



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
& Biomedical Sciences

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY JOURNALISM GRADUATE PROGRAM

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Science (MS) degree program in Science and Technology Journalism (STJR) at the Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is a broad-based science communication program preparing students mainly for careers as writers and editors specializing in communication of science, technology, and medicine. It can also serve as background for related careers and preparation for doctoral study.

## PHILOSOPHY

The STJR program began in 1996 and seeks to prepare graduates solidly grounded in communication and science. Thus, each student completes graduate courses in both realms. The program is small and highly individualized, with each student choosing courses to meet their interests and goals.

## GRADUATES

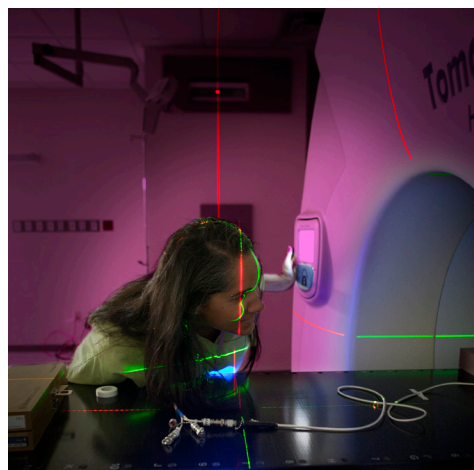
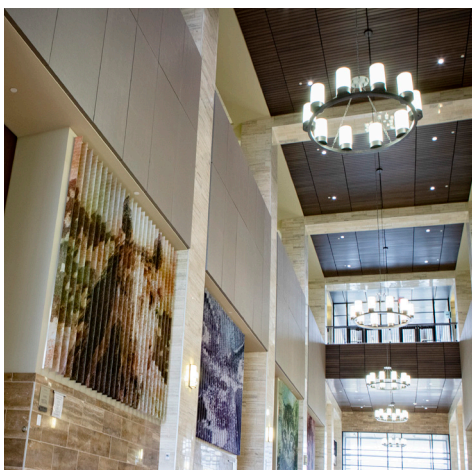
STJR graduates occupy a wide range of positions. Recent examples include:

- Media Relations Specialist at the Johns Hopkins University Institute for NanoBioTechnology
- Scientific Editor at the MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Science Writer on the NASA Earth Science News Team
- Writer at the National Institutes of Health
- Scientific Script Writer at Research Square
- Senior Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications at Texas A&M University
- Managing Editor at Texas A&M University Press
- Communications Manager at Texas Sea Grant
- Science Writing Instructor
- Freelance Writer/Editor

Some graduates go on to obtain PhDs.

## ADMISSIONS ELIGIBILITY

Individuals with undergraduate degrees in science, liberal arts, and other areas are eligible for the program. Some entering students have previous graduate or professional degrees. The STJR program welcomes both domestic and international students.



## COURSES

All STJR students take the following courses:

- Issues in Science and Technology Journalism
- Reporting Science and Technology
- Research Methods in Science and Technology Journalism
- Science Editing
- One or more other science communication courses
- At least two advanced science courses

### Electives

STJR students can take a wide range of electives from throughout the university. Examples include courses in web design, social media, photography, creative nonfiction, science policy, history of science, and many fields of science.

## DEGREE OPTIONS

During their second semester of coursework, students choose between an internship track and a thesis track.

### Examples of Recent Internship Sites

- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • CDC                       | • Microsoft                           |
| • Fermilab                  | • Texas Biomedical Research Institute |
| • Johns Hopkins Medicine    | • Texas Sea Grant                     |
| • MD Anderson Cancer Center | • Texas Water Resources Institute     |

### Recent Thesis Topics

- Science reporting in Ghana
- Best practices of journalists winning awards for mental-health reporting
- Science writers' views and use of online comments
- Environmental risk communication in the two Cosmos television series
- Climate change coverage by a major Mexican newspaper
- Comparative coverage of breast cancer and diabetes by major US women's magazines

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Most students in the STJR program have graduate assistantships. Commonly, these assistantships entail helping with writing-intensive courses for undergraduate science majors. Out-of-state students with assistantships pay tuition at in-state rates.

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