

DEPARTMENT OF MASS MEDIA
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Nelson Hall 136

Admission Requirements

Admission to the major is gained through receiving permission to register for the department's first core course, *MASS 221* (Basic Writing for Mass Media).

Please Note: Because of space limitations, it is likely some students seeking admission may not be allowed to enter the program. Becoming an MSU mass media major can be competitive. It all depends on who applies, when they apply and whether the department has room in its *MASS 221* sections.

Students seeking admission to the major must first complete these courses (or their equivalents) with a GPA of 3.0 or higher: *ENG 101* (Composition) and *MASS 110* (Introduction to Mass Media).

Students who have attained the 3.0 GPA for the above courses will then be considered for admission to *MASS 221*, but only after completing the department's diagnostic exam, which is offered during particular dates and times each semester. The exam is an hour-long objective test over English grammar, punctuation, spelling and vocabulary. After all applicants have taken the exam in a given term, faculty choose who enter the program for the following term through considering each applicant's diagnostic-exam score in conjunction with his/her overall GPA and prerequisite grades. Applicants with overall GPAs of 2.5 or better will be considered before those with overall GPAs lower than 2.5.

To take the diagnostic exam, each student must in person submit to the department a current MSU unofficial transcript or DARS printout to verify GPA status and the satisfactory completion of prerequisite courses. The student then must sign up to take the exam at one of the particular dates and times offered.

It is each student's responsibility to check with the chair or office staff about diagnostic-exam dates and times. Students who miss taking the exam during its scheduled dates and times in a given semester will have to wait until the following semester to take the exam. Dates and times for taking the test will be posted in the department office and elsewhere on campus.

A student who has not been accepted into the program and who wishes to retake the test to improve his/her score must wait at least one semester before retaking it. A student who has taken the test twice and who has not been accepted into the program will be required to show proof of having successfully completed remedial studies in English usage before being allowed to take the test again.

The Department of Mass Media retains the right to waive these admission requirements in exceptional cases. Students who do not meet the minimum requirements as stated above may petition the faculty, in writing, to seek admission to the program.

Mass media majors are required to take department courses for a letter grade (except for the internship, which is a P/NC course). To qualify for a mass media degree, majors must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better in all mass media courses. In addition, they must earn the 2.0 overall GPA required by the university for graduation.

Required core courses, electives and prerequisites are detailed in other department handouts and in the MSU Undergraduate Bulletin. Material is also available on the Web. For further assistance, send an e-mail message to mass-communications@mnsu.edu or call the department office at (507) 389-6417.

Every attempt will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Contact the Disability Services Office at (507) 389-2825 (V) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY).