THE DEPARTMENT

Gonzaga’s Integrated Media Department weaves the related disciplines of Journalism, Broadcast Studies and Public Relations into an environment where students can learn and hone their writing, interviewing, strategic communications and technological skills. These specialized communication skills become bridges for students into careers or further scholarship in graduate school.

The Integrated Media Department offers majors and minors in Broadcast Studies, Journalism, and Public Relations within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Integrated Media programs strive to guide students toward academic excellence and tangible career goals. The curricula reflect the Catholic, Jesuit character and liberal arts traditions of Gonzaga.

Students have many opportunities to develop storytelling and strategic communication techniques as they experiment with multiple platforms and methods and learn through the lens of social justice and Ignatian pedagogy.

The coursework in Integrated Media programs teaches the skills and uses of technology and theory required of media professionals. Yet it balances this skill-based instruction with a philosophical grounding in ethical and proficient communication.

In addition to coursework in traditional classroom settings, students regularly engage in hands-on media production experiences.

THE PASSION

Informing communities, whether through journalism or public relations, serves democracy and the public good, and raises awareness of social injustices. Accurate, fair, and complete information is platform-neutral — available on the Web and via social media, as well as in print and broadcast. The media world, with unlimited access to information, has never been richer.

Gonzaga’s computer labs and TV studio are equipped for students to get practice working in a contemporary news and video-editing environment.

Students further hone the fabric of skillful and responsible communication through internships in professional environments. They may earn academic credit for these internship experiences.

Campus media outlets include GUTV and KAGU, Gonzaga’s television and radio stations, and The Gonzaga Bulletin (gonzagabulletin.com), the student newspaper. Each offers opportunities for students to sharpen media skills learned in the classroom. Additionally, work created for these outlets helps build a substantial portfolio for applications to graduate schools and for internships and employment opportunities.

Our graduates are also competitive applicants for service programs such as Teach for America and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Others have gone on to law school or to business, education, and nonprofit settings.

BROADCAST STUDIES

The Broadcast and Electronic Media Studies program provides students with the worldview and skills necessary for creative and responsible work in the television and radio industries. Broadcasting majors are taught to emphasize work that makes a positive difference in their communities and the broader world.

To master their technical skills, students create a series of shows that are streamed live. GUTV also posts its broadcasts on its YouTube channel. Students engage in all aspects of the creation and production of these shows, including on-air roles, camera work, directing, mixing the audio, and non-linear editing.

The program offers a class in live sporting events, during which students gain experience broadcasting basketball and baseball games.

Internships in broadcasting-centric workplaces allow students to burnish knowledge and experience acquired in classes in the professional world. Each semester, Spokane’s television and radio news organizations, such as the network affiliates and regional film production companies, invite our students to work alongside professionals in a range of appropriate roles. Academic credit toward major course requirements is available for faculty-approved internships.
JOURNALISM

The Journalism program cultivates students’ interests and techniques in gathering information through research and interviews and writing for a variety of media platforms. Gonzaga’s program emphasizes the role and responsibilities of journalism within the context of civic and political participation. It supports the Gonzaga Mission Statement’s commitment to social justice and seeks to heighten its students’ awareness of injustice. Courses in journalism history, media law, ethics, and press theory form the philosophical foundation for the major and minor.

Journalism students focus on issues of civic and cultural importance with a traditional news stance in their work, but there are ample opportunities for experimenting with styles of journalism that are appropriate for magazines, publications with a literary bent, and emerging Internet-based platforms. Students also improve their visual storytelling skills in photojournalism and multimedia design courses. Most Gonzaga Journalism students work for the weekly student newspaper, The Gonzaga Bulletin (gonzagabulletin.com).

For the senior capstone project, students demonstrate proficiency in the journalistic foundations of reporting, writing, and designing news products. In addition, students are expected to demonstrate understanding of the philosophical core of journalism’s historical role in the development of civic conversation and in the varied political systems around the globe.

Many Journalism students garner journalistic experience in the professional environment through internships. They may also earn academic credit for their internship experiences. Students intern during summers in their hometowns at a local paper or magazine, or during the school year at media companies in Spokane like the city’s daily newspaper, The Spokesman-Review, or the weekly Pacific Northwest Inlander. Some students also work at the Associated Press Data Center located in Spokane, gathering high school and college sports scores from around the country.

Gonzaga’s student journalists have also been awarded prestigious internships with the San Francisco Chronicle, the Seattle Times, and the San Jose Mercury News, as well as the Washington C.C.-based National Geographic magazines.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Public Relations program combines study of communication theory, research techniques, and corporate strategies and structures with journalistic expertise. Students learn to skillfully manage communication between organizations and the people they serve. Internships with local, national and international organizations, such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities, provide hands-on experience in campaign planning, corporate communication, and nonprofit organization advocacy.

As part of the senior capstone course, public relations students develop a portfolio, articulate a philosophical statement of communication, and write a thesis. As part of the Public Relations coursework, students work directly with a local organization in creating a comprehensive public relations plan and media kit.

Public relations skills also enhance other degrees. Political Science students interested in developing their political campaigning skills, students in the humanities with interests in promoting and publicizing the arts, and business students seeking to complement marketing and management concentrations may consider completing a Public Relations minor.

THE PEOPLE

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