

Master in Journalism & Public Affairs - Minor in Faith-Based Public Policy & Media

HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

Credit Hours: 69 (including 15 credit hours for minor)



Program Description

The Master in Journalism & Public Affairs at HBI University is designed for students who seek to analyze, report, and influence public discourse on political, economic, and social issues. This program trains journalists to cover government affairs, public policy, and civic engagement through a journalistic lens, ensuring accurate and responsible reporting on public matters.

The Minor in Faith-Based Public Policy & Media provides a specialized focus on the intersection of journalism, religion, and policy-making. Students will examine how faith communities engage with politics, social justice, and advocacy through media and develop ethical frameworks for reporting on religious institutions and policies that affect faith-based communities.

This 69-credit hour program includes 30 credit hours of foundational public affairs journalism courses, 24 credit hours of core investigative and multimedia reporting courses, 15 credit hours in Faith-Based Public Policy & Media, elective coursework, a supervised practicum, and a research-based master's thesis or capstone project.

Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in journalism, communications, public policy, or a related field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty or media professionals
- Statement of purpose outlining career goals in journalism and faith-based public policy reporting
- Portfolio submission (published articles, investigative reports, or political analysis)

- Interview with faculty committee (if required)

Practicum Requirement

Students must complete a 300-hour supervised practicum in newsrooms, government press offices, advocacy organizations, or faith-based public policy research institutions.

Master's Thesis / Capstone Project

Students must complete either a thesis on media ethics, religious influence on policy, or investigative reporting on faith-based legislation or a multimedia capstone project analyzing the role of religious organizations in shaping public policy.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Analyze and report on government policies, faith-based initiatives, and social movements.
- Investigate the role of religion in shaping political discourse and public affairs.
- Apply ethical frameworks to faith-based journalism and policy reporting.
- Develop multimedia content for advocacy journalism and public affairs coverage.
- Engage in responsible and impactful faith-based investigative reporting.

Career Outcomes & Potential Salary

- Public Affairs Journalist – \$55,000 - \$130,000
- Faith-Based Policy Analyst – \$60,000 - \$125,000
- Religious News Correspondent – \$50,000 - \$120,000
- Advocacy Journalist for Faith-Based Organizations – \$55,000 - \$115,000
- Political Communications Director for Christian Organizations – \$70,000 - \$140,000

Advocacy and Professional Development

Students are encouraged to join organizations such as:

- Religion News Association (RNA)
- National Press Club
- Public Affairs Council
- Christian Journalists Network

Course Breakdown (Total: 69 Credit Hours)

A. Foundational Public Affairs Journalism Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
JOUR-1101	Reporting on Public Policy & Governance	3
JOUR-1102	Investigative Journalism & Ethics in Public Affairs	3
JOUR-1103	Digital Media & Advocacy Journalism	3
JOUR-1104	Political Reporting & Civic Engagement	3

JOUR-1105	Crisis & Conflict Journalism in Public Policy	3
JOUR-1106	Public Records & Data Journalism	3
JOUR-1107	Media & Law in Public Affairs Reporting	3
JOUR-1108	Social Justice & Advocacy Reporting	3
JOUR-1109	Global Affairs & Religious Diplomacy Journalism	3
JOUR-1110	Research Methods in Public Affairs Media	3

B. Core Investigative & Multimedia Reporting Courses (24 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
JOUR-1111	Investigative Techniques in Public Affairs Journalism	3
JOUR-1112	Media Ethics in Political & Religious Reporting	3
JOUR-1113	Digital News & Social Media Strategies	3
JOUR-1114	Documentary Filmmaking & Public Affairs	3
JOUR-1115	Religious Institutions & Media Influence	3
JOUR-1116	Reporting on Faith & Government Relations	3
JOUR-1117	Community-Based Journalism & Faith Initiatives	3
JOUR-1118	Supervised Journalism Practicum	3

C. Faith-Based Public Policy & Media Minor (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
FBPPM-901	Religion, Politics, & Policy in Media	3
FBPPM-902	Christian Ethics in Political Journalism	3
FBPPM-903	Investigating Religious Lobbying & Legislation	3
FBPPM-904	Faith-Based Activism & Social Media Outreach	3
FBPPM-905	Media Strategies for Christian Policy Advocacy	3

D. Electives (9 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
-------------	-------------	--------------

ELEC-1201	International Investigative Journalism & Religious Affairs	3
ELEC-1202	Writing for Faith-Based Advocacy & Political Campaigns	3
ELEC-1203	Podcasting & Public Affairs Broadcasting	3