



Boston University

The Boston University Statehouse Program

College of Communication, Journalism Program

Boston, MA

Partnership

The Boston University Statehouse Program hosts up to 15 students per semester who are each assigned to work with an individual regional outlet in the state to cover state government and the Legislature, which is a short T-ride from campus. The 12-credit class, taught by former Massachusetts Statehouse reporter Jerry Berger, runs in the spring and fall and includes a 3-hour-per-week classroom session.

Lead faculty

Jerry Berger, jerryb@bu.edu

Websites

[The Boston University Statehouse Program](#)

Impacts

The stories are sent out via email. Students have to write two big stories (group and final, both lengthy features) at the end of the year, and those go out to every outlet. But most stories are localized for a particular area, so stories are specific to the paper. A student will cover a particular coverage area and is viewed as an intern. This semester they give content to 14 outlets, primarily newspapers. They do have one radio station.

Students

32,500 at Boston University

400 in the journalism program

12-15 in the partnership, per semester

Student work

Students have to write two big stories (group and final, both lengthy features) at the end of the year... group project is at midterm. They also have to write weekly stories.

Course name

Covering Government and Politics

The Statehouse Program

Course description

This capstone class is optional for journalism students. Students spend 3 hours in a classroom in class and are on their own the rest of the week to report. They use the statehouse as the base for the beat to report on public affairs-related issues for participating publications around Massachusetts. It's an advanced beat reporting class, and they hopefully get clips. The class runs in the spring and fall, but not the summer.

Faculty/staff

Berger edits stories for students, that they then send to their editors for a final edit. For larger projects that are sent to all outlets, Berger sends the stories out in finished form.

Funding sources

There are no extraordinary expenses, e.g. travel. The students pay for 12 credits and participating news organizations offer bylines.