



USC ANNENBERG

School of Journalism

REQUIRED and RECOMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR JOURNALISM – Spring 2026

Students in JOUR 206/JOUR 321

Laptop, smartphone, external hard drive, headphones as per Annenberg requirements.

Required Equipment for Labs and Assignments:

In accordance with the Annenberg mandatory laptop policy, you will need a laptop with the following recommended specs:

- MAC: multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support, MacOS X 10, at least 8GB RAM (16 recommended)
- Windows: multicore processor with 64-bit support, at least Windows 10 with 64-bit service pack. 8GB of RAM (16GB recommended)
- 8GB of available hard-disk space for software installation
- SD card reader (for newer computers without a built-in card reader)

You will also need a smartphone with the following specifications to complete assignments:

- Apple: iPhone 6s or higher, must be running iOS 15 or later
- Android: Needs to have 1080p for video, must be running Android 4.4
- Phone Data Storage: 16GB minimum, 32GB recommended

You will need headphones to monitor the sound as it is recorded when you shoot a broadcast story

- **Headphones - +/- \$20**
 - Example Model:
Over the ear units are recommended, such as the Sony ZX Series “on-ear” headphones. No earbuds.
Please bring **headphones** to all lab sessions.

Once the equipment room has opened, Annenberg will **loan** you an equipment package worth over \$700 that includes a video camcorder, two camera batteries, a lavalier microphone, a handheld microphone, a tripod, and a camera bag. You will be responsible for any losses or damage. You will get more information about this equipment during class (Note: Does not apply to JOUR 321).

Feel free to email asctech@usc.edu if you have any questions about the specifications of the items listed below.

Additional items required for using Annenberg equipment:

- **A portable USB hard disk drive- +/- \$100**
Additionally, you will need at least 10GB of dedicated media storage for this course. An external hard drive is highly recommended. For more information, please visit <http://www.annenbergdl.org/adobe/>. This drive will be used while working on assignments on the school's Mac computers.

Required Specifications:

- USB 3.0 or USB 3.1 Type-C, 1 terabyte (1 Tbyte) or greater.
- Sample Brands: GDrive, Seagate FreeAgent GoFlex, Western Digital MyPassport (about \$100-120)

Recommended drives (Sturdy and fast):

- **USB Type C**

SSD Hard drive, various brands for 1TB, USB-C cost approx. \$120 and higher
Some brands are rugged.
Recommended: SanDisk, G-Technology, Samsung, LaCie, etc.

- USB Type C (Newer Mac Laptops-late 2016): ALSO requires external USB-C to SD Card Reader, about \$20 (non-Apple brand)
For example: [USB-C Card reader](#)

Note: If you take an Annenberg radio class or work at Annenberg Radio News, you will use professional-quality digital voice recorders that you will check out from Annenberg as needed.

For classes or lab assignments, you may be required or have an option of using your Smartphone for your assignments or projects. The following are requirements and recommendations when using a Smartphone, including “location” interview photography.

The following is a specific list of Smartphone items. Other brands or similar items may be used if compatible to the individual's smartphone

NOTE: Most of the prices are based on Amazon.com pricing and includes a link. Items can be purchased from other retail outlets or on-line suppliers. We do not advocate Amazon purchasing, we are only using their site as a reference guide.

o Items:

- **Adapter for connecting to Smartphone:**

- o **Required for iPhone 10 and earlier** (Lightning cable input only)
 - o **Belkin 3.5mm Audio + Charge Rockstar Adapter**
 - Connects audio accessories having 3.5mm connector plug and at same time allows for charging cable to be connected
 - Cost approx. = \$35
 - [Belkin Audio Adapter](#)
 - o iPhone 11 and higher
 - [iPhone Lavalier Mic \(Lightning Connector\)](#)
 - Cost approx. = \$40

- **Required for Android phones-**

- **With 3.5mm Headphone Jack**
 - Sescom Smartphone 3.5mm TRRS to 3.5mm Mic Jack & 3.5mm Monitor Jack Splitter - Cost approx. = \$30
 - [Sescom Adapter](#)
- **With USB-C Jack only** - Cost approx. = \$15
 - [USB-C Mic/Headphone 3.5mm Splitter](#)

- **Headphones (Required item)**

- o Monitor audio recording
- Wired or Bluetooth (if wired, minimal cost approx. \$20 is recommended-e.g.: Sony MDR-ZX110 Headphones)

- o **Rode Directional Shotgun Mic (Recommended item)**

- **iOS (iPhone) w/Lightning Connection: Rode model “ME-L”**
 - Shotgun mic plugs directly into iPhone lightning connection (iPhone 7 and above)
 - [Rode Shotgun Mic iOS](#)
 - Cost approx. = \$100
- **Android phone w/3.5mm OR USB-C input: Rode model “ME-C”**
 - [Rode Shotgun Mic Me-C for Android](#)
 - Cost approx. = \$100

- **Selfie Stick Tripod, All in 1 Portable Extendable Selfie Stick (Recommended item)**

- o Acts as monopod/tripod and stabilizer handle for Smartphone (similar item shown below link)
- o [Selfie-stick/tripod \(Example\)](#)
- o Cost approx. = \$25

- Some **recommended** items include:
 - Portable battery for charging smartphone on location
 - **Mobile smartphone charger - 10,000mAh** (*Recommended item*)
 - Cost approx. = \$30 and up - Price varies according to capacity of battery
 - Battery power should match power requirements of smartphone
 - *NOTE: Higher mAh recommended for newer phones (e.g.: iPhone 12 or Samsung S-22 series. Check recommendations of descriptions.*
 - Brand example: Mophie, Anker, Power Bank, etc.
- Some **optional** items include:
 - Lavalier and/or Hand mic
 - [**Professional Lavalier Clip-on Microphone**](#)
 - **iPhone** Lavalier microphone with for live monitoring of audio (Optional item)
 - Cost approx.= \$30
 - **Rig Hand Held Condenser Mic (HD2)** (*optional item*)
 - Hand mic includes connection for headphone*
 - Cost approx. = \$70
 - [Hand Mic Example](#)
 - **Note headphone jack monitors the sound directly from microphone. Does not monitor the “live” actual recording on the smartphone.*
 - **Hand Grip** (*optional item*)
 - Hand grip - to help stabilize picture, includes ability to mount on tripod
 - **Fantaseal Ergonomic Hand Grip for Smartphone** (*Optional Item*)
 - Economic grip to help stabilize smartphone (this is NOT a gimble)
 - Mount can be attached to a standard tripod or guerilla tripod
 - Cost approx. = \$19
 - [Hand Grip Example](#)
 - **Saramonic VMICMINI Vmic Mini Shotgun Microphone** (*Optional Item*)
 - Optional to Rode shotgun mic (can be used with DSLR or other small video cam)
 - Shotgun mic WITH hotshoe will mount to (above listed) Fantaseal Hand Grip
 - No battery required
 - Comes with windscreen
 - [Saramonic Mini Shotgun](#)
 - **Joby GripTight PRO Smartphone Mount** (*Optional item*)
 - Adapter to mount smartphone to a tripod (standard or tabletop tripod)
 - High quality construction
 - Cost approx. = \$30
 - [Joby Grip Tight Pro Mount](#)