



Concurrent Masters Program in Journalism and Public Health

2019 Handbook

Program Overview

The University of California, Berkeley offers the only concurrent degree program in public health and journalism in the country. Students in the joint program between [Berkeley Journalism](#) and [Berkeley's School of Public Health](#) graduate with two Master's degrees—one in each discipline—and are uniquely equipped to report and communicate knowledgeably and skillfully on topics ranging from healthcare reform to the latest infectious disease threats.

Students in the program choose a concentration in Journalism (narrative writing, audio, video or digital media) and a concentration in Public Health ([Infectious Diseases](#), [Environmental Health, Policy](#), or [Epidemiology](#)). All concurrent students take "J200: Reporting the News," during the fall of their first year. In the spring, they begin taking courses at the School of Public Health. During their second and third years, they combine coursework in both schools and complete a final project for each program.

Berkeley is home to just a handful of universities with leading graduate schools in both public health and journalism. The concurrent degree program prepares graduates for high-impact careers in journalism, media and health communication through a flexible three-year curriculum that allows students to tailor their coursework to their interests and career objectives.

How to Apply

Applicants must be admitted by both schools and must apply to each school separately. Applicants must also complete the "Public Health & Journalism MPH/MJ" application form on the [Graduate Division website](#). Please note: application deadlines for each school may differ.

To apply to both the Graduate School of Journalism and the School of Public Health, please visit: grad.berkeley.edu. Questions? See **Contacts** below for admissions officer contact details in each school.

Sample Curricula

Normal time to completion of both masters degrees is six semesters. Pathways to completion vary depending on each student's chosen Journalism concentration and Public Health division.

At present, all first-year Journalism students enroll in these courses in their first semester: J200 (Reporting the News), J209 (Field Study), J211 (News Lab), J219 (Data Immersion Bootcamp), J282 (Intro to Visual Reporting) and J298 (First Year Forum). In the remaining five semesters, Journalism students must register for J226 (Science/Health Reporting) at least once and choose all remaining Journalism courses in accordance with degree requirements listed on the [Journalism school's website](#).

All Public Health students currently must take PH142A (Introduction to Probability and Statistics), PH250A (Epidemiologic Methods I), PH200J and PH200K (Core Breadth courses), and any core courses required by the student's chosen division.

The curricula below are examples. Total unit counts per semester are typically 12-15 units.

SAMPLE 1: Narrative Writing and Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology

Year 1

Fall	Spring
J200: Reporting the News	J226: Health Reporting
J211: Reporting the News Lab	J298: Intro to Narrative
J209: Multimedia Bootcamp	Journalism: Choose an elective
J219: Data Immersion Bootcamp	PB HLTH 200K: Environmental Breadth
J282: Intro to Visual Journalism	
J298: First Year Forum	

Year 2

Fall	Spring
J242: Profile Writing	J298: Writing the Non-Fiction Book
J255: Law and Ethics	PB HLTH 142: Intro Biostatistics Breadth
PB HLTH 200J: Health Policy Breath	PB HLTH 260: Principles of Infectious Diseases
PB HLTH 260A: Principles of Infectious Disease	PB HLTH 275: Vaccinology
PB HLTH 263: Public Health Immunology	

Year 3

Fall	Spring
PB HLTH 264: Current Issues in Infectious Diseases	PB HLTH 266B: Zoonotic Diseases
PB HLTH 266C: Hospital Associated Infections	J242: How to be an Editor
PB HLTH 200L: Health and Social Behavior Breadth	PB HLTH 257: Outbreak Investigations
J294: Master's Thesis	PB HLTH 294: Master's Thesis
PB HLTH 250A: Intro to Epidemiology	
PB HLTH 294: Master's Thesis	

SAMPLE 2: Digital Media and Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Year 1

Fall	Spring
J200: Reporting the News	J298: Narrative Writing
J209: Multimedia Bootcamp	J298: Public Health Reporting
J211: Reporting the News Laboratory	J298: Opinion Writing
J219: Data Immersion Bootcamp	PB HLTH 257: Outbreak Investigations

J282: Introduction to Visual Journalism	POLSCI 292: Reporting Pro-Seminar
J298: First Year Forum	

Year 2

Fall	Spring
J275: Radio News Reporting	J219: Public Health Journo Club
PB HLTH 145: Statistical Analysis of Continuous Outcome Data	J298: Drug Reporting
PB HLTH 200J: Health Policy and Management Breadth	PB HLTH 200: Environmental Health Sciences Breadth
PB HLTH 200L: Health & Social Behavior Breadth	PB HLTH 210D: Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology
PB HLTH 250A: Epidemiologic Methods I	PB HLTH 241: Statistical Analysis of Categorical Data
PB HLTH 292: Epi/Bio First Year Seminar	PB HLTH 252B: Modeling the Dynamics of Infectious Disease Processes
	PB HLTH 290: Ethics of Reproductive Technologies

Year 3

Fall	Spring
EDU 275G: Hierarchical & Longitudinal Modeling	J243: Long-Form Writing
J255: Law and Ethics	J294: Master's Project Seminar
J294: Master's Project Seminar	J298: Data Journalism
PB HLTH 204A: Mass Communication in Public Health	PB HLTH 255D: Methods in Social Epidemiology
PB HLTH 210E: Epi/Bio Second Year Seminar	PB HLTH 292: Epi/Bio Second Year Seminar
PB HLTH 250B: Epidemiologic Methods II	

SAMPLE 3: Digital Media and Health Policy and Management

Year 1

Fall 2017	Spring 2018
J200: Reporting the News	PB HLTH 142: Biostatistics
J211: Reporting the News Lab	J220: Coding
J209: Multimedia Bootcamp	PB HLTH 200K: Environmental Breadth
J219: Print Bootcamp	J298: San Quentin
J282: Introduction to Visual Journalism	J226: Reporting on Public Health
J298: First Semester Seminar	

Year 2

Fall 2018	Spring 2019
PB HLTH 250A: Epidemiology	PB HLTH 223C: Organization and Mngmt
PB HLTH 200L: HSB Breadth	PB HLTH 225A: Social Epidemiology
PB HLTH 200J *instead of 223D	J222: Interactive Narratives
PB HLTH 226A/B: Health Econ	J221: Data Journalism
PB HLTH 220: Health Policy Decision-Making	

Year 3

Fall 2019	Spring 2020
PB HLTH 204A: Mass Comm in PB HLTH	PB HLTH 223E: HPM Capstone
J255: Journalism Ethics	PB HLTH 231A: Analytic Modess HPM
J294: Master's Seminar	J294 Master's Seminar
J221: Intro to Data Viz	
J216: New Media Workshop	
PB HLTH 227A: Health Care Finance	

Funding

Information on tuition, campus work opportunities, loans, fellowships and other forms of financial support are listed on the [Journalism school's website](#).

All students can apply for paid tutor or fellowship positions within the Journalism school or the School of Public Health. Both schools also host internal and external funding opportunities via an application process. Students are also encouraged to apply for GSI and readership positions across campus, as these offer a partial fee remission and semester salary.

The Journalism school's website provides a comprehensive list of external funding and resource opportunities, too. Below is a very partial list; look at outlets such as [Media Shift](#) for more comprehensive, up-to-date listings. Berkeley also offers access to [Pivot](#), a comprehensive database of funding opportunities. Search it with your own interests in mind!

- [BMJ Clegg Scholarship](#)
- California Endowment Fellowships are sometimes offered in partnership with [Latino USA](#)
- [Council for the Advancement of Science Writing Graduate School Fellowships](#)
- [International Reporting Project Religion Fellowship](#) funds some health proposals
- [Jacque I. Minnotte Health Reporting Fellowship](#) for radio or television reporting
- [The Reveal Fellowship](#)
- [Ida B Wells Fellowship](#)
- [Switzer Fellowship Program](#) environmental and social change
- [Sacramento Press Club Scholarships](#)

Conferences

We strongly encourage students to attend professional conferences while in the program. **Both schools offer funding for select students on a competitive basis.** Conference sponsors may also offer funds or fellowships; see their websites for details. In the past, students have attended the [Association of Health Care Journalists \(AHCJ\) Annual Conference](#), the [National Association of Science Writers Conference](#), the [National Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting \(NICAR\) Annual Conference](#), [SMASH](#) and the [World Conference of Science Writers](#).

Internships

Students in the concurrent program are required to complete two internships, one in fulfillment of each Master's degree. The list below includes local and national opportunities and fall and spring internships in addition to summer opportunities. Both schools also offer competitive internship opportunities for individual projects, including one through the Center for Global Public Health and one through the Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium. Please know that internships come and go, so the list below should be a starting point for your search. For more ideas and advice on finding internships, check out [The Open Notebook](#) and the Journalism School's [internship resources wiki](#).

- [AAAS](#) usually has [summer internship opportunities](#), with additional opportunities for [minority students](#)
- [AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellowships](#)
- [Aeon](#)
- [The AP Science & Health Desk](#)
- [Audubon Magazine](#)
- [Axios](#)
- [California Healthline](#)
- [Discover Magazine](#)
- [EarthJustice](#)
- [Earth Magazine](#) (unpaid)
- [The Economist](#)
- [Inside Science](#)
- [InsideClimate News](#)
- [Kaiser Health News](#)
- [KQED](#)
- [Nature](#)
- [NASA Internship](#)
- [Nautilus](#)
- [New Scientist](#)
- [NPR](#)
- [PBS Nova](#) (unpaid)
- [Psychology Today](#)
- [Quartz Media Internships](#)
- [Reuters Science & Health internships](#)
- [Reveal/The Center for Investigative Reporting](#) (unpaid)
- [Science Friday](#)
- [Science History Institute Fellowships](#)
- [Science Magazine Internships](#)
- [Science News](#)
- [Scripps Howard Internships Program](#)

- [Seattle Times](#)
- [Sierra Magazine](#)
- [Slate Magazine](#)
- [Smithsonian Magazine](#) offers [internships](#) through ASME's Summer Fellowship Program
- [Time Magazine](#)
- [Undark](#)
- [U.S. Department of Energy Summer Science-Writing Internship](#)
- [UC Science Today](#)
- [Wired Magazine Internships](#)

Contacts

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