

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JOURNALISM

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING



## SEEK TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID.

Investigative reporters serve as watchdogs, holding those in power accountable for their inequities while exposing corruption, harmful practices and financial abuses. Our graduates cover federal, state and local governments, making a difference on a daily basis.

### JOIN THE ONLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN ILLINOIS.

Our classes prepare you to find, interpret and use public records to document government actions, such as new legislation or abuses of power, and to investigate significant social change resulting from these actions.

### INTERESTED IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, POLITICS OR REPORTING ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES? PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING IS THE CAREER FOR YOU.

Students gain an understanding of public affairs and study the organizations and individuals who operate in the public interest. This program is also valuable for those interested in public service, civic engagement, political and government careers, public communications or non-profit service.

### WHY STUDY PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING AT EIU?

- + **UNIQUE** - Become a part of the only undergraduate public affairs reporting program in Illinois.
- + **HANDS-ON** - Gain invaluable hands-on experience by working on the Daily Eastern News, WEIU-TV, WEIU-FM, or the Warbler yearbook.
- + **INTERNSHIPS** - Spend at least one semester working as an intern for a professional or university news media organization.
- + **INTERDISCIPLINARY** - Combine knowledge and skills from both journalism and political science.

### SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM

BUZZARD HALL 2521  
217-581-6003  
CMNJOU@EIU.EDU



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU. APPLY TODAY AT [MY.EIU.EDU](http://MY.EIU.EDU).

[eiu.edu/journalism](http://eiu.edu/journalism)

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

An informed citizenry is essential to the healthy functioning of a democratic society, and the news media are essential to that health by educating the public about what elected and appointed officials are doing.

The Public Affairs Reporting (PAR) option gives students, with a keen interest in government, the knowledge and skills necessary to provide accurate news coverage of state and local government. PAR students learn about the activities of the state legislature, local governments, courts, police, and the impact of national and international events on local affairs. Students learn how to find, interpret and use public records to document government action, and organizations and individuals who operate in the public interest.

Students learn to think critically, produce creatively, write precisely, process information quickly, interview thoughtfully, manage people, and develop an excellent work ethic.

## WHAT CAREERS CAN I PURSUE?

Our alumni work for broadcast, online and print news media, covering city, county and state governments.

The PAR option also offers excellent preparation for students who wish to work in law, public service, civic engagement, political and government careers, public communications, and non-profit organizations.

The skills required of a journalist are the foundation for any job that requires researching, talking to people, asking questions and synthesizing what is learned into a cohesive, coherent article or report.

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## REQUIRED COURSEWORK: 61 HRS

CATALOG YEAR 2024-2025

### JOURNALISM DIVISION CORE: 40 HRS

JOU 2000 - Fundamentals in News Gathering  
JOU 2001G - Journalism and Democracy  
JOU 2101 - News Reporting & Writing  
JOU 2902 - Copy Editing & Design  
JOU 2950 - Introduction to Visual Communication  
JOU 3000 - Advanced Reporting  
JOU 3002 - Introduction to Multimedia Journalism  
JOU 3610 - Broadcast News  
JOU 3750 - Social Media Engagement  
JOU 3940 - History of American Journalism  
JOU 3970 - Race, Gender, and the Media  
JOU 4401 - Journalism Portfolio  
JOU 4420 - Communication Law & Ethics  
JOU 4730 - Journalism Capstone Seminar

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING CORE: 9 HRS

PLS 1153G - American Government and Constitution  
PLS 2703 - Introduction to Public Policy  
JOU 4000 - Investigative Reporting

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING ELECTIVES: 6 HRS

Public Affairs Reporting students need to complete 3 semester hours of JOU and 3 semester hours of PLS elective coursework. Public Affairs Reporting students may select any JOU or PLS course as an elective, except JOU 1000G.

### LIBERAL ARTS REQUIRED COURSEWORK: 6 HRS

PLS 3603 - State and Local Government  
Any 3-credit ECN or SOC class