

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR PROGRAM TERMINATION: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN JOURNALISM  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Science in Journalism in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

**Background:**

Description of program. The Bachelor of Science (BS) with a major in Journalism and Mass Communication requires a minimum of 120 semester hours, including 36-48 semester hours in Journalism and Mass Communication courses. Students choosing a BS must choose a second BS major or a certificate from a list of approved certificates (ex. Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Human Physiology). The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Journalism requires the same journalism courses; it does not require the same amount of coursework outside of journalism.

Reason for proposed termination. Very few students earn the BS in journalism instead of the BA since both sets of students complete the same journalism courses, with no difference in the requirements for the major.

Five-year trend in applications and graduations.

	Total Applications	Graduations
2013	1	0
2014	9	0
2015	13	6
2016	23	2
2017	32	18

Effect on current students. Students who have declared the BS before its closure will be able to complete the BS under its current requirements. Because of the structure of these requirements, allowing students to complete the BS will cause no issue to the School of Journalism and Mass Communication since the curriculum is identical for both the BA and the BS.

Impact on resources. There will be neither a cost nor a final gain with this change.

Impact on workforce. Surveys of recent graduates suggest no differences in placement outcomes for the BS versus the BA. Graduates with either degree obtain the same jobs at similar rates.

Impact on accreditation. Accreditation of the program by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications will not change with elimination of the BS degree option.

Alternative programs. The Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication at Iowa State University offers a BS degree, but not a BA, in Journalism and Mass Communication, as well as in Public Relations. The Iowa State program instead offers a BA degree in advertising, an area of study which the University of Iowa does not offer. The University of Northern Iowa offers a BA in Digital Journalism through its Department of Communication Studies, but not a BS.

Effective date of termination. Upon decision by the Board of Regents.