

**CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**San Luis Obispo**

Journalism 444

**MEDIA INTERNSHIP**

1. Catalog Description

Jour 444 Media Internship (4)

Application of techniques on daily basis with media, under joint supervision of department faculty and professionals in the field.

2. Required Background of Experience

Junior standing and permission of instructor. It is expected that, before undertaking internships, students will have successfully completed a substantial number of courses in the core curriculum and those skills courses in their concentrations appropriate to the jobs they seek. (See separate internship sheet listing internship prerequisites for each concentration.)

3. Expected Outcomes

The internship program is designed to encourage journalism majors to exercise their classroom and laboratory-acquired skills under actual working conditions and to acquaint students, through direct contact and personal observation, with employment opportunities in communications.

Students will be required to perform at least 180 hours of work of a professional nature in jobs related to mass communication: newspapers, magazines, radio or television broadcasting stations; public relations or advertising agencies; the public affairs or public information sections of public or private organizations; or in other appropriate fields. The hourly obligation may be accomplished over one or two quarters.

It is expected, but not required, that students will seek internships in their areas of concentration.

It is expected that students will seek and be employed in entry-level positions, but employers will be encouraged to provide time on the job for orientation in as many aspects of their operations as possible.

Students will be expected to do work of professional quality, whether their labors are paid or unpaid. However, every effort will be made by the journalism department faculty to encourage prospective employers to create paid internship openings.

4. Texts and/or References

Not required.

5. Minimum Student Materials

Those prescribed by employers.

6. Minimum University Facilities

None required.

7. Expanded Description of Content and Methods

Faculty advisers will describe internship opportunities and will advise prospective interns.

Since job-seeking is the sine qua non of post-graduate professional employment, it is regarded as an important part of the internship experience. The journalism department maintains files of known internship opportunities in some fields and has wide personal contacts in communications industries, but students ultimately are responsible for finding their own internship slots.

Department head approval *must* be obtained before students accept any internship.

Registration for the class must be concurrent with the internship. The instructor will be responsible for confirming that letters of agreement are on file.

Interns will be required to file periodic reports with the instructor on forms supplied by the journalism department. These will include provision of acknowledgment that the intern's immediate supervisor has seen the report.

At the conclusion of the internship, employers will be asked to complete a comprehensive evaluation of each intern on forms furnished by the journalism department. Copies of these final evaluations will be shown to students.

8. Methods of Evaluating Outcomes

Students enrolled in this course will be graded by the instructor on the basis of (a) students' work samples, (b) employers' final evaluations, (c) weekly reports filed by students, and (d) the instructor's personal assessment of performance. Letter grades will be based on the quality and quantity of work produced, on students' participation in the production process, and on their initiative and dependability. Professional standards of grading in general use in the journalism department will apply.