

# JOHN CURLEY CENTER FOR SPORTS JOURNALISM

Through the Center (JCCSJ), the Department of Journalism offers courses for the emphasis in sports journalism.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Be accepted into the emphasis via application to the Center for Sports Journalism (see admission overview). There is an informational session each February. Applications are available at the information session or online. The application deadline is the Friday before spring break and applications are accepted once a year.
- 2) Complete the mandatory major credit hours required for B.A. in Communications. Most applicants are Journalism or Public Relations majors.
- 3) Also complete two of the three classes offered in sports journalism with a grade of C or higher:

\_\_\_\_\_ COMM 476 SPORTS WRITING AND REPORTING (3): Reporting and writing sports news and feature stories for newspapers and magazines; legal and ethical issues of reporting. (Prerequisite: COMM 260W)

\_\_\_\_\_ COMM 477 SPORTS BROADCASTING (3): Reporting, writing and producing sports programs for radio; legal and ethical issues of reporting. (Prerequisite: COMM 260W, COMM 360)

\_\_\_\_\_ COMM 478 SPORTS INFORMATION (3): Writing and distributing sports news and information for use by the media. (Prerequisite: COMM 260W)

- 4) Complete an off-campus internship in sports journalism or an on-campus experience in sports journalism.

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Other options to complement your degree and Sports Journalism emphasis:

\_\_\_\_\_ COMM 170 INTRO TO SPORTS INDUSTRY (3) The course provides a basic understanding of how the principles of business apply in the industry of sports.

\_\_\_\_\_ COMM 412 SPORTS, MEDIA AND SOCIETY (3): (Prerequisite: 5<sup>TH</sup> semester)  
The role sports and media play in society at all levels (high school, college, & professional). This course may be used in the theory line in your major with advisor approval.

\_\_\_\_\_ COMM 497G Joe Paterno: Communications & the Media (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ COMM 498 SPORTS & PUBLIC POLICY (3): (Prerequisite: 7<sup>TH</sup> semester)  
Special subject course in Sports Law and cross-referenced with the Dickinson School of Law at University Park. This course requires special admission through the College and may be used in the theory line in your major with advisor approval

\_\_\_\_\_ KINESIOLOGY MINOR Students accepted into the Center for Sports Journalism are **strongly encouraged** to complete a minor in Movement Science:  
[http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/kines/undergrad/req\\_minor.html](http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/kines/undergrad/req_minor.html)

## ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW

The emphasis in sports journalism is limited to juniors and seniors. But outstanding sophomores *will* be considered on a case-by-case basis. We will base our admissions decisions on your level of interest, your grades and your experience.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In addition to the application cover sheet, please include the following materials in your application packet. **All application materials should be single-sided.** Also, be sure to return the packet to the proper address, as listed on the cover sheet

### 1. Résumé

Please submit a résumé that includes the following information: current *and* permanent address and phone number, email address, student number, education, work experience, computer experience or other specialized skills, honors and activities.

### 2. Unofficial Transcript

Transcripts can be obtained at your department's advising office on campus, or you can go on eLion and print a copy. An official transcript is not necessary.

### 3. Essay/Writing Sample

Submit your answer to the essay question listed below. Spend some time on this; your answers should be clear, thoughtful and carefully prepared

- a. In five-hundred (500) words describe your objectives in applying to this program, and explain what you hope to gain from an emphasis in sports journalism. Please discuss sports-journalism internships and on-campus experiences in sports journalism that you would be interested in, *emphasizing type rather than a specific organization*. The essay should be 500 words, single-line spaced.
- b. Submit one short writing sample (800-1200 words) from a professional skills journalism course you have taken recently or a two-minute published clip or broadcast tape.

PENN STATE  
**JOHN CURLEY CENTER FOR SPORTS JOURNALISM**  
**EMPHASIS IN SPORTS JOURNALISM**

**Courses                      Internships                      On-Campus Media Experience**

*2009 Application Cover Sheet*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:     (\_\_\_) \_\_\_-\_\_\_\_     PSU Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PSU ID #:     \_\_\_\_\_     GPA:     \_\_\_\_\_

Expected semester you are graduating: \_\_\_\_\_

**Communication Course Prerequisites for Sports Journalism: All applicants must have completed or currently be taking COMM 260w this semester to apply. Review of the application will not be done until a grade of COMM 260w is posted. (Students not having this reqmt can submit the cover page so we can track you for next year)**

Prerequisite for:              Course:              Semester taken/to be taken:              If completed, Grade earned:

For all students              COMM 260w:     \_\_\_\_\_              \_\_\_\_\_

For broadcasting              COMM 360:     \_\_\_\_\_  
(Prerequisite for COMM 360 is COMM 260w)

**COURSE PREFERENCES FOR SPORTS JOURNALISM**

Please rank course preferences: (1= 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2= 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 = 3<sup>rd</sup> )

- \_\_\_ COMM 476     SPORTS WRITING AND REPORTING (prerequisite COMM 260w)
- \_\_\_ COMM 477     SPORTS BROADCASTING (prerequisites COMM 260w & COMM 360)
- \_\_\_ COMM 478     SPORTS INFORMATION (prerequisite COMM 260w)

List all sports-related activities you are involved in and/or completed sports-based internships:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

**Application Deadline is Friday, November 20, 2009**

Brenda Johnson  
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Fax # 814-863-8044