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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute

Journalism

www.medillcherubs.org

June 29 - July 25, 2025

Why journalism?

When a high school junior applied to the Institute, she admitted she “wasn’t sold” on a journalism career—even though she already was the top editor of her school newspaper.

However, she knew she wanted to become “a more organized, more coherent and more forceful writer.” Also, she said she wanted to learn more about digital media as well as to experience college living and dorm life “before I make a [four-year] commitment to any university.”

Most students come to the Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute with similar goals. And most students go home, as she did, wanting a career in journalism and knowing a lot more about life on a college campus.

This summer about 80 high school journalists from around the country and abroad will be immersed in the news media, the world of ideas and college living. The program takes place in a residential college setting – a community of scholars—where students learn by doing and by careful evaluation of their work.

Educational philosophy

The program is designed for students who wish to become better writers and editors for print, online and broadcast. Much of what you learn you can apply to your school newspapers and websites. But the program is broader than a workshop for high school editors. You’ll study journalism from a “professional” perspective, learning from top-notch practitioners and distinguished college teachers. The training you will receive in writing clearly, concisely and accurately will serve you for years to come, no matter what your college major or chosen career. Also, you’ll study with people from around the world. Every year, students come from at least 15 U.S. states and from several countries. Frequently, students form lasting friendships with classmates and teachers.



Jonathan Eig, author of "King: A Life," meets with students after a lecture. Jonathan, winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for biography, is a former Institute student and a Northwestern University graduate.

Course offerings

- Lab sessions to sharpen journalistic skills (such as reporting, writing and editing for print, broadcast and digital media; writing editorials, columns and blogs; taking news and feature photos; and recording audio and video news).
- Seminars with university professors and outstanding journalists to discuss subjects such as ethical considerations, interviewing techniques and investigative reporting.
- Workshops to teach profile writing, resume preparation and magazine publishing and to discuss issues concerning high school journalism, among many other subjects.
- Field trips to various sites in Chicago as well as a Lake Michigan boat ride.
- Discussion sessions to analyze contemporary journalistic issues.
- Special classes to study storytelling forms such as podcasting and video journalism.
- Film showings to review works of and about journalism.
- Weekly one-on-one sessions with teachers to evaluate and analyze writing assignments. (The student-teacher ratio is 10:1.)

What some 2024 students said:

The students were inspiring. I immediately felt like I found my people. They all related to the struggles and joys of reporting and editing in high school.

Ananya Mirchandani, New York

The teachers each brought their own personality to the program and I loved how they each taught classes dedicated to what they knew best.

Emerson Leger, Virginia

I learned more in the four weeks at Northwestern than I have in the four years I've studied journalism.

Francesca Lesinski, California

Everyone I met was supremely qualified and also very happy to be at Northwestern. I was glad to see how much all the students wanted to learn and make the most out of a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Ben Fogler, Massachusetts

I enjoyed that the program was rigorous and held students to high journalistic and academic standards.

Teresa Chen, Shanghai, China

Thank you for making this the absolute best summer of my life.

Jordan Balousek, Washington

I was so impressed with my peers and their accomplishments. Not only were these people intelligent and skilled, but they also were collaborative and genuine.

Eliza Goldwasser, Illinois

The amount of expertise from all the various instructors was a privilege to have and they all were so kind and welcoming to the students.

Justin Tang, California

I wish it were a year long, the best program I ever attended.

Charlie Perlman, New York

About the Institute

The Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute is the nation's most prestigious university-based summer program for high school journalists. It was established in 1934 as the "National Institute for High School Journalists" and for many years was known as the "National High School Institute, Journalism Division." Over the years, students often have been called "Cherubs," a tradition that began in the 1930s.

Campus living and fun

While on campus, you will share a Northwestern residence hall with the program's other participants, as well as with faculty and staff. Your meals will be eaten in a University cafeteria located nearby. Meals offer you a wide selection, including vegetarian options, and University dietitians are happy to accommodate special dietary needs. Living, dining and learning together, you will have ample opportunity to get to know your fellow participants and to make lasting friends.

Just 12 miles north of Chicago, the Evanston campus stretches for a mile along Lake Michigan's western shore and offers you jogging trails, a beautiful private beach and a state-of-the-art fitness and athletic facility.



Medill Professor Karen Springen critiques a story written by student Taariq Ahmed.

Admission requirements

To apply to the Institute, you must:

- Rank academically in the top quarter of your high school class.
- Submit a current high school transcript and letter of recommendation.
- Submit results of the PSAT, SAT, ACT and/or other standardized tests, if available.
- Complete your junior year of high school in May or June of 2025.
- Meet a high standard of character, dependability and intelligence.
- Give specific evidence of background and/or special ability in journalism.

Admission is competitive; decisions are based on ability and merit.

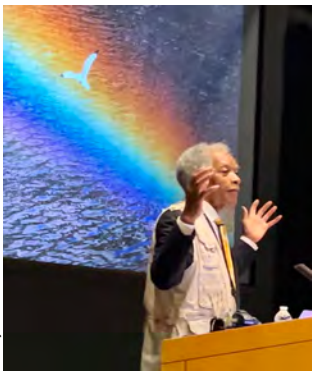


Program staff (bottom row from left): Ilse von Heimburg, Mary Lou Song, Mugsey Geraci (K-9), Karen Springen, Audrey Pachuta, Gabriella Egozi. (Top row from left): Roger Boye, Marjorie Geraci, Joe Grimm, Dr. Ava Greenwell, Carlin McCarthy, Ceci Rodgers, Juliet Allan, John Kupetz. (Not pictured): J.A. Adande, Jessica Villagomez.

Faculty

Professor Roger Boye is director of the Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute. For nearly 20 years he was assistant dean of Northwestern's Medill School, one of the nation's most distinguished journalism programs. He has taught in the program since the 1970s.

The program's full-time teachers have rich and varied backgrounds in journalism. Lecturers include journalists from the media in Chicago and elsewhere, as well as Northwestern faculty members. Past guest speakers have included television journalists, newspaper editors, columnists and award-winning reporters.



Marjorie Geraci

John White, Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist, presents a portfolio of his work.

Application deadline

Applications, recommendations and transcripts must be received by 4 p.m. on March 6, 2025. Decision letters will be mailed to applicants on or before March 26, 2025. Students are strongly encouraged to submit **three** samples of their work, such as stories published in high school newspapers (see list of items at bottom of application form). **The Institute does not accept applications by fax or email.**

Fees

The basic fee for this program is \$5,000. The cost includes tuition, room, board, field trips and group events. Any additional expenses are at your discretion.

Scholarships and financial aid

The Institute has about \$100,000 available for scholarships and financial aid. If you wish to apply for assistance, you should complete and return the financial aid page of the application form. Grants are made on the basis of financial need and academic achievement.

In addition to grants made directly from the Institute's budget, these special awards will be available:

Joan Beck Journalism Scholarship

Norma Kinsel–Linda Foley Cherub Scholarship

Mary Lou Song Cherub Alumni Scholarship

Diane Granat Yalowitz Memorial Fund Scholarship

Jeff Zucker Medill Cherub Scholarship

For more information

If you are admitted to the Institute, you will receive information about housing arrangements, when to arrive on campus, what to bring and transportation to Evanston. To receive additional copies of this folder, contact:

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Medill School
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Evanston, IL 60208-2101**

Phone: 847-491-2069

Email: r-boye@northwestern.edu

marjorie.geraci@northwestern.edu

Web: www.medillcherubs.org

Note: All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the website prepared by students at: www.medillcherubs.org.

Typical daily schedule

9 am

Attend lecture by Northwestern professor

9:45 am

Write editorials

11:45 am

Lunch

1 pm

Discuss reporting with multimedia journalist

2 pm

Conduct interviews for feature articles

6 pm

Dinner

7 pm

Write television news scripts to go with video

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.

Individuals who feel they have been discriminated against on the basis of any of these classes should contact the Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, IL 60201; TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu; phone 847-467-6165.

Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. This includes harassing conduct affecting tangible job benefits, interfering unreasonably with an individual's academic or work performance, or creating what a reasonable person would perceive is an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual violence.

While Northwestern University is committed to the principles of free inquiry and free expression, discrimination and harassment identified in this policy are neither legally protected expression nor the proper exercise of academic freedom.

Northwestern University reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this folder concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, fees, curricula, and courses.



Carlin McCarthy

Students strike a pose at the anchor desk in the WMAQ-TV/NBC Chicago newsroom.

"Every instructor and fellow cherub treated me with a level of kindness, respect and camaraderie that is unparalleled to any other environment I've been in. Thank you for the knowledge, the friendships and for fueling my passion for the art of journalism."

Dalton Hanna, California Institute student

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