English/Journalism Majors Capstone Experience
– the Internship

The English/Journalism major at UNH requires that you do an internship, often as a full-time reporter or editor at a newspaper -- though students have done internships at TV and radio stations and at magazines and for online publications -- for one semester or a summer. The experience will improve your writing and help you decide whether you want to be a journalist. You'll also come away with lots of clips -- published stories -- which are essential in looking for a job. And you'll have a blast.

It's difficult to get a job in journalism unless you've done an internship. The UNH journalism program is unusual because we often find the internship for you; we don't just say, "Go get experience." Better still, we send interns to the same newspapers every semester. That means you can be confident that you're going to a newsroom where the editors will consider you a full-fledged staff member, with as much chance as any other reporter to make the front page each day. Because these newspapers take UNH students each semester, they have a good sense of students' abilities. They won't think you're a dummy who can do nothing more than answer the phone or make photocopies (and believe us, this happens at some internships elsewhere), and they won't expect you to be ready to win the Pulitzer Prize tomorrow. They'll give you the support you need to do the best job you can.

An internship is NOT easy. The newspaper internships are full-time journalism work (some of the other types of internships are only part-time), which means it's demanding work that never runs only from 9 to 5. On the other hand, it's interesting and important work that changes every day, which is more than you can say for many things you might spend your life doing after college. Some of the papers where we send interns are not within commuting distance of campus. You'll be expected to have a car, to move to the newspaper's community and find a place to live (most of the papers will try to help you, or you may be able to take over the apartment of the previous intern), and to be available for work whenever the paper needs you. Part of the experience is becoming an independent professional, and it's hard to do that if you're returning each night to your parents or your partying roommates.

Requirements: You must receive at least a B in English 621 Newswriting and English 622 Advanced Newswriting before doing a reporting internship. English 722 Feature Writing is also strongly recommended. If you want to do an editing internship, you'll need to be doing A work in English 711 Editing. You may apply for the internship while you are taking 622, 722 or 711. You will need published stories to bring to your internship interview.

Applying for an internship: The internship coordinator takes applications in October for spring internships and in March for summer and fall internships. You'll hear frequent announcements in journalism classes and receive them by e-mail, plus we post notices around the English building as the application deadline approaches.
To apply, submit the following to the internship coordinator: a letter with your contact information, list of classes you've taken and grades you received, and first and second choices of internship; and three clips of stories you've had published. If you have questions about applying, contact Prof. Miller in Ham Smith 104, lc.miller@unh.edu.

You need clips (published stories) to apply for an internship, so start publishing in the student newspaper -- or anywhere else -- as early as you can. College is the easiest place on earth to get your work published, so "Yeah, I like to write, but I've never actually done it except for classes" is not going to cut it in an internship interview.

**Setting up your own internship:** If you want to go to a newspaper or other organization that UNH doesn't usually work with, you can set up your own internship. Most news organizations do take interns, though some do it only in the summer.

Our course, English 720, is titled Journalism Internship. We can give credit under that number only for real journalistic work. Some students have received partial credit for work at magazines, broadcast stations and Web sites. Full credit for internships at such organizations is sometimes difficult because they rarely want interns to do full-time writing or editing (for instance, magazine interns often do primarily research and fact-checking), but partial credit is enough to graduate with a journalism major. Note, however, that most UNH grads who have gone on to magazine or broadcasting careers started by doing a newspaper internship, which broadcaster John Chancellor has called the world's best graduate school.

As long as you have the internship course, English 720, on your transcript for any number of credits, you can graduate as an English/Journalism major.

For more information about the internship and the Journalism Program, go to www.unh.edu/journalism.