

inform

University of Florida
College of Journalism and Communications



Journalism

The hands on, practical lessons I learned as a journalism student at UF have been the cornerstone of my professional career. All it took was one zero on a reporting assignment for a misspelled name - life lesson learned. The professors drilled in the core values of fairness and accuracy in the classroom, then pushed us to get real life experience.

—AMINDA “MINDY” MARQUES GONZALEZ, executive editor, The Miami Herald, JM 1986

Journalism

Journalists play a critical role in a free society, informing the citizenry of events, issues and trends. The art and craft of excellent journalism fosters an appreciation for accuracy, fairness, truth and diversity, and cultivates an understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of the news media in a democratic society.

The University of Florida's Department of Journalism, a part of UF's College of Journalism and Communications, is among the nation's best. The Department produces numerous award-winning student journalists who are trained to create content across all multimedia platforms and prepared to work in an ever-changing industry. The Department consistently ranks among the top 10 journalism programs in the nation and each year its students place in numerous national competitions, including those sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Journalism students choose electives that give them expertise in new and traditional media, web design, online journalism, magazines and photojournalism.

Career opportunities

Journalists and photojournalists work in a wide variety of organizations including newspapers, magazines, Internet dailies, blogs and information websites, broadcast companies, corporations, sports teams, hospitals and other industries.

Some journalists focus on a particular industry or subject, including business, travel, sports, environmental, fashion or finance. Many journalists also are finding success as freelance writers and editors working for a variety of clients. In recent years, more and more journalists are working across media platforms and finding opportunities to create multimedia news stories that incorporate writing, video and audio for the Internet.

Admission standards & degree requirements

Specific admission and degree requirements for the Department of Journalism are outlined in the University of Florida Catalog.

Curriculum

Journalism students take a core of courses that includes reporting, fact-finding, editing, ethics and law of mass communication. In addition, students choose courses from a list of professional electives to tailor their major to their career interests in such areas as magazines, photojournalism or online journalism.

Students also gain experience through internships in newspapers and magazines across the country and at The Independent Florida Alligator, one of the nation's leading college newspapers.

UF alumni spotlight

An advisory board of journalism professionals works with the Department on issues of importance to the profession and to the Department's students. These professionals evaluate the department's program, counsel students on the profession and offer advice on resumes, internships and job opportunities.

The Department's alumni are employed in newspapers, magazines and corporations around the world; many of them are noted authors. These include:

- Michael Connelly, JM 1980, best-selling author, former reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* *(continued on back)*



- Karen DeYoung, JM 1971, associate editor and senior national security correspondent for *The Washington Post*
- Carl Hiaasen, JM 1974, best-selling author and columnist for *The Miami Herald*
- Aminda “Mindy” Marques Gonzalez, JM 1986, executive editor, *The Miami Herald*
- Tom Kennedy, JM 1972, internationally known visual journalist, former photo director for *National Geographic* and managing editor for multimedia at washingtonpost.com
- Cynthia McCague, JM 1972, retired senior VP and global head of human resources for Coca-Cola
- Joan Ryan, JM 1981, author and retired sports columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*
- Stephanie Sinclair, JM 1998, nationally known photojournalist with VII Network, contributes regularly to *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *National Geographic* and *The New York Times Magazine*
- George Solomon, JM 1963, former sports editor and columnist at *The Washington Post*, first ombudsman for ESPN
- Esdras Suarez, JM 1993, *Boston Globe* photographer and Pulitzer Prize winning photographer while at the *Rocky Mountain News*

UF College of Journalism and Communications

The UF College of Journalism and Communications is considered one of the nation’s best. The strength of its programs, faculty, students and alumni throughout its history has earned the College ongoing recognition as one of the top programs of journalism and communications in the United States. The College offers bachelor’s degrees in advertising, journalism, public relations and telecommunication, and master’s and doctorate degrees in mass communication.

A nationally recognized leader in communications technology, the College is an innovator in adopting electronic technologies for instruction. The College supports a network of desktop and laptop computers, with software applications for student use ranging from word-processing to graphic design/photography to sophisticated data analysis and digital video editing. Its Center for Media Innovation + Research utilizes digital technology to train students to create content for all multimedia platforms to better prepare them to work in the ever-changing world of journalism and communications.

In addition, the College includes the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information and the Division of Multimedia Properties, which includes seven broadcasting facilities (north Florida’s PBS television affiliate, WUFT-TV; the National Public Radio affiliate, WUFT-FM, and satellite station, WJUF-FM; two commercial radio stations, WRUF, Sportsradio 850 and Country 1037, The Gator; Rock104.com; and commercial television station, WRUF-TV6).

