428	Media, Politics, and Government
SMPA 3450	Social Media
SMPA 3460	Race, Media, and Politics
SMPA 3469	International Communication
SMPA 3471	Media in the Developing World
SMPA 3472	Media and Foreign Policy
SMPA 3475	Media Management
SMPA 3476	Media, Technology, and Culture
SMPA 3477	Information Technology and Politics
SMPA 3479	Documentary
SMPA 3480	The Future of Journalism
SMPA 4198	Special Honors Research Seminar
<b>Capstone</b>	
One capstone course (4 credits) selected from the following:	
SMPA 4180	Online Journalism Workshop
SMPA 4181	Television News Workshop
SMPA 4182	Specialized Journalism Workshop

## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/general-education-curriculum-gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them

to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

**Coursework (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 University Writing
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements can also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University can count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations, in order to be considered for graduation with Special Honors, students must have attained a 3.7 GPA in all courses completed at GW and in all courses required for the major. Students intending to apply for Special Honors must consult their advisor at the start of the senior year. Application must be made by the mid-point of the student's final semester (October 15 or March 15), and must include a letter of application and a portfolio of published or broadcast work. The journalism and mass communication faculty evaluates the work on the basis of professional standards as outlined by the department. Students interested in pursuing Special Honors through writing a research thesis should consult their advisor.

## COMBINED PROGRAM

### Combined program

- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in journalism and mass communication and Master of Arts in the field of media and strategic communication (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/media-public-affairs/combined-ba-journalism-mass-communication-ma-media-strategic-communication/>)
- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in journalism and mass communication and Master of Professional Studies in the field of political management (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/media-public-affairs/combined-ba-journalism-mass-communication-ma-political-management/>)