Frequently Asked Questions

Advising basics:

1. **Have you completed your undergraduate GE?**
   For first-year students and sophomores, this should be your No. 1 goal. Some eager students want to get an early start on their careers: JOUR 101 has no pre-reqs; J260 works once they finish English 130.

2. **What about GE Pathways?**
   Three upper-division courses must be taken from one pathway. By junior year, you should have selected which pathway you will be taking the courses from.

3. **Have you fulfilled prerequisites?**
   In many courses, you will be dropped from the class if you do not have the prerequisite. See your adviser if you have questions.

4. **Have you selected a minor?**
   In nearly every case, it takes at least three semesters to complete a minor. Pathway minors do not fulfill the J&PR requirement for a disciplinary minor. A completed pathway minor counts as a second minor.

5. **When will you graduate?**
   Your best source for this information is in YOUR Degree Progress Report. You should complete a grad check one year ahead of time. For example, anyone graduating in spring 2016 should have a grad check completed by spring 2015. By meeting this deadline, you will know which courses that must be completed before you enroll for your last semester.

Other common questions:

1. **Why can't I minor in communication design, broadcasting or any variety of communication studies?**
   Short answer: You can. You just have to have another minor. J&PR accreditation requires that 72 units be outside of communication. CDES and CMST courses do not count toward the 72 units except for courses that are GE.
2. Which of my community college courses will transfer into the journalism major at Chico State?
   Many students will be using transfer units in the major. The chair needs to OK all transfer courses, usually based on your recommendation or when we have an agreement with a community college. You can check whether an agreement exists by going to: http://www.assist.org/web-assist/welcome.html

   We generally accept J101, J244 and J260 for transfer from community colleges. If no agreement exists on transfer courses (or when a student is in an exchange program or is transferring courses from a four-year school), it is the student’s responsibility to provide evidence that the course is equivalent to the department’s.

   The best evidence is samples of work in the course and a syllabus. We also will accept a catalog description (especially when pre-approving courses in exchange programs), but you should also ask the student about coursework, assignments, textbooks. The evidence should be provided as soon as possible. It is a mistake to wait until you are near graduation. As part of the advising process, it is wise if you take care of these transfer issues during your first meeting with your adviser.

3. Do I have to get higher than a D in my major courses?
   A grade of D is a passing grade. Students, however, must have a grade of C in J260 to advance to other writing courses. They also must have at least a C minus in the WP (Writing Proficiency) course to graduate. The WP courses are J321 for the news option and J341 for the PR option.

When in doubt, check with your J&PR major adviser.