

Resources

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov
2004 Occupational Outlook Handbook
- National Press Photographers Association
<http://www.nppa.org/>
- *Careers in Communications* by Shonan F.R. Noronha, 1997

Sources of information for this publication:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov
2004 Occupational Outlook Handbook
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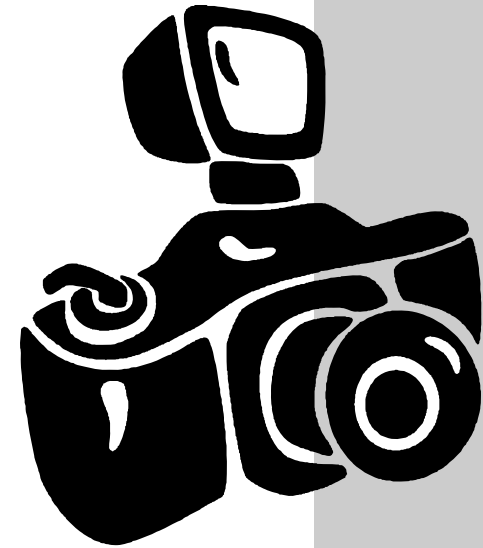


Pathways to Media

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Pathways to Media



What's Inside:

- **Related Majors at Mizzou**
- **How to Prepare for a Career in Photography**
- **Career Information**
- **Required Skills and Abilities**



Description and Job Duties:

Photojournalists photograph newsworthy people, places and events for newspapers, journals, magazines or television. Some photographers are salaried staff while others are freelance photographers. Photographers work with writers, editors and designers to successfully capture an event or to tell a story.



Skills and Abilities

Artistic, creative, imaginative, good technical understanding of photography, good eyesight, patient, accurate, detail-oriented, decisive, ethical, ability to communicate ideas and information and knowledge of photo imaging software.

Majors at MU

Photojournalism (JOURN)

Art - Photography (A&S)

Some employers may consider a 4-year liberal arts degree with appropriate experience.

Typical Career Opportunities

- Staff Photographer
- Photo Editor
- Photo Director
- Freelancer

Related Occupations

Other occupations requiring artistic talent and creativity include architects, except landscape and naval; artists and related workers; designers; news analysts, reporters, and correspondents; and television, video, and motion picture camera operators and editors.

Preparation

- Experience is often the key to obtaining entry-level positions. Beginning photographers often start as assistants to more experienced photographers.
- An internship is the best way to gain experience; most newspapers and television stations require an internship or apprenticeship.
- Beginning photographers could gain much experience by working for small, community newspapers and magazines; experienced photographers; or cable or television networks part-time or in the summer.
- When applying for an internship or job, portfolios are expected. Memberships in professional groups also may provide connections and contacts.

Career Information

In 2002, more than half of photographers were self-employed. Many freelance photographers have contracts with advertising agencies or magazines. Other photographers operate portrait studios or earn money by supplying photographs to stock photo agencies. Photography is competitive work. Most salaried photographers work in portrait or commercial photography studios. Newspapers, magazines, television broadcasters and advertising agencies employ most of the other photographers.

Employment outlook is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2012. Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of salaried photographers were \$31,460 for newspapers and periodicals and \$21,860 for other professional or scientific services

Entry-level positions in photojournalism are likely to require a college degree although few employers require a degree in journalism or photojournalism. Some employers even suggest photographers have a degree in something other than journalism/photography, giving them deeper insight into other fields. (National Press Photographers Association)

