Master of Mass Communication, MMC

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MMC Mass Communication

The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication's 12-month master's degree program uses the teaching hospital method to immerse students in the practice of journalism and prepare them for careers in today's rapidly evolving media industry.

The Cronkite School stands out from other schools for journalism with its teaching hospital paradigm. The full-time journalism graduate program is unique among schools with journalism programs in its scope, focus and intensity. It begins with a boot camp experience where students learn the reporting skills, values and principles embodied by Walter Cronkite, the school's guiding light for the past three decades. But it also is designed with the future in mind. Students learn how to navigate a dramatically different 21st-century media environment through classes and a symposium specifically focused on the future of journalism. Students are able to apply that knowledge through an intensive, practical experience in one of the school's signature professional programs spanning broadcast journalism, digital journalism, audience engagement and other arenas.

Students do all of this in a world-class facility in the heart of downtown Phoenix, the nation's sixth largest city and 12th largest media market. The school is also home to Arizona PBS. Student journalists can walk to the state's largest newspaper, to the NBC and Fox television affiliates, and they are in walking distance to cover major events at city hall, at county, state and federal agencies and at major sporting and cultural venues.

Professional programs --- the cornerstones of the graduate program are the journalism school's professional programs:

- Carnegie-Knight News21
- Cronkite News -- Borderlands
- Cronkite News -- Broadcast
- Cronkite News -- Digital Production
- Cronkite News -- Phoenix Bureau
- Cronkite News -- Washington Bureau
- New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab
- Public Insight Network Bureau
- Reynolds Business Bureau
At a Glance

- College/School: Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Comm
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus

Concurrent Degrees

This degree is also offered as concurrent degree program with:
Legal Studies, MLS  
See degrees side by side
Sustainability Solutions, MSUS  
See degrees side by side

Accelerated Degrees

This degree is also offered in an accelerated format with:
Journalism and Mass Communication, BA

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior and senior years, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours including the required applied project course (MCO 593), or
30 credit hours including the required capstone course (MCO 570), or
36 credit hours including the required capstone course (MCO 570)

Required Core (20 credit hours)
MCO 502 Journalism Skills (8)
MCO 503 Media Law (3)
MCO 510 Data Journalism (3)
MCO 525 21st-Century Media Organization and Entrepreneurship (3)
MCO 530 History, Philosophy, and Ethics of Journalism (3)

Electives (6 credit hours)

Other Requirements (1 credit hour)
MCO 598 ST: Lab Observation (1)
Culminating Experience (9 credit hours)
MCO 570 Master of Mass Communication Capstone (9)

Additional Curriculum Information
The master's degree program is a full-time, 36 credit hour program. Students with extensive professional journalism experience may be offered the opportunity to pursue the 30 credit hour mid-career option.

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 any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (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. GRE scores
4. three letters of recommendation
5. personal statement of interest (350 to 500 words in length).
6. resume
7. proof of English proficiency

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

Scores on the quantitative and verbal sections of the GRE are required, with the verbal score being particularly important to the journalism school's graduate committee.
Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms, and applicants must meet all deadlines and application requirements to be considered.

The Cronkite School’s graduate committee reviews complete and on-time applications. Recommendations for admission are made to Graduate Admission Services, where the final admission decisions are made.

Contact Information

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