

Resources

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov
2004 Occupational Outlook Handbook
- Careers in Communications by Shonan F.R. Noronha, 1997
- American Society of Newspaper Editors, www.asne.org/
- Society of Professional Journalists, www.spj.org/
- Magazine Publishers of America, www.magazine.org
- Mediabistro: Career and community for media Professionals, www.mediabistro.com
- JournalismJobs.com, The Job Board for Media Professionals
www.journalismjobs.com

Sources of information for this publication:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov
2004 Occupational Outlook Handbook
Careers in Communications by Shonan F.R. Noronha, 1997



Pathways to Media

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Pathways to Media



What's Inside:

- Related Majors at Mizzou
- How to Prepare for a Career in Writing/Editing
- Career Information
- Required Skills and Abilities



Description and Job Duties

Editors. Review, rewrite and edit the work of writers; plan content for editorial calendar and may oversee production schedule; work with writers, photographers and designers for publication of material; may write articles for publication; may assist with publication layout. Responsibilities will vary depending on the level of editing position.

Writers/Reporters. Writers and reporters gather information about a topic through research and interviews with sources. They use the written word to express ideas and convey information. Salaried writers and reporters are often assigned articles by editors. Others may work as freelance writers. Some writing and reporting positions fall under editing positions, especially at smaller magazines and newspapers.

Skills and Abilities

Artistic, creative, accurate, ability to communicate ideas and information, writing and reading comprehension, knowledge of the English language (grammar, punctuation and style), ethical, perseverant, organized and able to meet deadlines.

Majors at MU

Journalism (JOURN)

Agricultural Journalism (CAFNR)

English (A&S)

Communication (A&S)

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

Related Occupations

Announcers; interpreters and translators; news analysts, reporters and correspondents.

Typical Career Opportunities

- Staff Reporter
- Staff Writer
- Columnist
- Copy Editor
- Assistant Editor
- Managing Editor
- Web Editor
- Freelance Writer

Preparation

- Experience often is the key to obtaining entry-level positions such as editorial assistant or researcher. Entry-level positions may consist of answering the phone, typing and correspondence, contacting writers, fact checking and filing or writing simple stories.
- An internship is the best way to gain experience and build a portfolio. Samples of work are expected when applying for internships or jobs.
- Writing or editing for college or community publications is helpful.

Career Information

Types of positions include editing and writing positions at magazines, newspapers, book publishers and online publications, advertising agencies and public relations firms, universities, government agencies, corporations, nonprofit organizations and freelance opportunities.

Employment outlook is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2012. Median annual earnings for salaried editors in newspaper, periodical, book and directory publishers were \$40,280 in 2002. Median annual earnings for salaried writers in newspaper, periodical, book and directory publishers were \$33,550 in 2002.

"Intern every chance you get. Once is not enough. Start early, work on your breaks, freelance and string. Use each internship as a stepping-stone to the next. Be realistic. Do not assume that, just because you're good, you should be starting at a major metro. Other people are good, too, and they have more experience."
 - Joe Grimm, Recruiting and Development Editor
 Detroit Free Press

