

## Master of Science in Journalism - Minor in Faith-Based Media Studies

HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

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



### Program Description

The Master of Science in Journalism at HBI University is designed for students seeking a rigorous, research-based approach to journalism, with a focus on investigative reporting, media ethics, and digital storytelling. This program provides students with advanced analytical skills, data-driven reporting techniques, and in-depth media research expertise to prepare them for careers in print, digital, and broadcast journalism.

The Minor in Faith-Based Media Studies explores the role of religious institutions in media, ethical faith-based journalism, and the impact of faith-driven storytelling on society. Students will develop critical insights into how religious media shapes public perception, cultural dialogue, and journalistic integrity.

This 69-credit hour program includes 30 credit hours of foundational journalism courses, 24 credit hours of core investigative and analytical reporting courses, 15 credit hours in Faith-Based Media Studies, elective coursework, a supervised practicum, and a research-based master's thesis.

### Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in business, management, or a related field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty or business professionals
- Statement of purpose outlining career goals in business, project management, and faith-based leadership
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Interview with faculty committee (if required)

### **Practicum Requirement**

Students must complete a 300-hour supervised practicum in news organizations, faith-based media outlets, or investigative reporting agencies. Practicum placements include Christian media networks, digital journalism platforms, and independent faith-based publications.

### **Master's Thesis**

Students are required to complete a research-based master's thesis exploring the intersection of media and faith, the ethics of religious journalism, or the role of religious storytelling in modern news. The thesis may include an investigative report, an in-depth study of faith-based media trends, or an analytical comparison of religious reporting styles.

### **Program Outcomes**

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Apply investigative and analytical journalism techniques to faith-based reporting.
- Examine the role of faith-based media in shaping public discourse and cultural narratives.
- Develop multimedia content that engages both secular and faith-based audiences.
- Critically assess media bias, misinformation, and ethical challenges in religious reporting.
- Conduct scholarly research on religious media institutions and their impact on society.

### **Career Outcomes & Potential Salary**

- Religious Affairs Journalist – \$55,000 - \$120,000
- Editor for Faith-Based Publications – \$60,000 - \$130,000
- Media Ethics Researcher – \$55,000 - \$115,000
- Investigative Journalist (Religious & Cultural Focus) – \$60,000 - \$125,000
- Broadcast Producer for Christian Media Networks – \$70,000 - \$140,000

## Advocacy and Professional Development

Students are encouraged to join journalism and faith-based media organizations such as:

- Religion News Association (RNA)
- National Religious Broadcasters (NRB)
- Christian Media Association
- Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)

Participation in faith-based journalism conferences, media ethics workshops, and digital reporting summits is highly recommended.

## Course Breakdown (Total: 69 Credit Hours)

### A. Foundational Journalism Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
JOUR-921	Principles of Investigative Journalism	3
JOUR-922	Media Law & Ethics in Journalism	3
JOUR-923	Research Methods for Journalistic Inquiry	3
JOUR-924	Data-Driven Journalism & Analytics	3
JOUR-925	Multimedia Storytelling for Digital Media	3
JOUR-926	Crisis Reporting & Global Affairs Journalism	3
JOUR-927	Documentary Production & Long-Form Journalism	3
JOUR-928	Journalism in the Age of Misinformation	3
JOUR-929	The Business of Journalism & Media Entrepreneurship	3
JOUR-930	Research in Faith & Media Studies	3

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

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
JOUR-931	Cross-Cultural Journalism & Faith-Based Reporting	3
JOUR-932	Political & Religious Journalism in Society	3
JOUR-933	Ethics & Bias in Religious Journalism	3
JOUR-934	Documentary Filmmaking & Religious Media Analysis	3
JOUR-935	Public Affairs Reporting in Faith & Society	3
JOUR-936	Social Justice & Advocacy Journalism	3
JOUR-937	Media Representation of Religious Communities	3
JOUR-938	Supervised Journalism Practicum	3

**C. Faith-Based Media Studies Minor (15 Credit Hours)**

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
FBMS-901	Faith & Media: Theological Perspectives on Journalism	3
FBMS-902	Christian Broadcasting & Digital Evangelism	3
FBMS-903	The Role of Religious Institutions in Media	3
FBMS-904	Media Strategies for Christian Organizations	3
FBMS-905	The Impact of Faith-Based Journalism on Society	3

**D. Electives (9 Credit Hours)**

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ELEC-1011	Investigative Reporting in Religious & Cultural Contexts	3
ELEC-1012	Writing & Editing for Faith-Based Publications	3
ELEC-1013	Podcasting & Audio Storytelling in Religious Media	3