

RHET 107-01 Fall 2006
Practicum in Journalism

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General Description of the Course

Practicum in Journalism is set up to give Oberlin College students an opportunity to earn academic credits by working on approved campus publications(see list below). You can earn 1-2 hours of credit per semester through the practicum. During your time at Oberlin, you can earn up to 4 hours of credit by taking any combination of 1 or 2 hours of Practicum credit per semester. If you serve as an editor or major coordinator for an approved publication, you can earn an additional 2 hours of credit (for a total of 6) toward graduation.

Practicum credit can also be earned by working for a combination of approved publications, as long as all parties involved are informed of the arrangement from the beginning. All Practicum in Journalism credit is graded Credit/No Entry or Pass/No Pass, depending on the year when you entered Oberlin College.

After registering for Practicum in Journalism on PRESTO, you should contact the publication(s) you've chosen to work for as soon as possible. Editors or coordinators of each publication will make all assignments, editorial decisions, and judgments as to whether or not you have fulfilled the requirements for earning credit for their publication.

In order to earn credit, however, you must turn in to the faculty sponsor of Practicum in Journalism a completed midterm and final report of your work by the due date (see below). Reports will be read and verified by the editor(s) or coordinator(s) of your publication(s) after they are turned in. Forms for the reports are available in the Assignments section of the Blackboard website for the course. Editors and coordinators must also turn in final reports in order to earn credit, although their reports do not require verification other than their own.

Publications Approved for Practicum in Journalism Credit

As I Am
The Grape
In Solidarity
The Review
Oberlin Online
WOBC-News & Public Affairs

To find out who to contact for each publication, email jan.cooper@oberlin.

If you would like to earn Practicum credit for working on a publication *not* on this list, please ask the editor/coordinator of the publication to contact Jan Cooper (Jan.Cooper@oberlin.edu) about qualifying for the list.

To qualify to be on this list a publication must:

1. be a chartered campus publication or sponsored by another chartered student organization. In some cases publications produced by Oberlin College staff offices may qualify.
2. have published at least one issue

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I enroll in Practicum in Journalism?

By enrolling for RHET 107-01 on PRESTO. It is no longer necessary to obtain an instructor's consent before enrolling.

Why isn't there a class meeting day, time, and room number in PRESTO for Practicum in Journalism?

Practicum in Journalism students meet mainly with the editors or staff of their chosen publications. The whole course doesn't meet as a class. So you'll need to find out from your editor(s) when you're expected to go to meetings for that publication.

PRESTO shows me signed up for the wrong amount of credit. How do I change the credit hours?

The Practicum is a "variable hours" course, which means you should be able to change the number of hours by going to the main menu in PRESTO, clicking on the Variable Hours option, then scrolling down your list of courses till you get to RHET 107. There should be a box under credit hours that you can click on and change the number of house. The only options, however, are 1 or 2 credits.

Is writing articles the only way I can earn Practicum in Journalism credit?

No. You can also get credit for illustrations, photos, cartoons, lay-out, copy-editing, editing, managing business or any of the other ordinary duties in a publication. The criteria is whether or not your editor(s) feel(s) what you've done has earned the credit. Be sure to list everything on your midterm and final report, in any case.

Can I earn credit for this course by working for more than one publication?

Yes. Just be sure the instructor knows that you'll be doing so and that it's all right with the editors of both publications.

Can I change publications midway during the course?

Yes. But be sure to inform the instructor and both editors that you are doing so.

Can I change the amount of credit I'm taking the course for?

Yes, by changing the number of credits in the variable hour option as described above.

I'm not getting any assignments from my editor. What do I do? Will I flunk the course?

Contact your editor AS SOON AS Possible. If that yields no results, contact any other editors working for your publication. If that yields no results, contact the practicum instructor ASAP and enlist her help in contacting the editors. If you have enough time to make up the work, you will not fail, but if it's the end of the semester, you might very well fail by default. So make sure you contact the instructor about what's happening to see what can be done ASAP.

Why are there different criteria for 1 or 2 hours of credit for different publications?

Different publications have different formats, different length articles, different expectations for amount of research or crafting of a piece. Each publication's editor(s) is(are) the source of the criteria, in dialogue with the instructor.

I didn't hear about Practicum in Journalism till midterm. Can I still get academic credit for all the work I've done for my publication by enrolling for RHET 107 for second module?

Sorry, but no. Since RHET 107 is a full-semester course, we must abide by the deadlines for full-semester classes. But be sure to sign up for it next semester if you plan to continue working for the publication!

I have a question about my credit standing in Practicum in Journalism. Who should I talk to?

Talk to the instructor. She may or may not also have to get information from your editor(s).

Who can give me more advice about pursuing a career in Journalism?

Lots of folks! Start with the editor(s) you work with, or with other staff at your publication who may have already had journalism internships. Talk to your instructor, who's heard a fair amount about how previous students have gone on into journalism. Al Moran, the head of Communications for the college, and a well-seasoned newspaper guy, often talks to students looking for advice about the biz. The Office of Career Services also has a great list of Winter Term internships. You might even try contacting alums in journalism, through the Office of Career Services. It's amazing how many major publications and broadcast services have Obies in top positions.

[Please email jan.cooper@oberlin.edu to recommend other questions you think would be helpful to answer in this section or to ask any other question not covered here.]

DATES of Importance in Practicum in Journalism fall 2006

Thurs., Sept. 14, 2006—deadline for adding Practicum in Journalism

NOTE: the course CANNOT be added later for 2nd module credit.

Mon., October 9, 2006, noon—deadline for midterm reports in your publication's Group section on Blackboard (email jan.cooper@oberlin.edu if you have questions)

Sun., October 15, noon—deadline for editors of publications to verify midterm reports by email to Jan Cooper

Mon. Dec. 11, noon—deadline for final reports in your publication's Group section on Blackboard (email jan.cooper@oberlin.edu if you have questions)

Mon., Dec. 18, 2006--Last day to change your credit hours in Practicum in Journalism

Tues., Dec. 18, 10pm--deadline for editors of publications to verify final reports by email to Jan Cooper

send comments or questions to Jan Cooper
Jan.Cooper@oberlin.edu