Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

School of Journalism

II. SUMMARY

The School of Journalism proposes to merge our two departments, Radio-TV and Print/Photo, and create a single journalism degree program with no departments. As part of this reorganization, we proposed to collapse our two degrees, Journalism and R-TV, into one singled Journalism degree program. We believe this change will improve efficiency and have little impact for most of our students.

IV. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Larry Abramson, Dean
Phone/ Email: x5250;larry.abramson@umontana.edu
Program Chair: Ray Eknness

*Other Affected Programs: NA

Signature Date 9/16/15
Signature Date 9/15/15

Dean:
Initial Review in Provost's Office:
* Are affected because of: (a) required courses incl. prerequisites or corequisites, (b) perceived overlap in content areas, or (c) cross-listing of coursework.

V. TYPE OF LEVEL I PROPOSAL

☐ Re-titling existing majors, minors, options, or certificates
☐ Eliminating existing majors, minors, or options. (submit with BOR program termination checklist)
☐ Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major*
☐ Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major*
☐ Departmental mergers and name changes
☐ Program revisions—for minor modifications use the program modification form*
Courses in the School of Journalism examine the news media emphasizing their history, privileges and responsibilities and provide instruction in skills required for careers with newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines, websites, print and online news services and related agencies. The School of Journalism offers Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in Radio-Television. Students select courses in writing, reporting, producing, directing, editing and still and video photography. They train to work across multiple platforms including online, audio, video, newspaper and magazine.

A quality education in journalism is built on a strong liberal arts foundation. Students at the pre-professional level are required to take courses outside journalism, including courses in Political Science, Business and History. They must complete the University’s general education requirements as well.

For further information about the Master’s program in Environmental and Natural Resource Journalism, contact the Director of Graduate Studies in Journalism, Henriette Löwisch, School of Journalism, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, or (406) 243-2227.

Pre-Professional Program

In the first three or four semesters of study students are enrolled in pre-journalism or pre-radio-television and take courses in the major and in the liberal arts and sciences. Journalism and radio-television courses in the pre-professional curriculum must be taken at University of Montana-Missoula, though the department chairs may occasionally accept substitutes taught at another schools with programs accredited by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. All non-journalism courses in the curriculum may be completed at any college or university if transfer credits are accepted by UM. Students may enter the pre-professional program during either autumn or spring semester but must declare their intent to major in order to be allowed into journalism courses.

Professional Program
Students may apply for admission to the professional programs in journalism and R-TV once they have successfully completed the pre-professional curriculum. Applications are accepted in autumn and spring. Deadlines for applications are October 1 and March 1.

Students may apply for admission to the professional program in either semester, but must have completed at least 45 credits before applying. In addition, applicants must have either completed all courses listed in the pre-professional curriculum or in the semester of application be taking the courses needed to complete the requirements.

An overall grade point average of 2.5, and a GPA of at least 2.5 in the journalism and R-TV core courses, is required of applicants.

Completed applications are evaluated by the School of Journalism Admissions Committee and acceptances are made by the faculty and dean based on the committee’s recommendations. The primary admissions criteria are grade point averages, both overall and in the pre-professional program, progress in completing the pre-professional curriculum, and an evaluation of work submitted. Successful applicants will have demonstrated, among other qualities, promise and professional aptitude through the quality of their course work and their overall performance in the pre-professional program, and will have demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career in journalism. Students with deficiencies in these requirements may on occasion be admitted provisionally. Once deficiencies are removed the student will be given full admission status.

Applications for admission to the professional programs may be obtained from the Office of the Dean, School of Journalism, or online at the School’s website. A $15 nonrefundable application fee and transcripts of all academic work must accompany the application. Admission for one academic year cannot be deferred to another academic year without the written consent of the academic chair of the student’s department.

Students transferring from other ACEJMC-accredited programs in journalism or radio-television may be admitted on a space available basis. Transfer credit for pre-professional and professional courses taken at other institutions is accepted only for those courses that are deemed equivalent and in which a letter grade of C or better is obtained.

Academic Progression

The general University academic standing requirements are listed separately in this catalog. See index.

Students enrolled in the professional journalism program must maintain satisfactory academic progress. Admission to the professional program requires a cumulative grade average of 2.5 and a pre-journalism or pre-R-TV course average of 2.5. Any student who has been admitted and whose grade average subsequently falls below a 2.5 must meet with his or her advisor to discuss the student’s progress before classes resume the following semester. A student in the professional
program who has a cumulative or professional grade point average less than 2.0 will be suspended from the program.

A student dismissed from the program for substandard performance will not be readmitted, except in cases where substantiation is made to the faculty, by written petition, that the substandard performance was the result of circumstances that no longer exist, or that the student has demonstrated the capability and desire to perform satisfactory work since dismissal from the program.

A student leaving the journalism or R-TV professional programs for any reason, whether in good standing or on academic suspension, must reapply for admission.

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PROPOSED CATALOG COPY

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### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AVAILABLE

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III. JUSTIFICATION

The School of Journalism works hard to ensure that its program and curriculum keep pace with revolutionary changes that are blurring distinctions among traditional and new media. This proposal to merge our existing bachelor’s degrees in Journalism and Radio-Television and merge our two departments (Print/Photo and Radio-Television) is a crucial step toward that effort.

Today’s journalist rarely works for only broadcast or only print media. Instead, they perform as writers, editors, videographers, photographers, designers, and producers of audio and video content whose work first appears on social media, websites and mobile platforms. Our curriculum already reflects that convergence in many ways, but the school’s bachelor’s degrees and two-departmental structure do not.

This change to a single bachelor’s degree and a single administrative unit without departments advances a strategic effort begun in 2010-2011 academic year, when the School of Journalism eliminated its photo, print and broadcast journalism options in favor of curriculum that introduces all freshmen and sophomores to the reality of today’s multi-format, multi-platform news media and offers juniors and seniors choices from a menu of electives and capstone courses so they can tailor their education to the demands of ever-changing job market.

Our current administrative structure features a Print and Photo Department and a Radio-Television Department. Those distinctions no longer reflect the realities of our profession or of the school’s curriculum and faculty. Our last three faculty hires have experience in both new and traditional media, and one has worked both as a broadcast producer and as a reporter and editor for print and online media. New media techniques and thinking are a part of every course in our curriculum. Given our size, a consolidation of our departments into a single unit under the School of Journalism comprising all faculty members makes greater sense, both programmatically and economically, than maintaining several small departments, each with a separate chair and unit standards. Under the dean, two collaborating directors would administer the program day-to-day, with one focusing on scheduling and curriculum and the other responsible for student recruitment, retention and advising.

These changes will help us to align the School of Journalism more effectively with our ever-changing profession. Because our curriculum does not overlap with any other MUS program, and because it will remain intact, the proposals pose no effect on other MUS or UM programs.

VI SUBMISSION

Submit the complete Level I proposal to the Provost’s Office for initial review. After all signatures have been obtained, submit original, and an electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, camie.foos@msu.montana.edu