

# Matt Zabierek

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## About

After five years as a journalist, I am excited to find opportunities in journalism or otherwise to maximize my writing and digital media skill set. I have a track record of leveraging digital platforms and tools to enhance content and increase audience engagement.

## Education

### University of Connecticut

Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Journalism & Psychology, May 2016  
GPA: 3.8/4.0 – Dean's List every semester

## Awards & Honors

**2019 Connecticut SPJ - 2nd Place in Government Reporting**  
-Won for in-depth story looking at how a history of underfunded employee pensions cost taxpayers millions yearly

**2018 Connecticut SPJ - 1st Place in Investigative Reporting**  
-Won for story about sexual misconduct complaints made by students against a local high school teacher

**2018 Connecticut SPJ - 1st Place in Continuing Coverage**  
-Won for coverage of a tornado and microburst that ravaged local communities

**2018 & 17 Connecticut SPJ - First Amendment Award Nominee**  
-Nominated both years for coverage of boarding school sexual misconduct and FOI violations by a public agency. A special award given for a story that demonstrates the importance of the press

## Experience

### The Outer Banks Voice

*Freelance Reporter | November 2020 – Present*

-Write stories about local and statewide issues for an online news site

### Meriden Record-Journal

*Multimedia Reporter | September 2016 – October 2020*

-Covered the town of Wallingford, CT, for two years before being promoted to cover the city of Meriden, CT, the paper's flagship beat  
-Filed two multi-sourced stories on deadline daily and covered all aspects of my beats, including politics, education, public safety, etc.  
-Wrote headlines and published stories to website and social media  
-Produced pictures, videos, podcasts, and graphics for digital packages  
-Analyzed and interpreted web engagement metrics to continuously inform coverage decisions and grow and better serve our audience

### Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

*Reporting Intern, Features Dept. | May 2015 – Aug. 2015; May 2016 – Aug. 2016*

-Pitched and wrote stories for Pittsburgh's largest circulating paper

### The Daily Campus

*Managing Editor | May 2015 – May 2016*

*Reporter, Associate News Editor, Copy Editor, Paginator | 2013 – 2015*

-Oversaw production of a 12-page, student-run daily newspaper  
-Hired, trained, and managed staff of over 100 paid employees  
-Led transition from print to digital coverage that increased web traffic by more than 1 million page views year-over-year  
-Managed social media accounts and grew Facebook audience by 36%  
-Copy edited articles for grammar, spelling, tone, syntax, accuracy, etc.

## Skills

**Technical skills:** Social media management, Adobe Creative Cloud, SEO, web design and development, audience metrics, CMS

**Soft skills/attributes:** Adaptability, problem-solving, attention to detail, dependability, ability to work remote and independently