

Broadcasting – Sports Broadcasting

Department of Broadcasting, College of Fine Arts & Communication



Program of Study

The Department of Broadcasting offers a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcasting. Students in Broadcasting study curriculum designed to meet the challenges of media convergence by providing multi-platform production skills to students. Students operate an FM broadcast station, WIUS, and produce programming for wiutv3 using state-of-the-art high-definition television facilities. Graduates of the program enter various careers in television, radio, cable, satellite, and post-production operations, including directing, producing, reporting, on-air talent programming, sales, advertising, sports, and post-production.

News/Performance Track

The News/Performance Track focuses on the preparation of students for careers in front of the camera and/or microphone. wiutv3 is the outlet for our live local television newscasts. Students learn to gather news, cover news events, edit news packages, and produce and direct half-hour newscasts that reach Macomb and McDonough County viewers. There are opportunities to be reporters and anchors (news, weather, and sports), as well as to produce and direct newscasts. WIUS-FM is our music, news, and sports outlet on the radio side. On-air shifts are available to all majors every semester. wiutv3 and WIUS-FM are completely student-run under the guidance of faculty and staff.

Production Track

The Production Track is designed for students interested in working in video, audio, and/or film production and post-production. The program is hands-on. You will work with faculty and peers in an interactive environment to learn production and editing skills. You will also learn camera techniques, post-production special effects, ENG and studio lighting, and operating control room and on-air studio equipment. Then you will take those skills and produce audio, video, and interactive programming for multiplatform distribution. Video production students will take coursework necessary to qualify for the Final Cut Pro Certification test.

Sports Broadcasting Track

The Sports Broadcasting Track is for students who live and breathe sports. Students in the Sports Broadcasting emphasis prepare to become multimedia sports broadcasters. They work in front of the camera; behind the microphone and camera; in the production truck and TV studio; and from their laptops, editing, blogging, and posting their work.

Broadcasting has a live sports truck with an eight-camera set-up to do live sports as well as community events. Sporting events are carried live on wiutv3; WIUS-FM; and on RockyVision, the University's Internet programming provider.

The chance for early undergraduate broadcasting experience is what swayed me to attend Western Illinois University. I loved the fact that I could get some true broadcasting experience as a first- or second-year student. Many of the schools I visited would only allow juniors and seniors to take the true TV and radio production classes. This experience was very helpful since I knew right away that the Broadcasting tract was the right path for me. This early introduction also allowed my experience to build on itself to where I was much more advanced than some of the other upperclassmen.
 –Jeff Politsch, 1996, Senior Producer, NASCAR Images



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The 2+2 is a four-year plan that leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcasting at WIU. Students intending to complete a baccalaureate degree in Broadcasting from WIU should follow the Associate in Arts degree program outlined in this brochure from Waubonsee Community College. Students who complete the Associate of Arts degree at Waubonsee may transfer to WIU and complete their degree in Broadcasting in an additional two years. **Note:** Both community college and University requirements are subject to change. The courses listed here are intended as a projected course guide.

First Year, Fall

WCC Courses	SH
ENG 101	3
MCM 130	3
MCM 140	3
Social & Behavioral Science	3
MATH 101/102/107	3
Semester Hours	15

First Year, Spring

WCC Courses	SH
ENG 102	3
MCM 215	3
COM 100	3
Humanities	3
Physical or Life Science	3
Semester Hours	15

Second Year, Fall

WCC Courses	SH
MCM 211	3
MCM 245	3
Fine Arts	3
Physical or Life Science/Lab	4
Social & Behavioral Science	3
Semester Hours	16

Second Year, Spring

WCC Courses	SH
MCM Elective	3
MCM Elective	3
Social & Behavioral Science	3
Social Awareness/ Personal Growth	2-3
Humanities or Fine Arts	3
Semester Hours	14-15

WIU Suggested Course Sequence

Third Year, Fall

WIU Courses	SH
BC 136	3
BC 142	3
BC 326	3
BC 300+ Sports Practica	2
Minor	3
Minor	3
Semester Hours	17

Third Year, Spring

WIU Courses	SH
BC 246	3
BC 256	3
BC 300+ Sports Practica	2
BC 312	3
Minor 300+	3
Semester Hours	14

Fourth Year, Fall

WIU Courses	SH
BC 325	3
BC 300+ Sports Practica	2
Minor 300+	3
Minor 300+	3
Elective 300+	3
Semester Hours	14

Fourth Year, Spring

WIU Courses	SH
BC 426	3
BC 300+ Sports Practica	3
Minor 300+	3
Elective 300+	3
Elective 300+	3
Semester Hours	15

Award-Winning Program

Broadcasting students have received state and national recognition for their work. This type of acknowledgment is important to employers seeking students who will be productive when they reach the marketplace. In 2014, we had 13 students named as finalists in the Students in Illinois News Broadcasters Association (SINBA) competition, which was the most of any school in Illinois. WIU took home the title of "Best Video Newscast" and "Best Soft TV News Program." In the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) competition, Broadcasting students were recognized as national finalists for four college radio awards, and 11 students were nominated as finalists in the National Broadcasting Society (NBS) competition. WIU grabbed the "Best Video Newscast" award, beating out the University of Oklahoma and the University of Florida. NATAS also bestowed Honorable Mention awards to our students for "TV Newscast" and "General Assignment-Serious News," and our sports productions have received recognition in the Sports Video Group's "College Sports Media Awards." We are proud of our students' achievements!

For More Information

The department welcomes visitors. Join us for a nightly newscast, a shift on WIUS-FM, or an athletic event. Call the Department of Broadcasting at (309) 298-2888 or e-mail us at broadcasting@wiu.edu for information and to schedule a tour of our broadcasting facilities.

wiu.edu/broadcasting

Department of Broadcasting

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