

NAJA Education Pathways



- Future Board/Committee Members
- NAJF Mentor
- NAJA Go!
- Mentor-in-Training
- University Supported Student Ambassador
- NAJF for Credit
- Student Fellowship (NAJF)
- Professional Training and Internships
- Scholarship
- Fellow-in-Training (NAJF)
- Project Phoenix

Project Phoenix Seminar and/or Certificate

High School to before college/professional job outreach

May include high school students participating in workshops at national conferences, newsrooms and/or at university training sessions.

Fellow-in-Training

Before college and/or professional job

Student members who have a strong interest in going into the field, but have not yet pursued coursework or training. Students attend national conference, participate in the student newsroom and receive year-long mentorship. Fellows-in-training are also required to participate in the pre-conference training webinars/sessions.

Student Development and Scholarship Funding

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Level

Native American Journalists Association's education committee and board will assess rising stars within the field. Applicants may receive up to \$10,000 in scholarships to assist them on their degrees and within their programs. Scholarship recipients selected will score high on the Native American Journalists student assessment measure that covers storytelling, ethics and professionalism. This measure will be used to score each applicant and assess their portfolio of material that is required upon application.

Professional Opportunities: Sponsored Professional Conferences and Internships

Undergraduate and Graduate Level

NAJA seeks out professional opportunities for all student members. Students may receive sponsored registration for sessions at conferences such as the National Press Photographers Association and/or apply for NAJA-NBCUniversal internships with programs such as The Today Show, Nightly News, Dateline, MSNBC and CNBC.

Native American Journalists Association Fellowship

Entry to Mid-Career Transition/Undergraduate to Graduate Level

Student member training program that assists in creating the next generation of storytellers through hands-on training in a weeklong immersion experience with professional journalists. College and graduate students will be able to broaden their reporting and multimedia skills by receiving training, a professional NAJA mentor, skills for job-readiness, connections to media jobs and internships through NAJA's national network and upper-level college credit hours.

Students are typically enrolled in undergraduate or graduate journalism-related courses and have some experience with media, whether writing for student media, media in their communities, previous internships and/or other experience. Students attend three or more webinars prior to

meeting at the conference. They have at least two meetings with mentors where they share previous media-related work. Mentors assess fellows on ethics, professionalism and storytelling. Together mentors and mentees create three learning objectives for their fellowship. Mentors work with students throughout the year including in person for a week at the national conference; at the national conference, mentors and serve as fellows direct one-on-one editor, prior to fellows' publication of stories on the NAJF/NAJA student media website, "Native American Journalism Fellowship Newsroom."

The NAJF Newsroom content is pushed to the Excellence in Journalism and/or other conference apps, where all attendees may view. NAJA members receive NAJF Newsroom content on the app, NAJA web site as well as through social media. Throughout the week, NAJA media leaders as well as industry experts provide training and guidance on reporting and specifically digital media coverage. Fellows may be entry to mid-level. At times, fellows are in transition within their careers and are matched with appropriate mentors to help guide them with this process. Students may be a fellow for multiple years. In these cases, NAJA increases the level of responsibility for the fellow each year, so that they may continue to grow throughout the program. As student move forward in the area of data reporting and digital they may become a **Senior Fellow**.

Below is an example of curriculum development for multi-year NAJF students (curriculum is adjusted based on students' interests and experience levels):

Year 1: Focus on writing and storytelling

Year 2: Focus on visuals and/or elements such as edit, data reporting, etc.

Year 3: Senior Fellow: Focus on continued advancement of content across digital platforms and data reporting. How are stories told differently and in what was based on the medium? And, how do we find stories in numbers?

Year 4: Ambassador/Mentor-In-Training. Serve as editor within the student newsroom. Assist students with assignments prior to publication.

Native American Journalists Association Fellowship for Credit

Entry to Mid-Career Transition/Undergraduate to Graduate Level

Students may extend their fellowship from one to two additional semesters. Curriculum is available for undergraduate and graduate coursework. Fellows will work with a NAJA member currently working at a university and/or member who has an advanced degree; the NAJA member will coordinate with fellows' universities for three-to-six hours of upper-level and/or graduate-level credit. Average work hours for a 3-hour upper-level undergraduate credit is 120 hours. For fellows seeking graduate credit, students extend their work to also apply practice norms and routines and/or theory to analyze how their work is informed. An Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) guided syllabus is available for students and universities interested in participating in this aspect of the fellowship.

University-Supported Student Newsroom Ambassador

Advanced (undergraduate or graduate) Student: Portfolio and professionalism speaks to future

A NAJA student member who is partially funded by a university, so that they may attend the national conference. These members have illustrated that they are advanced students in the field and on their way to a strong career in journalism. Ambassadors attend the national conference, meet with universities about future careers and serve as ambassadors in the student newsroom - sharing their developing expertise at a peer-to-peer learning level within the newsroom.

Mentor-in-Training

Past NAJF Students

Previous NAJF students and current members in good standing who have exhibited strong skills in crafting and creating content as well as a professional attitude to provide peer guidance. Mentor-In-Training will serve as editors, in some capacity, within the newsroom.

NAJA Go! Professional Training

Entry and Mid-level/Career Transition Training

Up and coming graduates and members in professional transition may join courses/training via bus, train or plane, including study abroad at NAJA and/or mainstream media. NAJA GO! will include pairing participants up with a member in the area to serve as "in the area" mentor. The concept behind NAJA GO! is to assist members in learning evolving skills in media, whether entry level or mid-career. This will be facilitated by joining programs and initiatives by sustaining university members and their professional newsroom affiliates.

Fellowship Mentors

Practicing or Retired Journalists

Mentors are current NAJA members in good standing and have extensive experience in print, broadcast and/or digital media. They must be available to students prior to the conference, in-person for the full week long national conference and for the entire year of the fellowship. Mentors fund their own travel and accommodations. They often bring their own professional gear to train students. They also conduct a pre and post assessment on student work in the areas of storytelling, ethics and professionalism. Mentors develop learning objectives with students throughout the year, so that they may continue to grow throughout the fellowship.

Future NAJA leader/Committees such as Education

Ageless: Completing the Education Pathways Circle

NAJA is hopeful that our education pathways bring members full circle and that they continue to sustain their membership as well as become future leaders within the organization. Our strength

is with our members and who better to help guide the future of the organization than those who have grown as a part of it. Opportunities in leadership include running for the board as well as participating as a member of the education committee, which helps guide and advance programs like those listed within our pathways.