

SOC announces new Graduate Certificate in Digital and Multimedia Journalism for fall 2026

By **CHLOE GRANT**
Copy Editor

After a faculty senate vote March 30, and rumblings over this past year, Quinnipiac University's School of Communications is introducing a new graduate certificate in digital and multimedia journalism for fall 2026.

With the introduction of this certificate, the SOC hopes to provide students with skills that help bridge the gap between traditional journalism skills and those of modern day newsrooms.

The courses selected for the certificate are aimed in the direction the SOC envisions journalism moving towards, with it primarily focusing on journalistic content that individuals create and distribute across social platforms using video, social, audio, photographic and other similar tools.

The certificate also fits into the current trends in hiring communicators, such as storytelling techniques and processes that can work across all platforms, according to the State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education.

With the current state of Quinnipiac's financial aid system and the cost-benefit analysis, prospective students tend to pursue graduate degrees in journalism. This certificate offers a more cost-effective option for those interested in pursuing their graduate degree in this field.

"It's really a great way to upskill the skills that you would have already learned as an undergrad...So we really designed this program to sort of be (the) future, looking towards what newsrooms are looking for and they're looking for content creators. And so we specifically chose courses which sort of fed into that idea," Professor and Chair of Journalism Ben Bogardus said.

The certificate is primarily aimed at students in the Media Studies in Interactive Media program and requires 12 credits for completion. To maintain a spot within the program, students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and have already attained a bachelor's degree.

"There are the things that we don't teach in the undergraduate that someone doing a three plus one program would want to have that they haven't had already," Bogardus said. "So we de-

ecided to go to the root of a certificate, which is sort of a smaller degree program.. You still get a diploma, you still put it on your resume, but it's not an entire master's degree."

With this new addition to the SOC, administrators hope that students will be able to develop resume building skills within areas that aren't currently widely offered through the school – audio production, social media and digital storytelling, mobile multimedia and with emerging technologies such as AI.

With the dismantling of the MS in Journalism program which was a result of low enrollment earlier this year, the SOC has been gradually working to allow students greater leeway in which classes they are able to take and get elective credits for. Ergo, if a public relations major wants to gain skills in podcasting or filmmaking, they will have the option to. This ensures students are well versed in the communications space.

While the SOC is making efforts to focus on content creation classes with the introduction of this new certificate, administrators also aim to emphasize the connections between different majors and different programs, and the importance of taking classes in a field that may not be one's own in order to benefit them post grad.

"All the courses are designed so the students can list those things on their resume as discrete skills that they have," Bogardus said. "So someone looking to hire in a traditional newsroom that's looking to expand into the social sphere, can say this is something that we could really use in our newsroom, and hopefully get to our students' jobs absolutely outside of this program."

With the recent announcement of a content creation minor coming to Quinnipiac in the fall 2026, the SOC is offering the certificate in Digital and Multimedia Journalism as a similar track available only to graduate students.

Bogardus emphasized the school moving more into the content creation sphere with the introduction of these new programs.

Students can find the graduate certificate in digital and multimedia journalism in their course catalogs for more information beginning July 1.

Mount Carmel Campus remodel sees progress

By **AVA HIGHLAND**
News Editor

Quinnipiac University's Mount Carmel Campus remodel continues to make progress with several projects currently underway.

Over spring break, campus life's offices were temporarily moved from their location in the Carl Hansen Student Center to the west side of The DOME. The temporary location is due to mechanical equipment above the space being upgraded, according to Vice President for Facilities and Capital Planning, Sal Filardi.

Once the project is completed, Campus Life will move back to its original location.

The west side of The DOME will later be renovated.

"Not this summer, but probably the following summer that'll be renovated," Filardi said.

Several departments, including Career Advising and the Office of Inclusive Excellence, will be moved into the space once renovated.

Earlier this academic year, Buckman Theater was torn down, clearing a path from the South Quad to the center for Communications, Computing & Engineering. Grass is currently being planted and is expected to be ready by commencement.

"Once the grass sets, the fence will come down and all those walks will be open again," Filardi said.

Within CCE, an old location for The Vault will be turned into a new space for The Agency, according to signs posted in the building.

Work is also taking place in the space across from the College of Arts and Sciences, formally home to lab buildings.

The space is the site for the installation of fuel cells as part of a clean energy initiative across Quinnipiac's three campuses.

"We're actually getting ready to turn them on, hopefully by the end of the month in North Haven," Filardi said.

York Hill Campus' will follow and then Mount Carmel's.

Several other projects are taking place as well, including a testing center being built in the Echlin Center to support the Learning Commons. An Exercise Science Lab will be built in Tator Hall, supporting a new program in exercise science that will start in the fall or spring of academic year 2026-27, according to Filardi.

There are also plans for CAS's Dean suite to be renovated this summer. This will allow for the Department of Psychology to be moved to the lower level of CAS.

No project has been approved yet for the old bookstore space in the student center.

"I think long-term, we're hoping that it becomes an expansion of dining services," Filardi said.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

The Campus Life offices are temporarily being housed in the west side of The DOME to allow for mechanical equipment to be upgraded in the Carl Hansen Student Center.

PANEL from cover

The theme made her think of her upbringing. She grew up in New York City with immigrant parents from West Guinea, who left to build a better life in the United States. She began playing basketball at 11 years old, where she fell in love with the game and the sisterhood of a team.

Camara reflected on what she wanted, after her father died when she was 12 years old. During this reflection, she filled out boarding school applications, including to Blair Academy, where she was accepted and now works as a college counselor and girls' basketball coach.

After graduating from high school, she attended the University of Connecticut, where she played on the basketball team.

While there, her team was the team to break the 111-game winning streak. When they went to practice next, they watched film. However, they watched themselves on the bench, not on the court.

"We watched the bench, watched our attitude, watched those who didn't play, because your energy affects everyone," she said.

She explained that their coach made them do laps, yet only a few sprinted and others jogged.

"Fortune favors gold. Fortune favors the brave... Those who sprinted are all doing amazing, amazing things," she said.

When you're in a program like that, your platform is temporary.

"There are over 500 players who played on UConn. You probably only know 30," she said.

It made her wonder, in college, what her legacy would be.

"Reclaiming your time is not always big, drastic moments," according to Camara. "It's choosing discipline or distraction. It's locking in for a few months. It's doing the work when nobody's watching. And I promised that a few focused months can change your entire life."

Sometimes it may feel lonely on the self-discovery journey, and you may have to leave people behind.

"Bad Company is worse than loneliness," she said.

After the keynote speech, panelists moved to the stage.

The panelists consisted of Assistant Professor of Sport Management at UMass Amherst Ajhanai Keaton, expert in sports marketing and fan behavior Ceyda Mumcu, Quinnipiac women's volleyball coach Kyle Robinson and visiting instructor of sports

communications Patricia Mays.

When discussing what shaped them to be where they are today, the panelists shared their challenges and experiences.

A couple shared that they turned to sports to get out of bad situations in their youth.

"If you have the support and the direction or the help, your life can be a beautiful thing," said Robinson. "That's what kind of brought me to volleyball and got me off the streets of Philadelphia, and doing silly things as a youth that helped me get into the right direction."

Robinson credits his change in perception to having children.

"It taught me how to see things from a different perspective. It taught me to not just create a space for my athletes, but to also create a space where they felt welcome, they felt proud. I don't think I've ever told my athletes how proud I was until after the birth of my son," he said.

Mumcu grew up participating in sports in Turkey.

"I made the first mistake choosing the easy way around," she said. "I picked a team where I would be a standout point guard. You know, the game relies on me, etc. Looking back, I should have picked the more challenging team where I

had to fight for my spot."

She then moved to the United States to pursue a career in sports management.

Mays described her stubbornness as one of her struggles. At the beginning of her career, she began missing out on opportunities by not being open to the unexpected.

When she worked at Associated Press, she took the promotion no one wanted: the night shift. She took a risk, and as a result, she was working during the morning of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I was part of the national supervising team that edited, that crafted, that made assignments for one of the big stories, again, of our lifetime," she said. "And from there that really launched my career, news from there, that's the tradition sometimes."

The panelists ended with advice to women in the sports industry.

Keaton emphasized the importance of delayed gratification, while Mays encouraged everyone to develop communication skills.

"You just have to show up," Batouley said to The Chronicle. "Your presence and your energy matter. You can shift the whole room just by being you."