

Area of Interest: Creative Media and Communications

Journalism

Ontario College Diploma

Program Code: 0402X01FWO

2 Years

Ottawa Campus

Our Program

Turn your curiosity into a career as a factual storyteller who serves our communities.

The two-year Journalism Ontario College Diploma program equips you with the versatile creative and technical skills you need to report and research accurate stories for readers, listeners and viewers. Alongside experienced, industry-connected faculty, you develop the core journalistic skills required to report on your areas of interest. These may include people, current affairs or specialized sectors like sports, the environment, social justice, entertainment or gaming.

As a student, you become a staff member with the Algonquin Times, our award-winning campus newspaper, and Glue magazine, our Ottawa-wide student publication. Here, you develop hands-on skills:

- finding and pitching story ideas
- using research strategies
- interviewing
- seeking and locating diverse, knowledgeable sources
- writing
- editing
- taking photos
- shooting video
- recording and editing audio
- using analytics
- reducing social media content
- working with content management systems
- understanding media ethics and law

In the first level of the program, you study alongside Broadcasting - Television and Broadcasting - Radio students, building a strong foundation in transferable media skills while exploring these related fields. In the second year, you will have the opportunity to choose a specialty elective course that aligns with your media interests. In this program, you are given the opportunity to work on interprofessional teams with other media programs. You also put theory to work through collaborations with real-world media partners. In the final term of the program, you take part in a six-week field placement with a media or communications host.

Journalism skills are in demand and portable to many different career options after graduation. Graduates may find work in government, private-sector or not-for-profit sectors. You may find employment in the following environments:

- community news outlets

- social media departments or businesses
- communications departments or businesses
- specialty content outlets
- visual storytelling teams
- podcasting production outlets
- research departments

Opportunities may also exist for you to work as a freelancer or to start your own independent news outlet or brand.

SUCCESS FACTORS

This program is well-suited for students who:

- Are keen to serve the community through fair and accurate storytelling.
- Are willing to learn to interact with a wide variety of people.
- Possess a keen curiosity about news happening locally, nationally and globally.
- Have solid writing and listening skills.
- Enjoy reading and following news and current events.

Employment

Graduates may find employment as multi-skilled journalists, reporters, communications specialists, branded content storytellers, radio broadcasters, chase producers, content writers, researchers, photographers, videographers, social media specialists. Opportunities may also exist for graduates wishing to freelance.

Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Report on stories in an accurate, detailed, balanced, professional, and timely manner.
- Apply computer and technical skills to designated production and research functions in journalism.
- Function both independently and as a member of editorial and/or production teams.
- Analyze knowledge from communities, current events and public affairs, and history to interpret and express the context for designated journalism publications and/or productions.
- Develop strategies for personal and professional development.
- Comply with relevant Canadian legislation, standards, and the principles and practices of journalism.
- Write and edit content for the designated media platforms.
- Publish and/or broadcast content for the designated media platforms.
- Apply production skills and use production equipment in the preparation and distribution of content for the designated media platforms.
- Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

Level: 01	Courses	Hours
ENL1813M	Communications I	42.0
JOU0001	Storytelling Fundamentals	42.0
JOU0002	News Writing	56.0
JOU0003	Media Law and Ethics	28.0
PHO0011	Introduction to Photography	42.0
SSC0058	Local Government	42.0
TVA0010	Exploring Image and Sound	56.0
Level: 02	Courses	Hours
ENL2008	Interpersonal Skills for Personal and Career Success	42.0
JOU0004	Editing for the Digital Environment	28.0
JOU0005	Newsroom 1	56.0
JOU0006	Journalism Techniques	28.0
JOU0007	Audio Storytelling	28.0
JOU0008	Photojournalism	42.0
JOU1524	Narrative Storytelling	42.0
Choose one from equivalencies: Courses		Hours
GED0402	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 03	Courses	Hours
JOU0009	Newsroom 2	56.0
JOU0010	Story Lab 1	42.0
JOU0011	Television News	28.0
JOU1537	Editing for Story	42.0
RAD1569	Podcasting	42.0
Elective: choose 1	Courses	Hours
COM0017	Engaging Through Social Media	42.0
JOU0012	Solutions Journalism	42.0
TVA0017	Esports Production	42.0
Choose one from equivalencies: Courses		Hours
GED0402	General Education Elective	42.0
Level: 04	Courses	Hours
JOU0013	Trends in Journalism	14.0

JOU0014	Freelancing and Independent Publishing	28.0
JOU0015	Business Journalism	14.0
JOU0016	Radio News	28.0
JOU0017	Story Lab 2	28.0
JOU1549	Journalism for Communications	14.0
JOU1554	Field Placement	180.0
LFS0018	Career Development	28.0

Fees for the 2023/2024 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator>.

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar's Office website at <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>.

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

- Books and supplies cost approximately \$200 in the first year and \$100 in the second year.
- A Nikon digital SLR camera with video capability and an external microphone input (approx. \$1,000) is required in the first level. Students should wait to purchase a camera until up-to-date specifications are provided by the program faculty.
- A smartphone with HD resolution to shoot video, photos and send email is required.
- Software specific to course needs will be provided by the college.

Admission Requirements for the 2024/2025 Academic Year

College Eligibility

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee of \$50 (subject to change) will be charged.

Program Eligibility

- English, Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent) with a grade of 70% or higher.
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject-specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency. Domestic applicants with international transcripts must be evaluated through the International Credential Assessment Service of Canada (ICAS) or World Education Services (WES).
- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT) Overall 88, with a minimum of 22 in each component: Reading 22; Listening 22; Speaking 22; Writing 22; OR Duolingo English

- IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT) Overall 88, with a minimum of 22 in each component: Reading 22; Listening 22; Speaking 22; Writing 22; OR Duolingo English Test (DET) Overall 120, minimum of 120 in Literacy and no score below 105.
- Not sure if you meet all of the requirements? Academic Upgrading may be able to help with that: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/access/> .

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Application Information

JOURNALISM

Program Code 0402X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Applications are available online <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/> .

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants applying from out-of-country can obtain the International Student Application Form at <https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/> or by contacting the Registrar's Office.

For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar's Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766

Fax: 613-727-7632

Contact: <https://www.algonquincollege.com/ro>

Additional Information

This program has a field work component that must be completed in order to graduate. Finding and securing an approved field work opportunity is a shared responsibility. Your faculty and field work supervisor/coordinator have contacts in industry and where feasible will assist you in finding an approved field placement.

The Journalism faculty members and students collaborate in spaces that respect diversity, honour inclusivity and support equity. This includes acknowledging systemic issues related to marginalized groups, including those represented by gender, race, age, religion, physical disabilities, sexual orientation, neurodiversity, and socioeconomic status.

Contact Information

Program Coordinator(s)

- Julie McCann, <mailto:mccannj@algonquincollege.com> , 613-727-4723, ext. 5183
- Jon Willing, <mailto:willinj@algonquincollege.com> , 613-727-4723

Course Descriptions

COM0017 Engaging Through Social Media

Social media platforms and strategies play a key role in how media brands engage with their audience. Students evaluate social media campaigns for media brands by identifying target audiences and content strategies. Students also interpret analytics and apply what they have learned to enhance their own productions and engage their audiences. Students explore approaches for navigating negativity in the online environment. Through case studies, studying industry trends and practices, and creating their own social media engagement strategy, students discover the importance of social media in the television, video, digital media, and streaming industries.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

ENL1813M Communications I

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Through a combination of lectures, exercises, and independent learning, students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information, and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

ENL2008 Interpersonal Skills for Personal and Career Success

To be effective storytellers, writers need to work with others. Students explore several different factors that affect our relationships, including how deeply we listen to others and what to do if conflict arises. Students have an opportunity to assess, analyze, and develop their own interpersonal skills. Activities include self-evaluation work, journaling, pairs and small-group work and responsibility for an individual project. Communication skills, both written and oral, are stressed.

Prerequisite(s): ENL1813M

Corerequisite(s):none

GED0402 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

GED0402 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0001 Storytelling Fundamentals

In order to be factual storytellers who serve communities, journalists need to become familiar with core journalism concepts including what constitutes news, where it comes from and how to report it responsibly. Students explore how to respect the story, the storyteller, and the storytelling process. Students identify and find news stories; explore how to develop relevant, diverse news formats; practise how to interview; identify how to stay committed to factual accuracy; and practise how to ensure diverse and inclusive news sources are used. Through consistent and diverse news consumption, study of Indigenous histories, interviews and streeters, news writing assignments and journals, students gain the foundational skills they need to report for written, audio and visual news sources.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0002 News Writing

News readers rely on journalists to deliver news and information in a clear, succinct and readable way. Students write leads, structure basic news stories and craft social media posts. They are also introduced to feature writing. Through writing assignments, timed writing drills and reading assignments, students work independently and in teams to develop their written storytelling skills.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0003 Media Law and Ethics

Journalists play an essential role in a functioning Canadian democracy, providing accurate and objective stories that Canadians can trust. Students examine the ethical need to report on stories that represent all citizens' histories and experiences, particularly of First Nation, Inuit, and Metis peoples and of those who have been marginalized. Students explore libel and its defences, how reporters cover court and the rights reporters and photographers have at news scenes. They also examine how reporters interact with the police, issues around free speech and using anonymous sources. On the ethics front, students explore acceptable and unacceptable behaviours for journalists, common ethical challenges and frameworks to help guide reporters to solutions. Through case studies, guest speakers, court reporting exercises and group discussions, students develop practical skills that reporters and editors must have.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0004 Editing for the Digital Environment

Self-editors today need to ensure their copy is clean and accurate - and that they apply digital strategies to help deliver it to their readers' eyes. Students practice the basics of copy editing and

how to apply Canadian Press style; they write headlines and photo captions; they learn helpful SEO habits; and they are introduced to how editors use social media and analytics to share and monitor a story's reception. Copyediting drills, class discussions and collaborative assignments support the development of strong style, grammar, punctuation and news editing skills. Students apply these skills through their work with the Algonquin Times.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0001

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0005 Newsroom 1

The best way to learn about journalism is to practise it. Students apply news reporting theories as they work as reporters and editors with the Algonquin Times, the news outlet serving the college's students, staff, visitors and campus neighbours. Students pitch stories, conduct interviews, write stories, take photos and videos and carry out other duties associated with the Times' website, email newsletter and social media channels. Students explore lived experiences that are different than their own while ensuring diversity in the voices and the stories they cover. This exploration includes discussions of building relationship and fostering reciprocity. Through ongoing collaboration with classmates and professors, students complete independent reporting assignments and short features.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0001

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0006 Journalism Techniques

Reporters and editors require a strong foundation in ethics, laws and professional practises of their journalistic craft. Beats such as court, crime, sports, entertainment, politics, technology and gaming are explored. Students examine empathetic reporting including strategies for reporting in First Nations, Inuit, and Metis communities and other marginalized communities. Students also develop the critical thinking approaches required to write opinion pieces and features. Students explore protocols and practices for staying safe online.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0001

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0007 Audio Storytelling

Telling stories for the ear is as important as doing it for the eye. Building on basic audio skills, students begin to explore the journalism fundamentals needed to be radio storytellers and podcasters. Along with active class discussions and guest visits, students adapt the reporting they do for the campus newspaper, the Algonquin Times, for broadcast on the campus radio station CKDJ.

Prerequisite(s): TVA0010

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0008 Photojournalism

Photography and video are essential partners for every news story. Using foundational photography skills, reporters must learn how to think about a story's visual needs at the outset, how to shoot across a variety of scenarios and apply basic editing and production practises afterwards. In the service of their work as staff members of the Algonquin Times, students learn about candid shooting, taking portraits, shooting for news and how to cover events. They also explore a video's lifecycle by learning how to plan, capture audio, storyboard and shoot sequences. DSLR and smartphones are used throughout. Through collaborative discussions and activities, seminars and independent assignments, students support the visual side of the Algonquin Times.

Prerequisite(s): PHO0011

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0009 Newsroom 2

With core reporting skills in place, new journalists are ready to further their interviewing, researching and reporting abilities using advanced reporting techniques. As staff members of the Algonquin Times, students continue to pitch, assign and produce stories using the appropriate medium: written, audio or video. In this news room, civic issues and the broader regions that wrap around Algonquin's campuses are increasingly considered. The editorial team develops stories from documents and data, practises solutions journalism techniques, explores freedom of information laws and engages in active community outreach activities to seek out news and issues. Editorial meetings, seminars and events are enriched through cross-program collaboration with other media students.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0005

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0010 Story Lab 1

Journalists and editors rely on technical tools to tell stories visually and graphically as stand-alone items, companions for written or audio content and for social media platforms. While examining best practises in online news design, students explore the basic software applications that enable them to create infographics and visual pieces that blend all forms of digital storytelling. They also explore the best practises, design principles and photographic skills needed for effective social media storytelling. Students explore the technical tools that can support online safety for journalists in complex and escalating situations. Drawing on the reporting and news production work underway for the Algonquin Times, students create content through seminars and hands-on assignments.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0005 and JOU0007 and JOU0008

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0011 Television News

A multiskilled journalist needs to understand how to write and produce for television and streaming brands. Students gain experience with all aspects of reporting a visual story, from writing scripts and voiceovers to shooting interviews and b-roll to editing their footage to create a news piece. Students examine the roles and tasks assigned to each member of a production team. Through watching industry examples and hands-on application with cameras and editing software, students produce news reports for air.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0007 and JOU0008

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0012 Solutions Journalism

Solutions journalism improves communities through positive, insightful news that turns the negative reputation of news on its head. Its goal is to help people and to offer hope. Students explore why this emerging, essential form of storytelling needs to exist today and why it's growing. Along with meeting practitioners of the craft and practising how to put its structured steps into action, students collaboratively produce written, audio, and video content.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0001

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0013 Trends in Journalism

With the rapid rate of innovation in journalism and media communications, keeping pace with the latest developments, emerging sectors and issues-of-note is an essential and dynamic task. Students explore ethical and practical challenges and opportunities they may meet in their media careers and the related technologies and skillsets. Student examine specialty sectors of interest, such as e-sports and gaming, food, travel. Students investigate, discuss and share their findings as a group.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0014 Freelancing and Independent Publishing

The ability for a journalist or non-fiction storyteller to work for themselves as a freelance contractor or as an independent publisher is an increasingly powerful and necessary skill. Students survey the media landscape and its sectors and markets from the perspective of a self-employed freelancer. Along with gaining an understanding of how an independent storyteller assesses a brand's mandate and audience, students write query letters and explore pitching protocols for real-world publications. Students contribute to Glue magazine in order to keep their reporting and writing skills sharp and their portfolios fresh. Students also explore the growing independent-publishing scene and learn entrepreneurial basics through seminars, guest speakers and group discussions.

Prerequisite(s): JOU1537
Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0015 Business Journalism

Understanding the essentials of business reporting is a necessary skill in a wide range of roles and sectors. For instance, journalists need to understand how to interpret financial reports, budgets and balance sheets in order to communicate their meaning to the audience. Through class discussions, document explorations and guest visits, students examine the essentials of how to structure a business story, how to untangle jargon and how to wrangle technical concepts and numbers.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0016 Radio News

Reporting and writing for radio are skills flexible journalists and storytellers require. Students explore and practise broadcast news style and techniques. Students work newscast shifts for the College's radio station, CKDJ.

Prerequisite(s): RAD1569
Corerequisite(s):none

JOU0017 Story Lab 2

Dynamic multimedia stories require dedicated time and collaboration from digital storytellers with foundational technical and journalistic skills. With space, inspiration and guidance, students produce projects for their portfolios and for Glue magazine. Building on their technical skills to tell stories visually and graphically, students work in groups using web tools, storyboards, smartphones and video editing apps in this hands-on culminating workshop course. Students consider social media strategies. Group discussions and collaborations are supported by incremental assignments designed to keep the projects on track.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0010
Corerequisite(s):none

JOU1524 Narrative Storytelling

Readers, listeners and viewers love to be told true, factual stories. Narrative storytelling techniques help journalists do just this. By studying a variety of narrative-driven pieces that represent a diversity of lived experiences, including stories that are not just focused on communities' hardships but are hopeful and future-looking. Students identify different storytelling approaches and gain respect for storytellers. Students examine the ethical and technical essentials that are common to them all. Students engage in active collaborative discussions, meet narrative storytellers and produce a work of personal journalism.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s):none

JOU1537 Editing for Story

A substantive editor needs to understand what an audience needs and how to work with a writer and their copy to serve those needs. Students consider the impact on the story when writers and editors share or have different lived experiences. Student editors assign stories, edit first drafts, develop fact-checking skills and work with analytics. Collaboration on Glue magazine, Ottawa's city-wide student publication, is at the heart of class discussions and guest visits.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0004

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU1549 Journalism for Communications

Journalism skills are versatile and can be applied across a wide variety sectors where storytelling, synthesis, and clear communication are in demand. For reporters, understanding how communications and public relations practitioners work is essential as they often cross paths in their respective roles. Students examine how the interviewing, researching, editing, writing, and social media skills journalists use are applied in a communications context. They also explore some of the skillsets unique to institutional storytellers and survey the sector's industry landscape. Class discussions, role playing exercises, and case studies are used as learning tools.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0009 and JOU1537

Corerequisite(s):none

JOU1554 Field Placement

Putting new journalism and communications skills to practise and receiving professional mentorship supports graduates when entering industry. Field placement coordinators work with students to confirm placements with various media and communications organizations in the region and beyond. Through six-weeks of work on field placements as junior reporters, staffers, editors, content producers and communications specialists, students work collaboratively and independently alongside their host colleagues.

Prerequisite(s): JOU0009 and JOU0010 and JOU1537 and JOU1542

Corerequisite(s):none

LFS0018 Career Development

New professionals must understand today's evolving media landscape and how to showcase the desired knowledge and skills to prospective employers. Students identify industry trends and hiring practices, discover further learning opportunities, and set goals and expectations to build a realistic career path in their chosen sector. Students create a professional resume, develop a professional social media profile, and build networking and interviewing skills, while hearing from professionals and other guests who are working in the industry.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

PHO0011 Introduction to Photography

Photography is a powerful visual communication tool that can be used to enhance storytelling. Students discover the capabilities of DSLR cameras by exploring their functionality beyond simply pointing and clicking. While learning to work a professional camera's features, students learn the basic reporting techniques required to function as journalists and visual storytellers. Students learn how to use ambient lighting conditions, framing and shot composition to best support a story. Students take photos in a variety of settings and environments, exploring best practices that will support their post-production work with photo-editing software. Hands-on exercises, class discussions, field trips and group work are all used to cultivate confidence and comfort using a camera.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

RAD1569 Podcasting

Subscribers are looking for podcasting content that they can consume when and where they want it. Many brands, companies and individuals are using podcasting to deliver their unique message to consumers. Students refine their production, interviewing and hosting skills, learning how to fully package content for the Algonquin Times community news site, the campus radio station CKDJ and distribution on a digital platform. Students explore the potential for podcasting to generate revenue through clients and sponsorship.

Prerequisite(s): TVA0010

Corerequisite(s):none

SSC0058 Local Government

Whether we're taking the bus, playing hockey at the local arena, taking out the trash or simply living in an apartment or house, municipal governments touch our lives in many ways. A thorough understanding of how a municipal government works and how it affects us all is essential to be an active and engaged citizen. Students explore structures of city, town and rural municipal councils, their interactions with senior levels of government, as well as the critical role they play in the political and economic landscape.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

TVA0010 Exploring Image and Sound

In order to produce high quality audio and video assets, media industry professionals must understand the fundamentals of image, sound, and media management. Students gain experience identifying the qualities of professional quality audio and video content and practice selecting the tools and production techniques to enhance the sounds and images to meet quality standards. Students employ the basics of media asset management. Through workshops, students examine audio and video samples and apply production techniques to improve them. Students then build a story that they produce with image and sound.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none

TVA0017 Esports Production

As the gaming industry continues to integrate into popular culture as well as the streaming and broadcast industries, producers and technicians must be able to understand the esports ecosystem. Students use the latest technologies to bring esports to life through the creation and execution of their own production plans for esports games and tournaments. Through analysis of current practices and technologies used by shows and streams, students explore how the esports industry works and how events are produced.

Prerequisite(s): none

Corerequisite(s):none