

PART I

General Information



PennState
Donald P. Bellisario
College of Communications

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PART I: General Information

This general information section will be included in its entirety in the site team's report, and it must present the most current information available. Before the site visit, the unit should review its responses to the questions below and update them as necessary. The unit then should provide a digital copy of this updated section to team members when they arrive on campus. The updated responses will be included in the digital team report sent to the ACEJMC office.

In addition, if any significant changes not covered in this section have occurred after the original self-study report is submitted, the unit should describe and document those changes and present this new material to the team when members arrive.

Respond to each of the following instructions. (Boldface type on questions/directives. Use regular type on responses.)

Name of Institution: Penn State University

Name of Unit: Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications

Year of Visit: 2025

1. Check regional association by which the institution now is accredited.

☐ Higher Learning Commission

☒ Middle States Commission on Higher Education

☐ New England Commission on Higher Education

☐ Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

☐ Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges

☐ Western Association of Schools and Colleges

If the unit seeking accreditation is located outside the United States, provide the name(s) of the appropriate recognition or accreditation entities:

2. Indicate the institution's type of control; check more than one if necessary.

☐ Private

☒ Public

☐ Other (specify)

3. Provide assurance that the institution has legal authorization to provide education beyond the secondary level. It is not necessary to include entire authorizing documents. Public institutions may cite legislative acts; private institutions may cite charters or other authorizing documents.

On April 1, 1863, the Pennsylvania General Assembly designated Penn State as the land-grant college of the Commonwealth.

4. Has the journalism/mass communications unit been evaluated previously by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, give the date of the last full accrediting visit. If there was a revisit, give the date of the last full visit and the date of the revisit: October 28-31, 2018

5. When was the unit or sequences within the unit first accredited by ACEJMC? 1948



6. Insert here the unit's mission statement. Statement should give date of adoption and/or last revision.

To prepare students to take their place in an information-rich society and in the professions as active, critical and ethical participants. Our activities promote effective, responsible use of communications media and technologies by individuals, organizations, industries and government.

Revision adopted: 2020

7. What are the type and length of terms?

Fall and Spring semesters of 15 weeks each plus final exam week. Summer sessions vary in length from 4 to 12 weeks.

Number of weeks in a semester: 15

Number of weeks in a quarter: n/a

Number of weeks in summer sessions: multiple sessions of 4, 6 & 12 weeks each

Number of weeks in intersessions: n/a

8. Check the programs offered in journalism/mass communications:

☒ Bachelor's degree

☒ Master's degree

☒ Ph.D. degree

9. List the specific undergraduate degrees as well as the majors or sequences being reviewed by ACEJMC.

Communications (*Pre-Major status*)

Advertising/Public Relations Advertising Option

Advertising/Public Relations Public Relations Option

Digital Journalism and Media*

Film Production

Journalism Broadcast Option

Journalism Digital and Print Option

Journalism Photojournalism Option

Media Studies Film and Television Studies Option

Media Studies International Communications Option
(*phasing out*)

Media Studies Media Effects Option

Media Studies Society and Culture Option

Strategic Communications*

Telecommunications and Media Industries

*Indicate online degrees.

**10. Credit hours required by the university for an undergraduate degree:
(Specify semester-hour or quarter-hour credit.)** 120 semester credit hours

**11. Give the number of credit hours students may earn for internship experience.
(Specify semester-hour or quarter-hour credit.)**

50 hours of work is equal to 1 credit hour.

100 hours of work is equal to 2 credit hours.

150 hours of work is equal to 3 credit hours.

• The internship credit is listed as COMM 495.

• A student may earn up to 6 internship credits toward the 120 credits needed to graduate.

• Any one internship cannot exceed 3 credits even if the student logs in more than 150 hours.

• Up to 3 credits may be used as a major requirement based on major requirements. All other internship credits above 3 credits earned would fall into the student's electives.



12. List each professional journalism or mass communications sequence or specialty offered and give the name of the person in charge. Add lines as needed.

Name of Sequence or Specialty	Person in Charge
Communications (Pre-Major status).....	Dr. Juliet Pinto, Acting Associate Dean
Advertising/Public Relations Advertising Option.....	Dr. Fuyuan Shen, Dept. Head
Advertising/Public Relations Public Relations Option	Dr. Fuyuan Shen, Dept. Head
Digital Journalism and Media*	John Affleck, Dept. Head
Film Production.....	Dr. Matt Jordan, Dept. Head
Journalism Broadcast Option.....	John Affleck, Dept. Head
Journalism Digital and Print Option.....	John Affleck, Dept. Head
Journalism Photojournalism Option	John Affleck, Dept. Head
Media Studies Film and Television Studies Option	Dr. Matt Jordan, Dept. Head
Media Studies International Communications Option**	Dr. Matt Jordan, Dept. Head
Media Studies Media Effects Option.....	Dr. Matt Jordan, Dept. Head
Media Studies Society and Culture Option	Dr. Matt Jordan, Dept. Head
Strategic Communications*	Dr. Fuyuan Shen, Dept. Head
Telecommunications and Media Industries.....	Dr. Krishna Jayakar, Dept. Head

*Online major

**Option phasing out

13. Number of full-time students enrolled in the institution: 74,347

14. Number of undergraduate majors in the accredited unit, by sequence. (If the unit has pre-major students, list them as a single total). Give the semester and academic year represented. Add lines as needed.

Name of Sequence or Specialty	Fall 2024 Undergraduate majors
Communications (Pre-Major status).....	1,054
Advertising/Public Relations Advertising Option.....	316
Advertising/Public Relations Public Relations Option	251
Digital Journalism and Media*	71
Film Production.....	140
Journalism Broadcast Option.....	261
Journalism Digital and Print Option.....	146
Journalism Photojournalism Option	24
Media Studies Film and Television Studies Option	18
Media Studies International Communications Option.....	14
Media Studies Media Effects Option.....	40
Media Studies Society and Culture Option	22
Strategic Communications*	45
Telecommunications and Media Industries.....	395

Total undergraduate enrollments.....2,797*

*Small differences in numbers are a consequence of when the data was pulled.



15. Number of students in each section of all skills courses (newswriting, reporting, editing, photography, advertising copy, broadcast news, public relations writing, etc.). List enrollment by section for the term during which the visit will occur and for the preceding term. Submit two semesters with the self-study and update the list as needed for spring **2026 visits. Include a separate list for online skills courses, which also must meet the 20-1 ratio. (The Council has ruled that campaigns courses are exempt from the 20-1 ratio.)**

Number	Number	Course Title	Spring 2025	Fall 2025
242	1	Basic Video/Filmmaking	19	18
242	2	Basic Video/Filmmaking	19	18
242	3	Basic Video/Filmmaking	15	16
260W	1	News Writing and Reporting	20	18
260W	2	News Writing and Reporting	19	19
260W	3	News Writing and Reporting	19	20
260W	4	News Writing and Reporting	19	17
260W	5	News Writing and Reporting	18	20
260W	6	News Writing and Reporting	20	19
260W	7	News Writing and Reporting	20	17
260W	8	News Writing and Reporting	20	18
260W	9	News Writing and Reporting	20	18
260W	10	News Writing and Reporting	20	19
260W	11	News Writing and Reporting	Not offered	19
260W	12	News Writing and Reporting	Not offered	16
260W	13	News Writing and Reporting	Not offered	18
260W	14	News Writing and Reporting	Not offered	18
260W	15	News Writing and Reporting	Not offered	16
269	1	Photojournalism	18	10
269	2	Photojournalism	17	15
282	1	Intro to Video Field Production	20	20
282	2	Intro to Video Field Production	18	18
282	3	Intro to Video Field Production	Not offered	19
282	4	Intro to Video Field Production	Not offered	10
283	1	Intro to Multicamera Production	Not offered	14
283	2	Intro to Multicamera Production	8	Not offered
283	3	Intro to Multicamera Production	18	Not offered
337	1	Intermediate Documentary Production	16	14
337	2	Intermediate Documentary Production	16	Not offered
338	1	Intermediate Narrative Production	20	16
338	2	Intermediate Narrative Production	Not offered	19
339	1	Intermediate Alternative Production	20	12
340	1	Intrm. Cinematography & Editing Tech.	16	17
340	2	Intrm. Cinematography & Editing Tech.	15	19
342	1	Idea Development & Media Writing	17	17
342	2	Idea Development & Media Writing	17	17

Number	Number	Course Title	Spring 2025	Fall 2025
346	1	Writing for the Screen	17	15
360	1	Audio News Production	12	12
360	2	Audio News Production	12	8
360	3	Audio News Production	12	11
360	4	Audio News Production	12	12
360	5	Audio News Production	12	Not offered
360	6	Audio News Production	11	11
360	7	Audio News Production	12	11
374	1	Audio Production	19	18
400	1	In the Game: TV Sports Magazine	14	Not offered
402	1	International Reporting (<i>Spring only</i>)	11	Not offered
437	1	Advanced Doc Production (<i>Spring only</i>)	4	Not offered
437A	1	Advanced Doc Abroad (<i>Spring only</i>)	13	Not offered
438	1	Advanced Narrative Production	16	16
439	1	Advanced Alternative Production	Not offered	16
440	1	Advanced Tech Topics	21*	20
444	1	Advanced Post-Production Techniques	19	15
446	1	Writing for the Screen II	9	Not offered
448	1	Advanced Group Production I	Not offered	16
448	2	Advanced Group Production I	Not offered	16
449	1	Advanced Group Production II	18	Not offered
449	2	Advanced Group Production II	18	Not offered
460	1	Reporting Methods	21*	15
460	2	Reporting Methods	8	16
460	3	Reporting Methods	18	12
462	1	Feature Writing	Not offered	17
462	2	Feature Writing	17	17
465	1	Television Reporting	14	18
465	2	Television Reporting	18	12
465	3	Television Reporting	20	19
465	4	Television Reporting	Not offered	19
466	1	Public Affairs Broadcasting	6	Not offered
467	1	News Editing	16	18
467	2	News Editing	18	12
467	3	News Editing	Not offered	16
469	1	Photography for the Mass Media	11	Not offered

*Course enrolled over the 20-student cap due to unexpected demand by graduating seniors.



Number	Number	Course Title	Spring 2025	Fall 2025
471	1	Public Relations Methods	19	20
471	2	Public Relations Methods	19	20
471	3	Public Relations Methods	Not offered	20
471	4	Public Relations Methods	Not offered	20
471	5	Public Relations Methods	Not offered	20
480	1	Television News	18	16
480	2	Television News	Not offered	14
481	1	Advanced Multimedia	14	9
481	2	Advanced Multimedia	Not offered	8

*Course enrolled over the 20-student cap due to unexpected demand by graduating seniors.

16. Total expenditures planned by the accredited unit for the 2025–26 academic year: \$26,971,500

Amount expected to be spent this year on full-time faculty salaries: \$9,089,401

17. List name and rank of all full-time faculty in the accredited unit. (Full-time faculty refers to those defined as such by the university.) Identify those not teaching because of leaves, sabbaticals, etc.

Fall 2025 Departmental Faculty

Advertising/Public Relations

Lee Ahern, Associate Professor

Michelle Baker, Associate Teaching Professor

Mark Birschbach, Assistant Teaching Professor

Denise Bortree, Professor and Interim Dean

Colleen Connolly-Ahern, Associate Professor

Frank Dardis, Associate Professor

Yujin Heo, Assistant Professor

Stephanie Madden*, Associate Professor

Steve Manuel, Associate Teaching Professor

Renea Nichols, Associate Teaching Professor

Holly Overton, Associate Professor

*on sabbatical Fall 2025

William Overton, Assistant Teaching Professor

Rachelle Pavelko, Assistant Teaching Professor

Mark Ronquillo, Professor of Practice

Fuyuan Shen, Professor and Department Head

Heather Shoenberger, Associate Professor

Ronald Smith, Assistant Teaching Professor

Stephanie Thomas, Assistant Teaching Professor

Dave Wozniak, Assistant Teaching Professor

Tara Wyckoff, Associate Teaching Professor

Bill Zimmerman, Assistant Teaching Professor



Film Production and Media Studies

Catharine Axley, Assistant Professor
Cory Barker, Assistant Teaching Professor
Rod Bingaman, Associate Teaching Professor
Thomas Camden, Assistant Teaching Professor
Jo Dumas, Associate Teaching Professor
Homero Gil De Zuniga, Professor
Pearl Gluck, Associate Professor
Kevin Hagopian, Teaching Professor
Matthew Jordan, Professor and Department Head
Sara Liao, Assistant Professor
Martin Marinos, Assistant Professor
Matt McAllister, Professor

Journalism

Gary Abdullah, Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion
John Affleck, Professor and Department Head
Whitney Chirdon, Lecturer
Boaz Dvir, Associate Professor
Russell Frank, Associate Professor
David Joachim, Professor of Practice
Shannon Kennan, Teaching Professor
Steve Kraycik, Associate Teaching Professor
Simon Lichen, Associate Professor
Marea Mannion, Assistant Teaching Professor
Maggie Messitt, Professor of Practice

Telecommunications

Christopher Ali, Professor
Jiyoung Cha, Associate Professor
Benjamin Cramer, Teaching Professor
Tom Davidson, Professor of Practice
Linda Feltman, Lecturer
Catie Grant, Assistant Teaching Professor
Bill Hallman, Assistant Teaching Professor
Anne Hoag, Associate Professor

Mary Oliver, Professor
Anthony Olorunnisola, Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Research
Michelle Rodino-Colocino, Associate Professor
Gustavo Rosa, Assistant Professor
Michael Schmierbach, Professor
Maura Shea, Associate Teaching Professor and Associate Department Head
Christofer Skurka, Assistant Professor
S. Shyam Sundar, Professor
Jim Westrick, Assistant Teaching Professor
Marni Zelnick, Associate Teaching Professor

Walter Middlebrook, Professor of Practice
Kathleen O'Toole, Assistant Teaching Professor
Shaheen Pasha, Associate Teaching Professor
John Pendygraft, Assistant Teaching Professor
Jamey Perry, Assistant Dean of Academic Services
Juliet Pinto, Associate Professor and Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Patrick Plaisance, Professor
Amy Sanders, Professor
Mila Sanina, Assistant Teaching Professor
Cynthia Simmons, Associate Teaching Professor
Neda Toloui Semnani, Assistant Teaching Professor

Matthew Jackson, Associate Professor
Krishna Jayakar, Professor and Department Head
Robert Martin, Assistant Dean of Internships and Placement
Sascha Meinrath, Associate Teaching Professor
Andrea Miller, Assistant Professor
Scott Myrick, Assistant Teaching Professor
David Norloff, Associate Teaching Professor



18. List names of part-time/adjunct faculty teaching at least one course in fall 2025. Also list names of part-time faculty teaching spring 2025. (If your school has its accreditation visit in spring 2026, also provide the spring 2026 adjunct list in the updated information.)

Fall 2025 Part-time Faculty

Temilade Adeeko	Chris Maurer
Ahmed Al Rawi	Carmina Perez
Karlin Andersen Tuttle	Mikayla Pevac
David Aneckstein	Giancarlo Pitocco
Wilhelmina Antwi	Stephen Reighard
Doug Barkey	Jeffrey Rice
Yasemin Beykont	Samantha Ruland
Jeffrey Brown	Steve Sampsell
Zheng Cui	Melissa Selverian
Emily Danczyk	Stacie Shain
Suleman Din	Brian Shoenfelt
Carlina DiRusso	Diana Sisson
James Dugan	Audrey Snyder
James Espy	Erika Solis
Kevin Freet	Matt Solovey
Nicole Fuentes	Jenna Spinelle
Andy Grant	Leon Valsechi
James Greenhaw	Joshua Vaughn
Jenna Grzeslo	Barry Wade
Jingyi Guo	Adrienne Waterston
Danielle Harris	Jaclyn Wechtenhiser
Peixin Hua	Brittany Welch
Eunchae Jang	Courtney Witmer
Travis Johnson	Yunan Wu
Whitney Justice	Daniel Yesenosky
Zachary Kelly	Evelyn Yin
Eunseo Lee	Will Yurman
Hui Min Lee	Michael Zelazny
Karyn Lewis	
Anna Lindsey	
James Lingwall	
Rex Martin	

Spring 2025 Part-time Faculty

Ahmed Al Rawi	Jill Mott
Karlin Andersen Tuttle	Haley Nelson
David Aneckstein	Carmina Perez
Roland Ballester	Mikayla Pevac
Doug Barkey	Giancarlo Pitocco
Spencer Bennett	Michael Poorman
Yasemin Beykont	Joel Ranck
Lauren Boyer	Stephen Reighard
Jeffrey Brown	Jeffrey Rice
Whitney Chirdon	Samantha Ruland
Cole Cullen	Loryn Rumsey
Adrienne Darrah	Steve Sampsell
Carlina DiRusso	Melissa Selverian
James Dugan	Deepak Sethi
Andy Elder	Stacie Shain
Sara Erlichman	Diana Sisson
James Espy	Audrey Snyder
Kevin Freet	Erika Solis
Nicole Fuentes	Matt Solovey
Andy Grant	Jenna Spinelle
James Greenhaw	Matthew Swayne
Jenna Grzeslo	Peter Terpstra
Danielle Harris	Brian Tripp
Travis Johnson	Leon Valsechi
Zachary Kelly	Joshua Vaughn
Adriana Lacy	Barry Wade
Eunseo Lee	Adrienne Waterston
Karyn Lewis	Jaclyn Wechtenhiser
Anna Lindsey	Brittany Welch
James Lingwall	Courtney Witmer
Rex Martin	Daniel Yesenosky
Christopher Maurer	Will Yurman
Joshua Mcauliffe	Michael Zelazny

19. For each of the last two academic years, please give the total number of graduates from the unit.

2024-25 academic year: 881

2023-24 academic year: 888

