

BA in Journalism

1: Have formal learning outcomes been developed? Yes

2: Where are these learning outcomes located: JSC course catalogue and online at <http://www.jsc.edu/Academics/CourseCatalogues/2009UGradCatalogue/index.htm>

3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine that graduates have achieved the stated outcomes for the degree? (e.g. capstone course, portfolio review, licensure examination).

Majors must take a 120-hour internship in the summer between their junior and senior year, typically at a Vermont weekly or daily newspaper. Successful completion of the internship depends upon the final evaluation by the supervising editor, a detailed report focusing on the student's ability to function effectively in a professional environment.

After the internship and as part of the Investigative Journalism course, seniors are required to make a public presentation based on a semester-long project requiring in-depth research and mastery of long-form journalism.

4) Who interprets the evidence? What is the process? (e.g. annually by the curriculum committee)

Determination of successful completion of the internship rests with the site supervisor's report, which is forwarded to the program director and then to the department itself.

Assessment for the investigative project will be conducted by faculty within and beyond the department, as well as by one outside investigative journalist or editor.

5) What changes have been made as a result of using the data/evidence?

Assessments by the site supervisors and the students' own self-assessments at the close of their internships have yielded concrete ways in which our students can be better prepared for professional life. Based on that feedback, two new courses have been added: Investigative Journalism, and Introduction to Photojournalism. The existing Introduction to Newswriting has been modified to include a specific course module on covering local government in Vermont, and quantitative literacy components are soon to be added to several courses to help students better understand budgets, graphs, tax structures, and surveys.

6) Date most recent program review (for general education and each degree program).The program underwent a comprehensive VSC Policy 101 review in 2008.