



Michigan State University

The MSU Capital News Service

School of Journalism

East Lansing, MI

Partnership

The Michigan State University's Capital News Service is in its 41st year of covering statehouse news, and an average of five to six students – graduate and undergraduate – per semester in the spring and fall provide news coverage to about 45 news outlets. While students are not required to be at the statehouse every week, the class includes off-campus interviews most Monday mornings with influential players such as the governor, a state agency head or legislator to kickstart stories that are due at the end of the week.

Lead faculty

Eric Freedman - freedma5@msu.edu

Collaborators

The [Spartan Newsroom](#) is the website for MSU's School of Journalism.

Impacts

The journalism school's website is called Spartan Newsroom, and stories go on there. Every Friday in the early afternoon, CNS emails out a budget with links to all stories and visuals about 45 subscribing outlets.

Students

50,500 at Michigan State University

444 in the School of Journalism

5-6 in the partnership, per semester

Student work

Editors will occasionally ask for stories, but faculty will never assign stories, only suggest them. Students do one story per week every week for 14 weeks, then there are three weeks where they do two stories that are more in-depth. On Fridays, they have a retired local journalist as their chief copy editor. The current one has been doing it for about three years.

Faculty/staff

Eric Freedman and Dave Poulson are both dedicated teachers of the program. While faculty do not assign stories, they will suggest them and work with students while developing their pitches.

Funding sources

Most revenue pays the student tech manager, a retired editor who works with them on Fridays, as well as scholarships and awards for its students who are not about to graduate. Most years, it gives away around \$12,000 to students in the news service. The awards come from revenue from the news organizations that pay for their content.

The university pays for faculty salaries and for the newsroom in the building. The participating outlets pay collectively around \$8,000 per year for content.