

Broadcasting FAQ's

What is the difference between the news emphasis and the production emphasis?

The news sequence focuses on blending production and writing for the purpose of news broadcasting. Students interested in news careers are more likely to choose this path. That said, the news emphasis is heavy on TV production, as all students learn to independently write, shoot and edit their stories, skills which have wide applications beyond the news industry.

Production students get more advanced exposure to both audio and studio production. The audio courses immerse students in sound design and the use of computer programs such as Pro Tools. The advanced television production course takes students to WGUV, the public television station on Grand Valley's Pew campus. There, students assist in studio and field production.

Students are encouraged to take courses in both areas, as the two emphases offer very interrelated skills.

Are there some courses I should take sooner than later because they are prerequisites?

Yes. Here is a basic guide to a few of the important prerequisites.

CBR 220 –Beginning TV Studio Production. Students are encouraged to take this in their sophomore or junior year. For news students, it's a pre-req for CBR 484, the TV News Workshop that comes at the end of the news sequence. For production students, it's a pre-req for CBR 320, the advanced TV production course.

CBR 240 - Survey of Electronic Media. It's a pre-req for two other core broadcasting courses, CBR-350 – Broadcast Operations, and CBR-411, the Broadcast Seminar normally taken in the senior year.

CFV 125 – Media Production 1. This film and video course often fills up because many students take it from two different majors. The course teaches basics of field production and should ideally be taken sophomore or early junior year to help both news and production students move forward. For news students, CFV-125 is a pre-req for CBR-468, Broadcast News 2.

CBR 281 - Audio Production 1. – This course is a pre-req for CBR 382, Audio Production 2.

CJR 256 –News Reporting 1. – This course is the first pre-req for the news sequence. That four course sequence goes in this order, where each course is a pre-req for the next:

CJR 256, News Reporting 1
CBR 368, Broadcast News 1
CBR 468, Broadcast News 2
CBR 484, TV News Workshop

Are there any courses for students with an interest in radio?

Yes. We have three courses in Audio production which are relevant in that they offered advanced skills that can be applied to the radio industry.

We also have had an *Introduction to Radio* course which we hope to make a permanent part of our curriculum.

Should I see my advisor?

Yes – and keep in mind, the faculty will not require you to do so, so it's important you make this happen on your own initiative. Your advisor may refer you to the CLAS Advising Center for general education questions, but will otherwise make sure you are on track with your broadcasting courses.

Am I required to take an internship in broadcasting?

No, but you are strongly encouraged to do so. Many broadcast outlets tell us when they look at resumes from students or recent college graduates, they want to see at least two internships in the applicant's background. Grand Valley broadcasting students may get between one and six credits for internships, some which are done at local TV and radio stations, others in different parts of Michigan, the US and other countries. This can be an invaluable way to gain expertise and make contacts.

What are the two electives I have to take?

Strictly defined, the electives are two courses, each worth three credits, that are 200 level or higher in the School of Communications, but not in the broadcasting majors. But they can also be courses which are relevant to your interests. The electives must be approved by your advisor. Some advisors will approve an internship as one of the electives, as long as the internship is worth at least three credits.