



Northeastern



Journalism

College of Arts, Media and Design
Graduate Programs
2011-2012

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Our Mission:

To educate students for a life of fulfillment and accomplishment.

To create and translate knowledge to meet global and societal needs.

Northeastern University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action Title IX education institution and employer.

Tuition rates, all fees, rules and regulations, courses, and course content are subject to revision by the President and the Board of Trustees at any time.

Northeastern University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.

July 2011

Material subject to revision.

Faculty

Director

Stephen Burgard, MS, Boston University

Fields: The press, democracy and religion, reporting religion, journalism ethics

Professors

Belle Adler, MA, Northwestern University

Graduate Coordinator

Fields: Television news, investigative reporting, medical and health news

Nicholas Daniloff, MA, Oxford University

Fields: Freedom of the press and democracy in Russia, journalism ethics

Charles Fountain, MS, Columbia University

Fields: Journalism history, sports writing

Jeffrey Howe, MFA (*pending*), Boston University

Field: New media

Daniel Kennedy, MLA, Boston University

Fields: On-line journalism, press criticism, journalism history

William Kirtz, MS, Columbia University

Fields: News writing, media ethics, history

Laurel Leff, MA, University of Miami, MSL, Yale Law School

Fields: Legal reporting, objectivity in journalism, press coverage of the Holocaust

Walter V. Robinson, Distinguished Professor, BA, Northeastern University

Fields: Investigative reporting, news writing

James Ross, MA, American University

Fields: Jewish studies, press law and ethics, literature of journalism

Alan Schroeder, MPA, Harvard University

Fields: Television news, presidential debates

The Northeastern University School of Journalism offers the Master of Arts degree. The professional concentration prepares students for careers as print, on-line, and broadcast journalists. The research concentration offers advanced study for mid-career professionals. The public policy concentration prepares students to report and write about public policy issues, and is intended for those whose careers may involve jobs in either journalism or government. This concentration allows students to combine journalism courses with courses offered by The School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. The research and the public policy concentration is designed for practitioners of either field.

The Graduate Program

The School of Journalism's Master of Arts program provides its students with the practical and analytical skills needed for success in a challenging profession. In the professional concentration, hands-on training and supervised job placements prepare graduates for careers as reporters, editors and producers at newspapers, magazines, on-line publications and broadcast outlets. Internships at Boston news organizations are an integral part of the program. Students also have the option of working for six months at a news or public relations job as part of Northeastern's nationally renowned cooperative education program. In addition, our students write and edit the *New England Newspaper and Press Association*, a trade publication for 500 community newspapers. The research concentration provides working journalists with an opportunity for further study in journalism and related fields and gives them the skills to teach journalism or work in a specialized beat. Research students write a thesis examining the role of the news media, or related topic, take advanced courses in journalism ethics and research methods, and study related fields such as sociology, history and political science. The public policy concentration gives graduate students a thorough understanding about public policy processes. This program draws upon experts from The School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs along with journalists who specialize in public policy reporting.

Faculty Research

Faculty members have at least ten years of professional experience in print, broadcast, and on-line journalism. They have worked for *The Boston Globe*, *U.S. News & World Report*, CNN, ABC Sports, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Hartford Courant*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Boston Phoenix*. Faculty members write regularly for newspapers, magazines, and scholarly publications. Their work includes a television documentary on poaching endangered animals in Kenya and the books *Of Spies and Spokesmen*, *My Life as a War Correspondent*, *Presidential Debates: Forty Years of High-Risk TV*, *Fragile Branches: Travels Through the Jewish Diaspora*, and *Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper*.

Program Strengths

The faculty work closely with students to edit and revise their written work. Class sizes are small, averaging ten to fifteen students.

The graduate program in journalism is designed for both full-time and part-time students. All required journalism classes meet from 5:30 to 8:40 p.m.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory progress means satisfying requirements in the Graduate School's General Regulations and in the regulations specified in the departmental booklet. The Graduate School sets minimum standards for all students to fulfill. Departments and programs may have additional requirements that exceed those of the Graduate School.

Receipt of financial support administered by the Graduate School is contingent on satisfactory academic progress toward the degree and on meeting department-specific guidelines. See the Graduate School's General Regulations for further details.

Professional Concentration

Professional concentration students are a diverse group. Many have little or no media experience and begin the program with an intensive three-week skills course. Some of our students majored in journalism and wrote for college publications as undergraduates; others have worked in the media for several years and join the program to prepare for more challenging and higher-paying jobs.

The professional concentration curriculum balances skills courses and work opportunities with theory courses—such as First Amendment law, journalism ethics, literary journalism and journalism history—that offer students a broad perspective on the news media. The Graduate Seminar provides an opportunity to critically examine the role of the media in society.

Program Features

Completion Time. Full-time students can finish the program in as short a time as a year. Students electing to participate in the Co-op program who take a position beyond commuting distance to Boston will not be able to complete the required coursework in one year. Part-time students, most of whom work in the Boston area, take one or two courses each semester and complete the program in two or three years.

Cooperative Education. As a national leader in cooperative education, Northeastern offers a unique option for its master's degree students. Full-time students may alternate their academic study with six-month job assignments at area media organizations. Students who choose the co-op option generally take an additional six months or more to graduate.

Curriculum

The professional concentration curriculum consists of nine courses. In addition, incoming students without professional journalism experience are encouraged to take an intensive reporting seminar in the summer before the beginning of the fall semester.

The required courses include Enterprise Reporting in the fall semester, Research Methods and New Technology in the spring semester, and Perspectives on Journalism and Professional Ethics in the summer semester. Students are required to take one graduate-level course outside of the School of Journalism (usually in English, History, Political Science, or Sociology), at least one practicum course and four journalism electives.

A minimum of 32 semester hours and nine courses (not including the intensive reporting seminar), with a grade-point average of 3.000 are required for graduation.

Electives and Practicum

- Elective offerings include:
- First Amendment in the Digital Age
- Investigative Reporting*
- Graduate Seminar
- Journalism and Public Policy
- Historical Perspectives on the U.S. and Foreign Media
- Literature of Journalism
- Nonfiction Writing

The following electives are offered jointly to graduate and undergraduate students:

- Design and Graphics
- Documentary Production
- Photojournalism
- Video Newswriting
- Topics (including Beat Reporting)
- Video News Production 1

Note: Not every course is offered every semester

**Selected graduate students can take the Seminar in Investigative Reporting with Walter Robinson, former Boston Globe Spotlight Team editor as one of their electives. Interested students should contact Professor Robinson for an interview.*

Professional concentration students also complete one practicum course. Offerings include:

- News Internship
- Online Newsroom Experience (writing and editing the NENPA Bulletin)
- Nonfiction Writing
- Documentary Production (prerequisite is Video News Production)

Students may take a second practicum as one of their electives.

Typical First-year, Full-time Schedule for Professional Concentration Fall Semester

- Reporting and Writing Fundamentals (one-credit intensive course for students without professional experience)
- Enterprise Reporting
- Practicum or Journalism Elective
- Journalism elective or Graduate elective outside the School of Journalism

Spring Semester

- Research Methods & New Technology
- Practicum or Journalism Elective
- Journalism elective or Graduate elective outside the School of Journalism

Summer Semester

- Perspectives on Journalism and Professional Ethics
- Practicum or Journalism Elective
- Journalism Elective

Research Concentration

This program is designed for those with significant professional journalism experience who want to prepare for careers as journalism educators or who want to write and research in a specialized field.

Program Features/Completion Time

All research concentration students complete an original thesis that must be submitted to the Graduate School and www.proquest.com upon completion and acceptance. The thesis examines a critical issue in the news media, often combining qualitative and quantitative research. Because of the time required to plan and complete a thesis, students in this concentration generally take 16

months to finish their degree.

Curriculum

The research concentration curriculum consists of nine courses. The Graduate Seminar, which is typically offered in the spring; and Perspectives on Journalism and Professional Ethics, which is typically offered in the summer. Students must also enroll in a thesis course and take Research Methods and New Technology or a pre-approved graduate level research course, usually in sociology or political science. Three other graduate-level courses in an academic field outside of journalism are also required to enhance students' knowledge of a specialty area. Finally, students must take two journalism electives.

A minimum of 32 semester hours and nine courses with a grade-point average of 3.000 is required for graduation.

Typical First-year, Full-time Schedule for Research Concentration

Year One

Fall Semester

- Outside Research Course (approved by Graduate Coordinator), usually in Sociology or Political Science*
- Literature of Journalism
- Outside elective*

Spring Semester

- Graduate Seminar
- Outside elective* or Research Methods / New Technologies
- Journalism or Outside elective*

Summer Semester

- Perspectives on Journalism and Professional Ethics
- Thesis
- Journalism *or* Outside elective*

Electives

- First Amendment in the Digital Age
- Historical Perspectives on the U.S. and Foreign Media
- Nonfiction Writing
- Literature of Journalism
- Video News Production 1
- Design and Graphics
- Photojournalism

- Topics (including Beat Reporting)
- Documentary Production
- Video Newswriting

**Outside electives sometimes carry only three credits. Therefore, it may be necessary to enroll in a one-credit Directed Study to reach the 32 minimum credit requirement for the degree.*

Note: Selected graduate students can take the Seminar in Investigative Reporting with Walter Robinson, former Boston Globe Spotlight Team editor as one of their electives. Interested students should contact Professor Robinson for an interview.

Public Policy Concentration

The public policy concentration is primarily designed for those with journalism experience who want to more fully understand the public policy process and the substance of selected policy areas. It is strongly suggested that students without journalism experience successfully complete Reporting and Writing Fundamentals. Graduate students selecting the public policy concentration will take Introduction to Policy Reporting along with other journalism requirements. They will also select among electives offered by The School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs.

Program Features

Completion Time. Full-time students can finish the program in as short a time as a year. Part-time students, most of whom work in the Boston area, take one or two courses each semester and complete the program in two or three years.

Cooperative Education. As a national leader in cooperative education, Northeastern offers a unique option for its master's degree students. Full-time students may alternate their academic study with six-month job assignments at area media organizations. Students who choose the co-op option generally take an additional six months or more to graduate.

Curriculum

The public policy concentration curriculum consists of nine courses. Graduate students without news writing experience are strongly encouraged to take Reporting and Writing Fundamentals, a three-week skills course. Students are required to take Introduction to Public Policy Reporting and Enterprise Reporting with an Urban Reporting Focus, which are typically offered in the fall semester; First Amendment in the Digital Age which is typically offered in the spring semester; and

Perspectives on Journalism and Professional Ethics which is typically offered in the summer semester. Students must also take Research Methods. Students without journalism experience must take Journalism's Research Methods. Students with journalism experience, with approval from the graduate coordinator or journalism director, can select a research methods course from the Public Policy Research Course offerings. Students in the public policy concentration must also take four electives from a wide array of courses offered by The School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. Selected graduate students can take the Seminar in Investigative Reporting with Walter Robinson, former Boston Globe Spotlight Team editor, as one of their electives. (Interested students should contact Professor Robinson to arrange for an interview.)

A minimum of 32 semester hours and nine courses with a grade-point average of 3.000 is required for graduation.

Typical First-year, Full-time Schedule for Public Policy Concentration Fall Semester

- Reporting and Writing Fundamentals
- Introduction to Public Policy Reporting
- Enterprise Reporting with an Urban Reporting Focus
- Elective

Spring Semester

- First Amendment in the Digital Age
- Research Methods
- Elective

Summer Semester

- Perspectives on Journalism and Professional Ethics
- Elective
- Elective

Spring and Fall Semesters

- Investigative Reporting
- Research Methods offered by The School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs are offered at the discretion of the department offering the course.

Electives

Graduate Students in the public policy concentration must select four electives from a vast array of courses offered by the History Department, the Political Science Department, and the Sociology and Anthropology Department.

Admission to the Program

The School of Journalism tries to act on requests within a month of receiving all the application materials. Financial aid decisions are made separately from admissions, and most financial aid decisions are made early in the spring for the following academic year. Students should apply well in advance of the time they plan to start the program to ensure the best chance of gaining admission.

Requirements for Admission

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. An undergraduate average of B (3.000) or better is generally expected, although exceptions may be made for students who otherwise demonstrate special aptitude for the field. For the public policy concentration or professional concentration applicants, no prior coursework or professional experience is required. For the research concentration, applicants are generally expected to have an undergraduate degree in journalism and/or significant professional experience in the field.

The application, application fee, personal statement, unofficial transcripts, and three letters of recommendation are all submitted on-line at www.neu.edu/casgraduate. GRE scores are required. Northeastern University's GRE institution code is 3682. All materials must be submitted by the February 1 priority deadline in order for funding consideration. For those not interested in being considered for funding, the deadline is August 1.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit proof of English proficiency. Satisfactory evidence includes (1) a minimum score of 100 (Internet based test) or 250 (computer-based test) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); (2) a minimum score of 7.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS); (3) proof of a minimum of four years of study culminating in the receipt of a degree from an undergraduate institution where the medium of instruction is English.

Admitted international applicants must submit a Declaration and Certification of Finances (DCF) form and original supporting documents in sufficient time for the university to process documents needed to get a student visa. This information must be received at least sixteen weeks before the date the student plans to enroll.

Financial Aid

The school has a limited pool of funds to provide remission of tuition charges. University regulations limit this aid program to full-time students, and awards are based on academic merit.

“A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself.”

—Arthur Miller, American playwright, 1961

“A free press plays an essential part in the delicate balance that exists in this country between individual liberties and the power of government. For unchecked government power... can compromise or even crush individual liberties.”

—Jack Nelson, Los Angeles Times, 1984



Northeastern

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