Sports Journalism, MA

CSSPJMA

Combine your sports knowledge with the art of in-depth reporting. You'll prepare for a career in sports media, or take your career to the next level, through hands-on reporting and production courses. Cronkite graduate students regularly cover major professional and collegiate sports in Arizona and some of the world's largest sporting events.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Sports Journalism

Sports journalism is the fastest-growing sector of the news media industry, with continued growth on all platforms --- multimedia outlets, broadcast and cable channels and networks, radio and podcasting, and team, league and conference websites and social media platforms.

The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication's MA program in sports journalism is a 36 credit hour, three-semester program providing students with unparalleled preparation for careers in sports media and communications.

Students begin with an intensive multimedia skills-based course, which teaches them to produce sports and news coverage across broadcast, digital and print platforms. From there, students choose advanced classes in sports reporting, videography, podcast production, live sports production, play-by-play, narrative writing, documentary video and participate in sports bureaus located in Phoenix and Los Angeles. Students learn the values and principles embodied by Walter Cronkite in classes that focus on sports journalism ethics and the challenges faced by the industry.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Comm](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix campus](#) or [Online](#)
Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

**Journalism and Mass Communication, BA**

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

36 credit hours including the required capstone course (MCO 570)

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**
MCO 503 Media Law (3)
MCO 510 Data Journalism (3)
MCO 526 Advanced Issues in 21st Century Sports and Media (3)
MCO 529 Ethics and Diversity in Sports Journalism (3)
MCO 540 Sports Reporting (3)

**Electives or Research (3 credit hours)**

**Other Requirement (9 credit hours)**
MCO 502 Journalism Skills (8)
MCO 504 Journalism Skills Lab (1)

**Culminating Experience (9 credit hours)**
MCO 570 Capstone: Cronkite News - Los Angeles Sports Bureau (9) or
MCO 570 Capstone: Cronkite News - Phoenix Sports Bureau (9)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students must complete a total of eight credit hours of MCO 502, which is offered at variable credit hours and can be taken multiple times.

Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved electives.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.
Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a closely related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. three letters of recommendation
4. personal statement of interest (350 to 500 words in length)
5. resume
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. TOEFL scores must be at least 600 for the paper-based examination and 100 for the internet-based examination.

The Cronkite School's graduate committee reviews complete and on-time applications on a rolling basis, with priority for admissions and funding for applications received by December 1.

Application Deadlines

Fall
expand

Global Opportunities

Global Experience
Study abroad is possible for graduate students, with more than 50 program opportunities spanning all seven continents. Faculty-directed programs tend to be the best fit for graduate students; taking courses over the summer or during academic breaks with ASU professors offers close mentorship and professional network growth in many fields of study while earning ASU credit. Exchange program participation is also possible with careful planning. Students can find more information on the Global Education website at https://goglobal.asu.edu/students/graduate-students.

Career Opportunities
Expertise in the sports journalism field is in high demand across sports organizations, news networks and digital media outlets. The high-value takeaways and tactical skills gained in the sports journalism master's degree program turn students into competitive candidates and sports journalism leaders.

Career opportunities for students who obtain a sports journalism master's degree include:

- sports editor
- sports news reporter
- sports play-by-play announcer
- sports PR and strategic communications professional
- sports television reporter
- sports television and video producer
- team, league or conference reporter

**Contact Information**

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[Admission Deadlines](mailto:Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Comm | CRONK 302)