

## English/Journalism Majors Capstone Experience – the Internship

The English/Journalism major at UNH requires you to do an internship, sometimes as a reporter or editor at a newspaper – although students have done internships at TV and radio stations and at magazines and for online publications – during the fall or spring semester or over the summer. The experience will improve your writing and help you decide whether you want to be a journalist.

If you work for a newspaper, 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. We will help you in any way we can to find a great one. We regularly send students to Seacoast Media Group (Portsmouth Herald, Fosters Daily Democrat) and often to NH1, NHPTV and New Hampshire Magazine (and sometimes to NHPR or The Concord Monitor or Heinemann publishing); the Journalism Program director can set you up with internships at those places. Students also set up their own as well at all sorts of places. You must work for a news organization (we can't give credit for public relations internships) and be doing real journalism work, not filing papers and answering phones.

An internship is NOT easy. Journalism work is 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. You will need to have a car and be available when the news organization needs you.

**Requirements:** Students must complete ENGLISH 621 Writing and Reporting the News I with a B or better and get permission from their ENGL 622 Writing and Reporting the News II or ENGL 631 Digital Reporting instructor. If you want to do an editing internship, you need to be doing 'A' work in ENGL 711 Editing. You can apply for an internship while taking 622, 631 or 711. You will need published stories to bring to your internship interview.

**Applying for an internship:** The journalism director takes applications in October for spring internships and in March for summer and fall internships. To apply, send the director an email with your contact information, including cell phone number, list of journalism classes you've taken and grades you've received, first and second choices of internship, and three stories you've had published. If you have questions about applying, contact Prof. Miller in Ham Smith 302E, [lc.miller@unh.edu](mailto: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:** Our course, English 720, is titled Journalism Internship. We can give credit under that number only for real journalistic work for a news organization. Note that many UNH grads who have gone on to magazine or broadcasting careers started by doing a newspaper internship.

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](http://www.unh.edu/journalism)

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