



Photojournalism

Photojournalism Equipment List – Revised April 2017

Students entering the Photojournalism program must bring a Single-Lens-Reflex (SLR) Digital camera with both Automatic and full Manual operation, and the capability of using interchangeable lenses. Our pool of loaner equipment supports only Nikon and Canon bodies. The following list is intended as a guideline only, for the purchase of equipment and supplies. Prices are estimates only and reflect the status of pricing at the time the list was prepared. Pricing is competitive, so applicants should check with several sales outlets before making a final purchasing decision.

This list is subject to continual change. Some camera prices drop as new models are introduced, while some new models increase in price as the market reflects the ever-changing fluctuations of currencies, so careful price comparison is encouraged. Students will need video and sound capture capability. The quality of this capability should be considered when purchasing a camera. Buy the best camera body you can afford. The quality of the sensor in the camera body will have a major impact on the capability in video and still image capture. Consider the differences between a full frame sensor and the smaller sensors in less expensive cameras. Please contact us at phjn@loyalstc.on.ca or foconnor@loyalstc.on.ca if you have any questions. A good photojournalist needs the best tools he or she can afford, but don't let equipment be the barrier to starting this journey. Some of our best grads have come to us despite being equipment-challenged! But having said that, having the right camera gear is an equity investment in your future.

Year I Students:

The following list of photographic equipment and supplies represents the minimum requirement for students entering the first year of the program. Prices shown are based on the purchase of new equipment. Used equipment in good working condition can offer considerable savings but should be checked thoroughly before purchasing. All purchases should be thought out carefully. Be sure the camera is in good working order and will be compatible with lenses and accessories you may be required to purchase in the future. Some older models may not be suitable for the program. If in doubt, please ask us. Do not be let a salesman's pitch talk you into something not recommended. Research before you buy, and hold the camera in your hands. It will soon become an extension of you!

There are many excellent camera systems available, but the most commonly used in the photo-journalism industry are either Nikon or Canon. We maintain a lens pool for occasional loan in both of these systems. A student entering the first year of the photo-journalism program must have one of the following models or its model replacement or predecessor. Equipment specs and costs are constantly changing. The estimated costs below are for new equipment of an acceptable standard. Students are expected to have the standard tools required to do the job, and should not rely solely on borrowing from the lens pool. The pool is designed to expose the student to the more exotic or expensive lenses.

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Nikon		Canon	
Nikon D7200	\$1,600 (with kit lens)	Canon 6D	\$2,500 (with kit lens)
Nikon D750	\$2,300 (body)*	Canon EOS 80D	\$1,500 (body)*
Nikon D610	\$1,900 (body)*	Canon EOS 7DMkII	\$2,000 (body)*
Nikon D810	\$3,200 (body)*	Canon EOS 5D IV	\$4,200 (body)*
Nikon D500	\$2,500 (body)*		

* Note that these prices, unless noted, are for camera body only. See below for lens recommendations.

The following cameras are not acceptable:

Any non-SLR digital camera system. This includes point-and-shoot cameras, cameras without lens interchangeability and without external flash capability, digital cameras with extreme lag-time delays, etc. Some older used DSLR cameras may get you started, but it is strongly advised to have a current model with HD video and external sound connection capability. In the end, this will save you time, money and frustration.

2) **Image Storage Card:** Compact Flash or SD card (top speed and quality only suggested), 16 GIG \$30, 32 GIG \$50. You should have two of these. Sandisk and Lexar are recommended.

3) **Lenses:** Having the right lenses will give you a solid foundation for your photographic education. Most digital photojournalists work with a selection of zoom lenses. The speed of the lens is extremely important, particularly for lower light level situations. Avoid lenses slower than f/2.8 (ie. f/3.5; f/4; f/5.6). An ideal zoom lens for working photojournalists is within the wide angle to normal range. These lenses are offered by both Nikon (17 mm – 55 mm for DX sensor bodies \$ 1,400) or Nikon (24 – 70 f2.8 for \$1,800) and Canon 16 mm – 35 mm for \$1,700. Canon EF-S 17-55 f2.8 for \$1,350). If the cost of a zoom lens is prohibitive, the ideal option is to purchase a fixed 35 mm f/2 lens (approximately \$400). Additional lenses such as 80 – 200 mm f2.8 or 70 – 210 f2.8 should be budgeted for and will be needed later in the first semester. They are new priced in the \$1,200+ range. Lens purchases and focal length choices may depend on camera models and sensor sizes of each camera model. Good deals are often found in used lenses. Make sure the lens is compatible with your camera body. It is a complicated market to say the least! As always, prices will vary, so shop around!

4) **Flash equipment:** The minimum requirement is a flash unit capable of dedicated automatic and manual operation required in the first semester. Flash units are usually dedicated to a comparable camera model or range.

Recommended Models	Estimated Cost (new)
Nikon SB-700i	\$399
Nikon SB-5000	\$750
Canon Speedlite 600 EX	\$650
Canon Speedlite 430 EX II	\$400

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Students will be expected to have their own lighting equipment in second semester. A flash stand and convertible umbrella will be required (estimated \$200). Remote firing devices for the flash (Pocket Wizard Plus is the industry standard) will cost about \$500 for a pair plus connectors. Those using Nikon gear will benefit from Nikon flashes ability to fire remotely using the Nikon CLS flash system which negates the need for Pocket Wizards in most cases. We do have some Pocket Wizard transceivers in our loaner pool for student use.

5) **Gadget bag:** A gadget bag is the ideal way to transport your camera equipment and to protect it. Popular bags for photojournalists are manufactured by LowePro (Reporter Series), and Domke.
Estimated Cost: \$150 (new)

6) **Books:** This is not a text heavy course, though some are required. Any required textbooks are available at the Loyalist Bookstore. Students will be given a list during registration.
Estimated Cost: TBA (minimal)

7) **Miscellaneous Supplies:** Students will be required to supply their own batteries, chargers, USB memory sticks, etc. These items are available at local suppliers.
Estimated Cost (First Year): \$300

8) **Audio Equipment:** Students are required to have a digital sound recorder with a USB or similar output for use in multi-media and other interview applications in first semester. A good separate lav microphone for use with this recorder and the audio jack on your DSLR is highly recommended. Suggested models are Zoom H1 Recorder series with a SONY ECMC tie pin microphone (There are others too)
Estimated Cost: \$150 – \$300

9) **External Hard Drive:** Minimum (LaCie recommended) 1TB \$150

10) **Tripod:** A good solid tripod is needed occasionally for video and certain low-light situations. Estimated cost- \$200. We do have some tripods for loan in the pool to get you started.

Personal Computers:

We do not require students to possess their own personal computer. There are sufficient on-campus computer labs and ample access for assignments. However, most students find it essential to have their own. It is better to put limited funds into lenses and image capture equipment over computers, but a laptop is certainly a great asset. Special pricing may be available for registered full-time students.

The photojournalism industry is primarily based upon the Macintosh with Creative Cloud Suite, but some students use PCs. Most of the work performed will be done using Adobe Photoshop software. We also use Photo Mechanic software as the editing software of choice in the program. Computers in the department are equipped with this software. Students are encouraged to have Photo Mechanic software on their personal computer, as this is the industry standard photo editing software. It can be purchased at a substantial student discount from CameraBits.com. MacBook Pros start at about \$1,450.