Clark College’s Journalism program prepares students who plan to transfer to a four-year institution as well as those seeking success in a workplace that requires clear writing and thoughtful inquiry. Our coursework also helps all students become more responsible consumers of news and information.

We offer a News Media Studies certificate designed to provide students with a clear pathway to greater success and preparation for transfer. Details about the 24- to 25-credit course of study appear below.

The core course is JOUR 101, Introduction to Journalism, a five-credit writing-intensive class that includes a study of the changing news media landscape as well as instruction in the basics of news reporting and writing.

Students looking at careers or further study in journalism, public relations, public affairs, politics, law, and communications should consider taking JOUR 111, which is our Digital News course, and JOUR 110, College News Production. College News Production provides students an opportunity to further develop meaningful hands-on skills by working on the print and online editions of the award-winning student news product, the Independent.

Several paid positions on the Independent are available each quarter for students, ranging from copy and section editors, designers, photography editors, and multimedia editors.

In addition to Clark’s journalism courses, students should take a variety of courses that offer a broad general education and prepare them to transfer to a four-year school offering a degree in journalism or a related field. CMST&102 provides a foundation for understanding how the media function in our society and is highly recommended. ENGL&101, ENGL&102, and ENGL 103 are designed to improve a student’s ability to write and do documented research accurately. Courses in the social sciences (particularly political science), history, literature, and science provide a background for accurate reporting and the interpretation of data.

Students should make every effort to develop relevant computer skills while at the community college. These skills include word processing, graphic design, and multimedia production, including photography and video production.

Because course requirements vary at each institution, a student interested in a four-year degree in Journalism should work with advisers at Clark and the transfer institution. Journalism courses typically transfer to four-year institutions. However, a student should contact the transfer institution to clarify each course’s transferability.

- News Media Studies (AC) (https://catalog.clark.edu/academic-plans/journalism/news-media-studies-ac)