



Louisiana State University

The LSU Manship School Statehouse Bureau

Manship School of Mass Communication

Baton Rouge, LA

Partnership

The Louisiana State University Manship School Statehouse Bureau has been covering the statehouse in Baton Rouge since 2016. The program includes a prerequisite class in the fall, a spring class based at the Capitol, which is just a short drive from campus during the legislative session, and a paid summer program for a handful of students to cover the end of the session once the semester ends.

Lead faculty

Christopher Drew, cdrew2@lsu.edu

Websites

[Manship School Statehouse Bureau](#)

Impacts

Up to 90 publications, digital publications, newspapers, radio/TV have run at least one of their stories. When Drew came on, the statehouse program had already been running for two years with about 20 news outlets. Over the last five years, they've bumped up to 90 outlets.

Students

25,200 at Louisiana State University
160 in the journalism program
10-12 in the partnership, per semester

Student work

Students come up with the story ideas themselves. Students will pick topics they're interested in like education or the coastal environment. There isn't a perfect beat structure, since sometimes students can't make it to certain hearings, but in that case, someone else will cover it. Drew is responsible for editing all student stories.

Faculty/staff

Drew was a reporter and editor for 40 years and now typically teaches two classes per semester, usually the statehouse or cold case and the in-depth reporting class. Drew approves all stories before they're sent out, as well as does all editing.

Funding sources

They pay for the Statehouse program through school funds and money in the endowed chair. Four or five students are paid \$12.50 per hour to keep covering the legislature after the semester ends. Students are not paid during the semester as of yet.