

**PROGRESSIVE DEGREE PROGRAM  
COURSE PLAN TEMPLATE**

<b>USC SCHOOL</b>	Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
<b>ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT</b>	Journalism
<b>GRADUATE PROGRAM</b>	Specialized Journalism M.A.
<b>POST CODE</b>	853
<b>TERM EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	Spring 2021

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

A brief description of the graduate program.

In the Master of Arts in Specialized Journalism, award-winning, experienced journalists guide students toward publication in professional outlets, generating “impact journalism” that makes a difference. Students are encouraged to explore documentary, investigative, and narrative journalism genres through a range of specialties and disciplines, including international reporting, social justice journalism, and reporting on religion, climate change, sports, entertainment, and other subjects. Under the guidance of faculty advisers, and with a wide range of electives for study throughout the university, students craft their own unique master’s degree.

**COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS**

A list of common bachelor’s degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program. Some programs are restricted to certain majors while others are open to all students.

Journalism B.A.	
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**PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program. Required coursework is listed first, followed by recommended courses. If not applicable, this section will be blank.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Required or Recommended	Units
	NONE		

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS**

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
	NONE	

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**CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)**

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

*If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk (\*) and the exception is explained in the "Department Notes" section at the end of this course plan template.*

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
JOUR 528	Summer Digital Journalism Immersion	3
JOUR 560*	Seminar in Mass Communication Law	2
JOUR 567	The Power of Narrative	2
JOUR 594a	Master's Thesis	2
JOUR 594b	Master's Thesis	2
JOUR 595	Critical Thinking: The Art and Science of Not Getting Fooled	3

**PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK**

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

Varies	<b>TOTAL ELECTIVE COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE</b>
20	<b>TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE</b>

**TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS**

34	<b>TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE</b>
11**	<b>TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)</b>
23	<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE</b>

**NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT**

This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

\*The JOUR 560 (2 units) requirement is waived if a USC undergraduate Journalism major completes JOUR 462: Law of Mass Communication (4 units). In this scenario, the student would complete 2 additional elective units in place of JOUR 560.

\*\*However, the completion of 26 total units is typically required for the Master of Arts in Specialized Journalism PDP degree.

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Suzanne Alcantara

**Authorizing Dean's Name**

4/9/2021

**Date Approved**

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

**Authorizing Dean's Title**