the career edge:
a dual degree graduate program
journalism and law
Journalists and lawyers today find that each other’s knowledge and skills are an increasingly important part of their professional work. Missouri’s dual degree program in journalism and law is designed to give students the career edge by providing a solid understanding of the theories and practices of both fields. This program is also ideal preparation for the rapidly growing field of public affairs management, in which practitioners work in business, government and nonprofits to communicate with key audiences.

Master of Arts from the Missouri School of Journalism (MA)

The Missouri School of Journalism has earned a worldwide reputation for its exceptional program. The foundation of the school is the Missouri Method, in which students learn about journalism not only through lectures and discussions but also by practicing it.

Juris Doctorate from the School of Law (JD)

MU’s School of Law offers a comprehensive legal education taught by nearly 40 acclaimed scholars and teachers. It is a world leader in the study and teaching of alternative methods of dispute resolution, such as negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and offers a wide variety of clinical, internship and skill development opportunities.
Students earn two degrees, generally in four years.
As a student enrolled in the MA/JD dual degree program, you will enjoy many benefits during and after enrollment:

• **You’ll have expanded career options** because you will be qualified for jobs in both journalism and law, as well as for positions that combine both.

• **You’ll save time and money** as you earn two graduate degrees in as little as four years.

• **You’ll work on relevant research** with renowned professors of journalism and law.

• **You’ll receive exclusive invitations** to the J-Law events, including interactive presentations and discussions on current events, cutting-edge research and other issues of interest.
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• You’ll experience hands-on training, course work and externships to help you better understand the demands of being a journalist or lawyer. Journalists will improve their real world problem-solving skills by facing the challenges of a working journalist. Lawyers will improve their writing for client communications, court briefs and other legal needs.

• You’ll have access to thousands of reference publications, books, articles, online texts and databases through the journalism and law libraries, the Freedom of Information Center, Westlaw, Lexis Nexis, the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting and others. These resources will improve your research skills and develop a strong knowledge of databases used in your profession.
Participants in the journalism-law dual degree program are regular students at each school and must complete each school’s requirements for graduation. Depending on the course of study you choose, it is possible to complete the program in less time and for less money while at the same time achieving greater value in the practice than if you earned the degrees separately.

The MA in journalism degree is a 37-hour program. Students will become well versed in research methodology, mass media law and journalism principles. Students get hands-on training in newspaper, television, radio, online and magazine outlets, and with advertising/public relations clients. Six of the course credit hours from the journalism school count toward the JD degree.

The JD degree is an 89-hour program. Students will learn about civil procedure, property law, criminal law and other areas of law as well as alternative methods of conflict resolution such as negotiation, mediation and arbitration.
Careers

Dual degree students have much broader career options after graduation because they are qualified as professionals in journalism and law.

As journalists, MA/JD program graduates have integrated journalism and law skills, education and experience to cover court proceedings, law and government, and to bring greater depth and sophistication to the coverage of traditional beats, such as civil rights, crime and the environment. Organizations, government leaders and policy-makers are searching for individuals with skills in law, policy analysis and communication expertise.

As lawyers, graduates will have the skills to communicate more effectively in the practice of law, regardless of their field, as well as unique qualifications and insights for media and communications-related practices.

Applying to the Program

Those interested can apply to the program online via the Web sites of the Missouri School of Journalism (journalism.missouri.edu) or the School of Law (law.missouri.edu). Students must apply to each program separately and meet the admissions requirements for each. Applicants must take the LSAT (for law) and GRE (for journalism) to be considered for admission. The GRE requirement is waived for Walter Williams Scholars who meet admissions requirements for graduate study in journalism.
Other Journalism-Law Programs

The Master’s Model in Law and Conflict Resolution

This program allows journalism master’s students who seek careers as reporters and editors to develop particular expertise in covering legal issues. It also provides a greater understanding of the legal environment of the media if they are preparing for careers in media management or strategic communications. This model requires 15 hours of law and conflict resolution core and elective credits, including courses at the School of Law.

The PhD Minor in Law and Conflict Resolution

This program allows journalism doctoral students interested in teaching and researching journalism, law and conflict in a journalism school or a communication department to specialize in law and conflict resolution. The minor requires 15 units, including both core courses and at least six credit hours of electives at the School of Law. It appears on the student’s transcript.

The JD/PhD Degree

This degree helps students who are seeking careers as professors of journalism, communication or law by giving them the capacity to earn a law degree and doctorate from Missouri in less time — and for less cost — than if they pursued both degrees separately. Both programs contain a rigorous curriculum of theory and practice-based study. Students take doctoral seminars on research and writing for the journalism PhD degree.

For more information, visit journalism.missouri.edu and law.missouri.edu.