

Assessment Plan for Student Outcome: The Journalism Program in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media

Program Outcomes

At Rutgers-Newark, journalism is taught as a liberal arts subject that blends theory and practice in an urban environment. Our students learn in and from the city as they write and report on Newark and the metropolitan area around it. They share their knowledge in news reports, radio work and documentaries. At the same time, they study the past and present of journalism to understand the historical changes in journalism and the issues that define journalism today. In their study of journalism, they gain the analytic abilities and research skills expected of any liberal arts major. As a result, upon graduation, our students are prepared to work in news organizations or to pursue graduate education or employment in other fields.

Desired Student Outcomes

Mastery of news writing and reporting.

Solid grounding in the law and ethics of journalism.

Basic skills in one medium of communication beyond news writing—such as radio, photography, or video—that will enable students to work in a multi-media environment.

An appreciation for the historical evolution of journalism and the debates that define journalism today.

An appreciation of the social, political, cultural, and economic issues that define Newark and the metropolitan area around it.

Solid grounding in the habits of critical thinking, writing, and research in the liberal arts tradition to encourage life-long learning and sustain students who will pursue graduate study.

An ability to write nonfiction prose with clarity and authority.

Measuring Outcomes

Course Sequences: Journalism majors are required to complete a sequence of writing and reporting courses, arranged in escalating levels of difficulty, to develop ever-higher levels of skill in the craft of journalism. They must pass this sequence to complete the major

Cross training: Majors are required to take and pass a course that expands their repertoire of communication skills beyond writing and into fields such as radio, photography, video and Web design.

Research Papers and Exams: In required courses on the history and present of journalism, students devote intensive study to writing research papers and are required to take written exams at the end of the course. These exercises ensure that students will develop, the

knowledge, analytic capacities, and skills at research and writing that are expected of liberal arts majors.