

# [FALL COURSE REGISTRATION INFO FOR JOURNALISM](#)

It's time to look ahead to fall already!

**Returning program students begin registering for the fall 2015 semester on March 9, and students new to MRU begin registering for fall courses on April 13.**



You should be notified through [mymru](#) as to *YOUR specific registration date*. Go onto [mymru](#), then click on “**Registration**” in the left-side menu. You’ll then see “**Check Your Registration Status,**” as pictured at left.

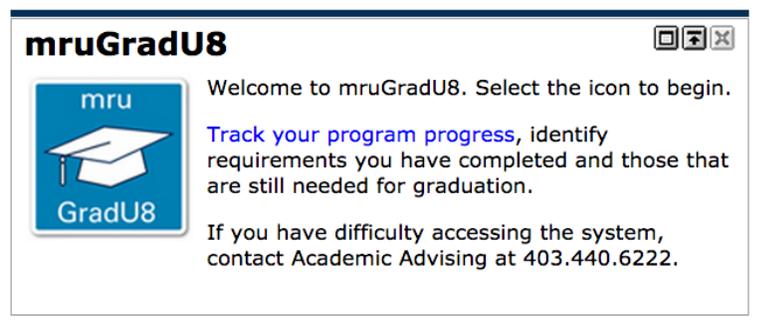
*It's important to register early to have the most choice of courses and sections/times. This is especially true for Gen-Eds and other non-COMM courses: Registering early pays and should get you a better schedule for fall.*

Also remember that the system rewards those who follow the deadlines and pay their fees on time. *If you are registered in a course, but*

***don't pay your fees by the deadline, you'll be bumped out, and someone on the wait list will take your place (plus you'll have to pay an extra fee before you can re-register).***

***So make every effort to register and pay on time!***

Nonetheless, we'll always have *enough seats in Journalism courses to get you through; if a course you need is full when you register, don't panic, just go on the waitlist*, and chances are you'll get in. If not, come see Shauna at the end of August, and we'll work something out.



The first step to prepare for registration, meanwhile, is to *review your progress*, including seeing which courses you've already completed and what you still need. It's important to track your progress on **GradU8** (through [mymru](#), as the link shown at left). This will show you if you've missed any required

courses along the way, and what requirements you still need to fill.

**Please skim through this document, and find the areas pertinent to you.** Included in the following pages are a yearly breakdown of which courses are offered in each year of the program, as well as information on Gen Ed courses and the Certificate of Achievement in International Communication. **While this document includes a standard 5-course plan**

for Fall 15 courses for those in each year of the program, don't worry if you don't fit the plan outlined. Your particular study path may be different, particularly if you are a transfer student, have prior MRU credits, have minor or international certificate requirements, or have taken a semester abroad.

**And if you work more than 20 hours per week outside of your classes, we strongly recommend that you slow down the program and take fewer courses per semester.**

**You have up to 8 years to finish the degree**, and it's better to take more time, do well, and have some fun, as opposed to burning yourself out, or perhaps even failing a course, having to repeat, and/or end up with a lousy portfolio and poor faculty references. ***There's no shame to a 5-year graduation plan! It makes lots of sense for many people.***

Meanwhile, *if you are at all unsure of what courses you should be taking next semester, please book an appointment to meet with a program mentor/advisor, or the chair, for advice.*

### **Program Mentors**

- For *GenEd specific questions*, see Elizabeth Lennox [elennox@mtroyal.ca](mailto:elennox@mtroyal.ca)
- If you're in *Year 1* of the program, see Ron MacDonald [rmacdonald@mtroyal.ca](mailto:rmacdonald@mtroyal.ca)
- If you're in *Year 2*, see Sean Holman [sholman@mtroyal.ca](mailto:sholman@mtroyal.ca)
- If you're in *Year 3*, see Sally Haney [shaney@mtroyal.ca](mailto:shaney@mtroyal.ca)
- If you're in *Year 4* or nearing graduation, are *pursuing international study*, or are facing a **particularly complex situation with transfer credits, repeating courses or disability restrictions**, see either Terry Field [tfield@mtroyal.ca](mailto:tfield@mtroyal.ca) or Shauna Snow-Capparelli [ssnowcapparelli@mtroyal.ca](mailto:ssnowcapparelli@mtroyal.ca) or

## **Year-by-Year Course Plan for Fall 2015**

Here are fall course plans for each year in the program, along with suggestions on how to cut back or move forward as applicable to your particular circumstances. And remember that *if you missed a course last fall, or need to repeat a fall course, you should take that in lieu of one of the latter courses on the lists below.*

### **Incoming First-Year Students**

- COMM 1707 Journalism Elements (*offered in fall only*)
- COMM 1727 Introduction to Visual Journalism (*offered in fall only*)
- COMM 2501 Media History and Contemporary Issues (generally a fall course)
- GenEd (any Foundation Tier)
- GenEd (any Foundation Tier)

*\*Yr 1 Note: If you intend to work more than 20 hours per week outside of school, we strongly recommend that you reduce your course load. But **make sure to take both COMM 1707 and COMM 1727, as these courses are important pre-requisites for later Journalism courses.***

**\*\* Yr 1 Note:** If you've **already completed several GenEd courses** and want to take an additional COMM course, **you may also take COMM 2500** in Year 1. Conversely, **if you choose to slow down and not take COMM 2501**, there is a single section of the course offered in the winter, and several GenEd courses are offered year-round, including in spring.

## **Second-Year Students** (currently completing Year 1)

- COMM 3707 News Reporting (*offered in fall only*)
- COMM 3727 Visual Journalism II (*offered fall only*)
- COMM 2500 Introduction to Communication Studies (generally a fall course)
- GenEd (any Tier 2)
- And either:
  - COMM 3720 Graphics Reporting and Digital Design (offered both fall and winter)
  - Or a second GenEd (Tier 2)

**\* Yr 2 Note:** If you intend to work more than 20 hours per week outside of school, we strongly recommend that you reduce your course load. **But be sure to take are COMM 3707 and 3727, as they are pre-requisites for subsequent journalism courses.** Also, if you have not yet taken COMM 2501, you should take that, as most sections are offered in the fall.

**\*\* Yr 2 Note:** If you are **ahead in credits, you could take COMM 3737** (IF you already have the prerequisite COMM 2500).

## **Third-Year Students** (currently completing Year 2)

- COMM 3740 Audio/Visual Storytelling (*offered in fall only*)
- COMM 4790 Workplace Prep seminar (*non-credit – offered in fall only*)
- COMM 3737 Research Design and Methodology (*offered in fall only*)
- And either
  - COMM 3729 Online Journalism (offered both fall and winter)
  - Or an additional GenEd or elective course
- GenEd (Tier 2)
- GenEd (Tier 3)

**\* Yr 3 Note:** If you intend to work more than 20 hours per week outside of school, we strongly recommend that you reduce your course load. **But be sure to take COMM 3740, as this is a pre-requisite for the winter audio/visual course** (COMM 3737 is also a fall-only course, but it's not a pre-requisite for anything else, so that course could be delayed a year if necessary).

**\*\* Yr 3 Note:** **Journalism students can complete their required, 450-hour work-term at any point after the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. But you must first take the pre-requisite, COMM 4790, the non-credit workplace prep seminar.** The class meets weekly, for 90 minutes, and is offered only in fall, so it's important to take it so you'll be eligible when a good opportunity presents itself. While most program students chose to do so in the spring-summer months – either after Year 3 or immediately before graduation – it's also possible to do your internship in the fall or winter semester of Year 4.

**\*\* Yr 3 Note:** **If you are ahead on credits, it's important to take COMM 3729 in the fall, as it's a pre-requisite for many 4<sup>th</sup> year courses.** you may then be able to start taking in the winter.

## **Fourth-Year Students** (currently *completing* Year 3)

Senior students must complete 4 of what we call “*Senior Journalism Options*” for graduation. *This means any 4700-level COMM course – and at least 1 of the 4 must be a Calgary Journal editorial board course* (though we encourage you to take *both* editorial board courses, particularly if you’re interested in leadership, editorial direction, social media or community engagement)

### **In fall 2015, 4<sup>th</sup>-year students taking a full schedule will choose 2 of these senior journalism options:**

- COMM 4705 Online Editorial Board (offered both fall and winter)
- COMM 4707 Print Editorial Board (offered both fall and winter)
- COMM 4709 Advanced Reporting (*offered in fall only*)
- COMM 4747 Advanced Audio/Visual Projects (*offered in fall only*)
- COMM 4729 Multimedia Projects (multimedia website course; offered both semesters)

In addition to 2 of the above, senior students in the fall take

- COMM 4501 Roles & Practices in Contemporary Communications (*offered fall only*)
- GenEd (Tier 3)
- Elective course

*\*Yr 4 Note: When possible, students who take COMM 4707 should also take COMM 4709, as the advanced reporting course will directly support the print editorial board course.*

*\*\* Yr 4 Note: Senior Journalism Options are capstone courses, and they tend to require more time and effort than many regular courses do. Be careful not to take on too big a load!*

*\*\*\* Yr 4 Note: Journalism students can complete their required, 450-hour work-term at any point after the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and after taking the pre-requisite non-credit workplace prep seminar. While most program students chose to their internship in the spring-summer months – either after Year 3 or immediately before graduation – it’s also possible to do the work-term in the fall or winter semester of Year 4.*

*\*\*\* Yr 4 Note: If you intend to work more than 20 hours per week outside of school, we strongly recommend that you reduce your course load. This is particularly important in the senior year, when you’ll want strong portfolio material as you near graduation.*

## **Making Sense of Gen Ed and Electives**

In addition to core COMM courses, **12 GenEd courses are required for graduation.** You must follow the specific requirements for tiers and clusters as detailed in our [General Education Course Planning Guide](#).

*If you are taking a full course schedule (5 courses per semester), you should aim to complete all 4 Foundation Level GenEds in your first year, at least 3 of the Tier 2 GenEds in your second year, and all Tier 2 and most Tier 3 GenEds by the end of your third year. You may also take GenEd courses in the spring/summer semesters, although we generally don’t offer COMM*

courses in the spring, other than for work-terms. So your best bet in spring would be to take GenEds and/or elective courses. And if you have slowed your program down, it might make sense for you to take an entire semester of GenEds at some point if need be, though that should not be in your final year.

**It's important that the bulk of your GenEds not be left to your final year, as you will want to have fresh journalism content (from the Senior Journalism Options) for your portfolio upon graduation.**

For more detailed GenEd information, and **links to a list of GenEd course offerings**, visit <http://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/FacultiesSchoolsCentres/TeachingLearning/Departments/GeneralEducation/index.htm>

*Also note that **the Journalism program offers several COMM GenEd courses**; you may want to consider these in your course planning. **In fall 2014, we are running 2 Gen Ed courses:***

- **COMM 1700 Journalism in Society** (Tier 2, Cluster 3 GenEd), and
- **COMM 3521 The Documentary** (Tier 3, Cluster 4 GenEd).

Your 4 required Elective courses, meanwhile, may be *any additional 3-credit courses you choose*.

**Electives could be used along with GenEds to attain competency in a foreign language, or to earn a [minor in a specific discipline](#).** They can be used to pursue personal interests or to broaden a resume in any specific field. **Additional COMM courses, including COMM GenEds and/or extra Senior Journalism Options, can also be used as electives.** And some journalism students choose to take electives from one of the other COMM disciplines – **Public Relations, Information Design or Broadcast**. But in that case, you'll need to seek permission from that program's chair, and you may need prerequisites.

What's important with electives is to **plan ahead and use them wisely**. This is where you can accommodate courses of interest that don't otherwise fit in your course plan, **including going away for a semester abroad, or taking part in an MRU field school, including the Journalism program's summer field schools to Mexico or India**. Hence we recommend that you *save your electives until the latter parts of your studies, to allow you more options*.

In addition, *elective slots are often used for transfer students who have courses that don't fit into other degree requirements*.

## **Certificate of Achievement in International Communication**

The Faculty of Communication Studies offers an **additional credential** to its students who complete an international study or work-abroad program in addition to a series of internationally focused courses.



The [Certificate of Achievement in International Communication](#) – which can include courses from COMM, GenEds, or Electives – includes **successful completion of 4 requirements:**

- **An approved international work of study experience** – such as a field school, semester abroad, a substantial summer media program, or a foreign internship
- **COMM 3501: Intercultural Communication** (*offered in winter semester only*)
- **At least 3 second-language courses**
- **And at least 3 additional courses with an international focus**

\* Note: **The Journalism program offers 2 field schools, a communications experience at an *ashram* in India, or a documentary experience in Mexico.** Many of our students have gone on various international experiences, and the journalism program is strongly supportive of such activity and the broadened perspectives that result.

For more information, visit <http://jtimes.ca/resources/InternationalCertificate.pdf>.