How to Work with the JLMC: Classes & Curricular Support

What kinds of University classes do we support?

Among the JLMC’s many roles at the Logan Center is providing curricular support to University classes in the arts. We support classes in Visual Arts, Cinema and Media Studies, Music, Theater and Performance Studies, Creative Writing, and Art History. Please note that we typically do not have the capacity to substantially support classes outside of our core arts partners.

How can we help?

We work with instructors to provide equipment, space access, and specialized training for classes in the arts. In the past, we have often collaborated with instructors to agree upon and implement standardized hardware and software workflows across a given class.

How far in advance should you begin communicating your needs?

Feel free to reach out to us as early as you can: almost all of our successful academic collaborations start well in advance of the quarter. Given demands on our time, we generally do not have the ability to begin working with you on a support plan after the quarter has begun.

Step 1: Introduce your course

Email us at loganmediacenter@uchicago.edu with details about your class, your goals for digital media integration, and if available, your syllabus. (This address will reach all four professional staff members at the JLMC.) The more information we have about your learning objectives, the better equipped we’ll be to evaluate your needs.

Step 2: More specifics

Assuming your course falls under our umbrella of support, we’ll ask to set up a meeting so we can clarify your needs, make equipment or training suggestions. We’ll then work to agree upon some standardized gear and workflows that your class may use.

Step 3: What does support look like for your class?

We typically offer a few different levels of support based on the needs of you and your students:

In-Class General Access

We can provide an in-class version of our General Access Orientation (a 30-minute guided presentation), which is required for equipment checkouts and space reservations. If your students will need access to Media Center resources, this is often the most efficient way to certify everyone in your class. Students can also sign up for an orientation outside of class time, which we typically run once per day during the first two weeks of each quarter.

Single-Session Intro

For classes focusing on a single medium, piece of gear, or workflow, we can often provide a directed introductory seminar that lasts for a single class period. This might cover basic audio recording, basic videography, or basic video or audio editing.

Multi-Session Curriculum

We support a few select classes each quarter that employ complex, multi-step media production processes. If you anticipate needing this level of support, please reach out to us as soon as possible to find out if we can accommodate an intensive support structure.

A few questions we might ask...

Skill Acquisition: How much time are you expecting students to spend acquiring skills and/or practicing media workflows? Does your curriculum build in time for skill acquisition?

Quality: What is the purpose of the media production element of your class? How concerned are you with the quality of the final product?

Specifics: Would you rather teach a specific workflow for students to follow or let them figure out/design their own? Would you rather teach a specific piece of gear (camera, audio recorder, etc.) or let students choose which equipment they work with?