

An Introduction To Your Senior Portfolio



Portfolio Required for Journalism majors
Beginning with the Class of 2013
Recommended
for ALL other Journalism majors

Preparing NOW for JOR 411 • Senior Portfolio

Background information

Journalism majors who entered URI in Fall 2009 and subsequent semesters are **required** to pass JOR 411. The course will be taken concurrently with JOR 410, typically in the spring semester of the year you graduate.

JOR 411 has been designed to provide you the structured format in which you will **select**, **review** and **reflect** on examples of your work for a Senior Portfolio that you will present formally to the faculty.

In order to graduate, Journalism majors must show evidence that they have acquired the professional knowledge, values and competencies expected of them. The Senior Portfolio does this by requiring you to demonstrate how you have met the department's five Learning Outcomes (detailed below).

Process

In JOR 411, you will present your Senior Portfolio to the faculty. Students whose portfolios are found deficient will have the opportunity to revise and, if necessary, re-present at a date assigned by the faculty. Although one faculty member will be assigned to coordinate JOR 411, all permanent faculty (including full-time lecturers) will be involved in the portfolio-review process, with your grade determined collectively.

Your portfolio will be graded based on (1) how well it demonstrates your accomplishments *vis a vis* the Learning Outcomes and (2) how well you present your materials. Faculty members will consider completeness, accuracy, creativity, content and technical expertise in the work presented, and enthusiasm and professionalism in the delivery of your presentation.

You were introduced to the requirements of the portfolio in JOR 115 and again in JOR 220. Once you are accepted into the major in the College of Arts and Sciences (after you have passed 115 and earned a C or better in 220), you should begin working with your Journalism advisor to assemble materials for your portfolio. When you enroll in JOR 411, you will review the materials you have saved, decide on the ones to include, organize those and reflect on how they show that you have met the Learning Outcomes. Finally, you will assemble all this into your portfolio. The format and contents of that portfolio will vary somewhat depending on a student's professional focus and course of study.

What to save

For your portfolio, you will be expected to draw upon the entirety of your URI experience: Journalism courses, General Education courses, Electives, internships, student-media work, volunteer activities, extra-curricular activities, paid employment, etc.

Beginning the semester you enroll in JOR 115 (or earlier), you should make it a practice to **save all the work associated with EACH course you take**: notes, exams, major assignments, significant written work, graded stories, audio, video, etc. Shortly after the end of each semester, you should review the checklist below and relate these materials – and other activities of the semester – to identify progress toward the Learning Outcomes. Your academic advisor is prepared to help you with this.

Because you will be saving materials over many semesters, it is important that you identify how and where you are going to store things. When it comes time to prepare your portfolio, the faculty is not going to want to hear "I can't find anything" or "I lost my stuff" etc.!

Portfolio Checklist

Use this JOR 411 checklist to insure that your portfolio, whether electronic or on paper, eventually will contain all the necessary materials.

"Cover Page" []

"Table of Contents" []

Introduction []

Outcome 1

I am **capable of entry-level media work in** (check all that apply)

Print journalism []

Broadcast journalism []

Other _____ []

I am providing evidence of **and** reflecting on

- my ability to think critically, creatively and independently []
- my ability to express myself clearly, both in writing and orally []
- my ability to carry out journalistic research and interviews []
- my ability to prepare content for news media outlets []
- my ability to meet deadlines []
- my ability to competently use technology appropriate to the medium []

Outcome 2

I am **informed about journalistic ethics and capable of articulating an ethical decision.**

I am providing evidence of **and** reflecting on

- My understanding of professional codes of ethics []
- My ability to apply professional ethics to dilemmas faced by journalists []
- My ability to make a thoughtful decision from among alternatives and defend my decision. []

Outcome 3

I can **explain the importance of journalism in the United States.**

I am providing evidence of **and** reflecting on

- My understanding of the historical and legal significance of the First Amendment []
- My understanding of the traditional role of journalism as society's watchdog []
- My understanding of the rights and responsibilities of journalists []

Outcome 4

I am **conversant about contemporary media issues.**

I am providing evidence of **and** reflecting on

- My understanding of my professional roots []
- My familiarity with the issues now facing journalists and those likely to face journalists, particularly those issues being written and talked about by news media practitioners, users, observers and critics. []

Outcome 5

I am **prepared for a diverse and multi-cultural world and workplace.**

I am providing evidence of **and** reflecting on

- My ability to function successfully in a world characterized by difference and change []
- My understanding of the challenges presented by difference and change []

Other

Professional Resume []

Professional references []

Unofficial transcript []

JOR 411

The following timetable is anticipated for JOR 411:

Week 1 – Organizational

Week 2 – Small-group session with advisor – Advisors will schedule time with you for last-minute instructions and questions

Week 3 -- Individual work time – You should be organizing materials and writing reflections.

Week 4 – Individual work time – You should be organizing materials and writing reflections.

Week 5 -- Individual work time -- You should be organizing materials and writing reflections.

Week 6 – Presentation appointments assigned

Week 7 -- Small-group session with advisor

Week 8 – Portfolios Presented

Week 9 – Portfolios Presented

Week 10 – Portfolios Presented

Week 11 – Portfolios Presented

Week 12 -- Revision time

Week 13 -- Revision time

Week 14 – Deadline for submitting revised Portfolios (for May graduates)