University Core and Graduation Requirements

### University Core Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>#Classes</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Classes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religion Cornerstones</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachings and Doctrine of The Book of Mormon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>REL A 275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>REL A 250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations of the Restoration</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
<td>REL C 225</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Eternal Family</td>
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<td>REL C 200</td>
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<td><strong>The Individual and Society</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Heritage</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<td>from approved list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global and Cultural Awareness</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>from approved list</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Year Writing</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>WRTG 150*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Written and Oral Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
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<td>Languages of Learning (Math or Language)</td>
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<td><strong>Arts, Letters, and Sciences</strong></td>
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<td>Civilization 1</td>
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<td>Civilization 2</td>
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<td>Physical Science</td>
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<td>Social Science</td>
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<td><strong>Core Enrichment: Electives</strong></td>
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<td>Religion Electives</td>
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<td>Open Electives</td>
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FOR UNIVERSITY CORE/MAJOR QUESTIONS CONTACT THE ADVISEMENT CENTER — FOR CAREER QUESTIONS SEE YOUR FACULTY ADVISOR

*THESE CLASSES FILL BOTH UNIVERSITY CORE AND MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (3 hours overlap)

### Graduation Requirements:

Minimum residence hours required | 30.0 |
Minimum hours needed to graduate | 120.0 |

### Suggested Sequence of Courses

#### FRESHMAN YEAR

**1st Semester**
- First-year Writing* | 3.0
- COMMS 101 | 3.0
- Religion Cornerstone course | 2.0
- General Education courses, university requirements, and/or general electives | 7.0
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

**2nd Semester**
- American Heritage | 3.0
- COMMS 239 | 3.0
- Religion Cornerstone course | 2.0
- General Education course, and/or general electives | 7.0
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

#### SOPHOMORE YEAR

**3rd Semester**
- COMMS 300 | 3.0
- COMMS 304 | 3.0
- Religion Cornerstone course | 2.0
- General Education courses, and/or General Electives | 7.0
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

**4th Semester**
- Apply to major.

#### JUNIOR YEAR

**5th Semester**
- COMMS 321 or 325 | 3.0
- COMMS term classes | 3.0
- Religion cornerstone course | 2.0
- General Education courses, University Requirements, and/or general electives | 7.0
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

**6th Semester**
- COMMS 365, 384, or 385 | 3.0
- COMMS elective | 3.0
- Religion elective | 2.0
- General Education courses, University Requirements, and/or General Electives | 7.0
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

**7th Semester**
- COMMS 388, 420, 486, or 488 | 3.0
- Religion elective | 2.0
- General Education courses, University Requirements, and/or General Electives | 10.0
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

**8th Semester**
- COMMS 496R | 4.0
- General Education courses, University Requirements, and/or General Electives | 11.0
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

Note: Students are encouraged to complete an average of 15 credit hours each semester or 30 credit hours each year, which could include spring and/or summer terms. Taking fewer credits substantially increases the cost and the number of semesters to graduate.

*COMMS 313, COMMS 314 and/or COMMS 315 | 1.5
- Religion elective | 2.0
- General Education Courses, University Requirements and/or General Electives | 2.5
- **Total Hours** | 15.0

FOR UNIVERSITY CORE/MAJOR QUESTIONS CONTACT THE ADVISEMENT CENTER — FOR CAREER QUESTIONS SEE YOUR FACULTY ADVISOR

*THESE CLASSES FILL BOTH UNIVERSITY CORE AND MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (3 hours overlap)
All students must take a campus writing course before applying for admission to the major. The following writing course fills this requirement and satisfies the GE First-Year Writing requirement: WRTG 150. Note: Students must receive a B grade or better to be eligible to apply for admission to the program.

**REQUIREMENT 1 Complete 3 courses**

**NOTE: STUDENTS MUST RECEIVE A B GRADE OR BETTER IN EACH COURSE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO THE PROGRAM.**

- COMMS 101 - Mass Communication and Society 3.0
- COMMS 239 - Introduction to Video Storytelling 3.0
- "WRTG 150 - Writing and Rhetoric" 3.0

**REQUIREMENT 2 Complete 2 courses**

**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING: (COMMS 300 AND COMMS 304 MAY BE TAKEN DURING THE SEMESTER IN WHICH STUDENTS APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR.)**

- COMMS 300 - Media Law and Responsibility 3.0
- COMMS 304 - Media Ethics: Ethical Decision-Making in a Diverse Society 3.0

**REQUIREMENT 3 Complete 1 course**

**AFTER ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

- COMMS 308 - Research Methods for Journalism 3.0

**REQUIREMENT 4 Complete 1 option**

- **OPTION 4.1 Complete 1 course**
  - COMMS 305 - Foundations of Journalism 3.0

- **OPTION 4.2 Complete 2 courses**
  - COMMS 311 - Writing for News Media 1.5
  - COMMS 312 - Digital Media Production 1.5

**REQUIREMENT 5 Complete 2 courses**

- COMMS 313 - Media Design and Graphics 1.5
- COMMS 314 - Intro to Social Media Management 1.5
- COMMS 315 - Intro to SEO and Analytics 1.5

**REQUIREMENT 6 Complete 1 course**

- COMMS 321 - News Reporting 3.0
- COMMS 325 - Broadcast Media Reporting 3.0

**REQUIREMENT 7 Complete 1 course**

**NOTE: JOURNALISM MAJORS WILL NEED TO COMPLETE COMMS 313 PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN COMMS 365.**

- COMMS 365 - Photojournalism 3.0
- COMMS 384 - Editing for News Media 3.0
- COMMS 385 - Television News Producing 3.0
- COMMS 386 - Sports Media Producing 3.0

**REQUIREMENT 8 Complete 1 course**

- COMMS 388 - Publication Graphics and Production 3.0
- COMMS 420 - Advanced Print Reporting 3.0
- COMMS 422 - Newsroom Leadership 3.0
- COMMS 486 - Advanced Broadcast Reporting 3.0
- COMMS 488 - Advanced Broadcast Producing 3.0

**REQUIREMENT 9 Complete 2 courses**

- COMMS 301 - Mass Media History and Philosophy 3.0
- COMMS 302 - Popular Culture and Media 3.0
- COMMS 351 - Media and Their Audiences 3.0
- COMMS 360 - Communication Management Principles and Theory 3.0
- COMMS 381 - International Media Systems 3.0
- COMMS 382 - Issues in Global Communication 3.0
- COMMS 406 - Media and the First Amendment 3.0
- COMMS 411 - Media Effects 3.0
- COMMS 416 - Media Advocacy and Social Change 3.0
- COMMS 426 - Persuasion in the Media Age 3.0
- COMMS 480 - Media Ethics and Moral Reasoning 3.0
- COMMS 481 - Gender, Race, and Class in the Media 3.0
- COMMS 482 - Media and World Religions 3.0

**REQUIREMENT 10 Complete 4.0 hours from the following course(s)**

**AFTER CONSULTING WITH AN ADVISOR, COMPLETE AN INTERNSHIP IN CONJUNCTION WITH 4 HOURS OF THE FOLLOWING: NOTE: A C- GRADE OR BETTER IN THE FOLLOWING PREREQUISITE COURSES MUST BE ACHIEVED BEFORE THE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE: COMMS 308; COMMS 321 OR 325. COMMS 496R - Academic Internship 6.0v**

- You may take up to 4 credit hours.

**REQUIREMENT 11**

Complete a minimum of 72 hours in courses outside of the department while meeting BYU’s University Core requirements.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Working under faculty direction, students in the school edit and publish the Universe as a laboratory newspaper for the campus, produce daily television newscasts that air on the local BYU TV station and are streamed online, produce content for universe.byu.edu, plan advertising and public relations campaigns, solve media sales and management problems, and use “new media” in diverse situations. The School of Communications sponsors the International Media Studies Program, which seeks to broaden students’ awareness of worldwide communications issues and practices. Not only do students have opportunity to study the media systems of other nations through classes and on-site experiences, but media practitioners of other nations are also brought to campus as lecturers and visiting experts. The school encourages early admission. Students who enroll in Comms 101, 239, and complete the English requirement can apply to the major as early as the second semester of their freshman year.

**SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Each student must be Pre-Comms in order to apply to the major. Contact the college advisement center for admission requirements, or comms.byu.edu.
2. All students must take a campus writing course before applying for admission to the major. WRTG 150 or any Advanced Writing Course fulfills this requirement. AP credit does not.
3. Complete a minimum of 72 hours in courses outside of the department, while meeting BYU’s University Core requirements.
4. Every student is required to complete an internship. Although the school operates an internship office (280 Brimhall Building) that serves as a clearinghouse for internship information, the responsibility for securing an internship rests with the student. However, students may not embark on any internship without prior approval from a faculty advisor, before processing appropriate documents with the Internship Office (280 BRMB), and without being enrolled in Comms 496R.
5. In certain courses, students will be required to demonstrate proficiency in InDesign, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator by portfolio review. See the School of Communications in 360 BRMB.
6. For program objectives, please see: learningoutcomes.byu.edu.

**THE DISCIPLINE:**

Journalism is a discipline that provides factual and relevant information for democratic decision making, community building, and public deliberation. The study of journalism entails the mastery of working with people to present news and features in a way that accurately and fully reflects the world in which we live. Students will acquire skills in analytical thinking, lucid writing, and effective interviewing to be able to present clear and compelling news products in words,
sounds, and images. Students will study media law and ethics, journalism research methods, and will choose the degree to which they will specialize in either new media, traditional print, or traditional broadcasting. To develop a wide understanding of the world and the processes that make society work, students are encouraged to earn more than 60 percent of their credits in other departments.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:**

The exciting field of journalism offers the allure of working in a profession that has its finger on the changing pulse of society. Whether serving as reporters, producers, or editors for newspaper, television, radio, or online, journalists find themselves rubbing shoulders with important people and recording important events.

A career in journalism implies not only skills with words, but the ability to make sound judgments and to ferret out facts. In addition to the obvious careers as reporters, editors, anchors, and producers, students often find their journalism skills in demand in a variety of other areas. Many find the challenge of recording the drama of real life both satisfying and enlightening. Recent changes in technologies and business models continue to change the way news is produced and distributed. These changes call for greater skill in writing and multi-media storytelling to be able to visualize the world in an interesting way. Overall, one of journalism's great satisfactions had been the sense that one can make a difference in the world and bring about changes for the better.

**OFF-CAMPUS PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS:**

Internships must be arranged with the approval of students' faculty advisors. Students are required to complete 280 hours on an internship. Such an internship must be under the supervision of a full-time print journalist practitioner. Prerequisites for the internship are Comms 308; 321 or 325. Internships on campus must be specifically approved by the faculty advisor well in advance. Not all campus internships fill the requirement. Students must have C– or better in all internship prerequisite classes.

**FACULTY ADVISOR:**

Check with the School of Communications, 360 BRMB, to be assigned to a faculty advisor.

**MAP DISCLAIMER**

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, there are some student populations that could have exceptions to listed requirements. Please refer to the university catalog and your college advisement center/department for complete guidelines.

**DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

School of Communications  
360 Brimhall Building  
Brigham Young University  
Provo, UT 84602  
Telephone: 801-422-2077

**ADVISEMENT CENTER INFORMATION**

College of Fine Arts & Communications Advisement Center  
D-444 Harris Fine Arts Center  
Brigham Young University  
Provo, UT 84602  
Telephone: 801-422-3777  
Email: cfacadvise@byu.edu  
Website: cfacadvise.byu.edu