

Board Meeting  
July 13, 2017

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF JOURNALISM IN JOURNALISM, COLLEGE OF  
MEDIA AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Master of Journalism in Journalism, College of Media and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Media and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Journalism degree with the major in Journalism.

The Department of Journalism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign proposes establishment of a Master of Journalism (M.J.) degree with the major in Journalism. With greater focus on professional skills across multiple media, the proposed M.J. degree compliments the existing Master of Science (M.S.) in Journalism, which is more discipline specific and academically focused. As detailed in an accompanying report item, the M.J. can be combined with the existing Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Journalism for a five-year, professionally-oriented curriculum to provide an integrated, accelerated program.

The Master of Journalism with the Journalism major will provide the professional training necessary to successfully enter and advance in the field of

journalism. Demands of new technology and media convergence have made it clear that high-level journalists need more than the minimal professional skills and traditional arts and sciences coursework possible within a traditional bachelor's program. The M.J. provides an alternative to the multi-year, more theoretically-focused M.S. in Journalism for those students who wish to obtain the skills necessary to become the high-level journalists the current industry requires.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.