

3 Tips to becoming a Successful Journalist at HU

By Raichele Privette

In order to graduate from Hampton University's Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications all students are required to complete an online portfolio which demonstrates the basic skills for their major and reflects a critical and ethical understanding of the profession. In addition, each student is required to complete an internship that relates to their major. Sophomore year can be pretty stressful. It requires an individual to balance coursework, clubs/organizations, as well as applying for internships. Although it can get pretty tough, here are a few steps to becoming a successful journalist at Hampton University.



1. Get out of your comfort zone

Joining the Media Productions team was one of the best decisions I have made thus far. It has allowed me to gain a better understanding of football and the process of filming and cutting footage on Final Cut Pro. Although I was somewhat discouraged at first, being the only female, I have taken advantage of my resources. It is my dream to become a sportscaster/ reporter for ESPN or another television network. However, I am aware that majority of the sportscasters and reporters are males so it is only right for me to familiarize myself with a similar atmosphere. While filming I observe their interactions and challenge myself to engage in conversations with them. I make sure to watch the games, highlights and keep up with the stats so that I can be up to date with what is going on in the sports world. I challenged you to step out of your comfort zone. I highly recommend joining clubs and organizations that you may be unfamiliar with. Undergrad is the perfect time to explore and seek personal interest because you never know what kind of relationships or even new hobbies you may develop in the process.



2. Channel your decisions to benefit your future goals

Imagine waking up at 4:45 a.m. Monday-Wednesday mornings to film football practices. This job requires attending and filming the Hampton University Football Team's practices and games. Also we are mandated to attend all home and away games which requires me to miss out on various activities held on campus especially when we traveled out of state for the weekend. Although I am required to make sacrifices I keep in mind that it will pay off in the future and my experience will work to my advantage. In addition I have become actively involved in various clubs/organizations on campus that will allow me to not only interact with other aspiring journalists but gain a greater understanding of the journalism world. I write for the sports segment of Hampton University's WHOV televised newscast and I have joined the National Association of Black Journalists. It's ok to miss out on parties and campus held activities every once in a while. If I were you I would sacrifice missing out on some in order to put in extra time practicing writing, blogging, reporter, filming or even editing. It's essential that you get as much experience that you can now so that when it's time to apply for internships you are somewhat familiar with the necessary components required.



3. Network, Network, Network

In the broadcast industry it's not only what you know, but also who you know. It's extremely hard to make it in this industry without having someone to vouch for you. Prior to working with the Media Productions team I was unaware of the various individuals on this campus and their unique experiences. My supervisor has introduced and recommended me to the Executive Producer/ Director of "The View from Hampton U" and next semester I will be interning for the newscast. Networking allows you to share ideas and to collaborate with others within your profession. I encourage you to familiarize and engage yourself with various individuals on campus from your peers, to your professors, guidance counselors, and even to the janitors. You never know who may have connections or even be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a scholarship, internship, job, etc.