

Kendal Asbury

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Kendal Asbury is a journalism student at the University of Central Florida graduating in May, with an additional degree in English literature and a specialization in editing. She has first-hand experience in business reporting, investigative journalism, political reporting and other coverage areas. Already an award-winning journalist and a “ground-breaking leader in her field,” she is ready to take the next steps in her career by fully immersing herself in the professional sphere, as she hopes to dedicate her life to journalism.

EXPERIENCE

The New York Times

May 2025 – Present

Freelance Journalist (previously Flexible Editing desk intern)

- Contribute to The Times's coverage of Florida, including the state economy, natural disasters, higher education, and more.
- Conducted thorough reporting into what students at public and private universities are concerned about for a national feature story.
- Top edited and published digital articles by experienced reporters and fellows from various coverage desks all across the newsroom, adhering to The Times's style and its elevated standards of excellence, including several front-page stories featured in print.
- Worked in the Manhattan office, while editing and tailoring targeted newsletters from various desks to generate higher audience engagement, and edited general newsletters, game columns, videos, social posts for @nytimes Instagram page and other content.

Orlando Business Journal

Jan. 2026 – Present

Business Reporting Intern

- Cover Orlando's exponential growth in commercial real estate market, financial developments in the area, the city's economic growth, banking system expansion, the tourism industry and more, pushing for the return of residential real estate coverage.
- Conduct investigation into the University of Central Florida's plans to sell the natural land preserve The Arboretum to a third-party developer, as part of the shifting priorities of the university and in an attempt to increase revenue for STEM programs.
- Investigate how the 2026 Florida legislative session and proposed bills would impact local businesses and larger corporations based in the state, and ultimately the overall economy, as well as the proposal to remove property taxes and implement a state business tax.
- Interview top executives at influential companies that are shaping the booming technological industry in Central Florida.

The Charge News

Aug. 2023 – Present

Editor-in-Chief (previously Politics Beat Reporter, General News Reporter)

- Pitch and write various articles covering local, state, and national-level news related to the UCF community for the university's official student-run news outlet, specifically as it relates to the political sphere and breaking university news.
- Wrote comprehensive political pieces during the 2024 election season, investigating legislation changes and breaking down the Florida ballot, including state amendments, area candidates, local advocacy groups, political student organizations, and more.
- Conducted investigations into Central Florida's work permit reform for migrant refugees and into the university's strategic plan relating to reducing the enrollment of students in fields outside of engineering, technology, and business.
- Investigated UCF's decision to fire 57 professors and researchers from the university-run Florida Solar Energy Center due to federal funding cuts. Despite turning the breaking story in just over two hours, obtained five interviews and substantial data reporting.
- Lead the university's student-run news organization as chief editor, while training younger reporters, managing the capstone editing team, communicating with sources and facilitating coverage.

The Community Paper

Jan. 2024 – Jan. 2026

Editorial Coordinator (previously Freelancer, Intern)

- Edited content by reporters, interns, guest writers, and columnists, ensuring adherence to AP Style and the outlet's guidelines.
- Covered small businesses, economic developments, governmental projects, funding initiatives, nonprofit programs, and more through research, attending events, interviewing community members, and other feature reporting methods.
- Conducted a months-long investigation into the city of Orlando's funding of nonprofits helping homeless people in Central Florida and into the resources available to senior citizens in Orlando, especially those with disabilities or facing economic disparity.

Her Campus UCF

Aug. 2023 – Jan. 2026

Editor-in-Chief (previously Associate Editor, Staff Writer)

- Edited and published 30–40 articles every week submitted by our staff of more than 70 writers to adjust style and grammar, AP Style, HC's guidelines, and journalistic ethics. Managed an editorial team of around 20 editors.
- Through recruitment strategies and a positive work environment, grew the team of 20 writers to over 75. Similarly, expanded the editing team from five editors to almost 20, improving the workflow and team capabilities.
- Won several editorial-based honors, including “Outstanding Online Presence” and “Exceptional Team Building” awards.
- Write articles on national and local news affecting students, including Orlando and university news, the environment and climate, the entertainment industry, health and wellness, and more, including breaking news about a shooting at Florida State University.

Central Florida Public Media

Jan. – May 2025

Station Intern

- Investigated the state legislature's lack of protections for people working outdoors, relating to heat and access to water. Conducted interviews with lawmakers, farmworkers, advocacy organizations and research legislative trends, heat-related illnesses, and deaths.
- Wrote news stories for website and radio, edited sound bites, recorded VOs, and created packages to air for the station and NPR.

Orlando Sentinel

Nov. – Dec. 2024

Freelance Correspondent

- Contributed to a comprehensive presential election survey with a local outlook through in-depth community reporting, resulting in a byline in a front-page feature story of the publication's print issue.
- Conducted reporting as a correspondent investigating the impact and nuance of the state's controversial camping ban legislation that criminalized homelessness in Central Florida, which has nearly 3,000 people experiencing homelessness.

Orlando Weekly

Aug. – Dec. 2024

Editorial Intern

- Covered Orlando's diverse cultural, business, and entertainment landscape, including music, film festivals, art, and more.
- Researched and wrote articles, features, blogs, and briefs for the print and online editions. Maintained individual voice while incorporating the outlet's diverse and versatile style in its coverage of Orlando's creative, culinary, and cultural sphere.

WKMG-TV News 6

June – Aug. 2024

Digital Reporting Intern

- Wrote 10 or more stories daily on breaking news, crime, traffic, politics, and more by compiling information from multiple sources.
- Investigated youth involvement in politics and civic engagement compared to other age groups, gathering data from case studies and utilizing data visualization techniques, interviewing experts, conducting research, requested public records and more.

EDUCATION

University of Central Florida

Aug. 2022 – May 2026

Bachelor's of Science in Journalism

Bachelor's of Arts in English Literature

- Earned an Undergraduate Certification in Editing and Publishing.
- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Richard Brunson in introductory journalism courses.
- Internship Pursuit coordinator for the Nicholson School of Communication.
- Member of nationally recognized chapter of Society of Professional Journalists.

LANGUAGES

English - *Native Proficiency*

Spanish - *Limited Working Proficiency*

SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite, WordPress, AP Stylebook, Editing, SEO/Audience Analysis, Curiosity, Storytelling.