

# Chris Essig

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### 4/22 – Present: Data visuals editor, Texas Tribune

- A news organization that covers politics and policy in Texas with 100 employees and an audience of 3.5 million visitors a month. Lead a team of developers who build charts, maintain public databases and analyze data for reporters to help them hold elected officials accountable.

### 2/17 – 4/22: Data visuals developer, Texas Tribune

One of five developers on the data visuals team. Lead back-end developer on the redesign of our [salaries database](#), which tracks how much state agencies pay their employees and how the money is distributed. Lead developer on the organization's [coronavirus tracker](#), which tracked the spread of the virus statewide and was viewed millions of times by our readers. Used mapping software to visualize how lawmakers gerrymandered [two different](#) Congressional Districts and minimized the political clout of Hispanic residents. Helped tell the story of rising [maternal mortality deaths](#) in Texas and asked if the state was doing enough to prevent them.

#### CORE SKILLS

- Data analysis
- Python / Pandas
- Django
- SQL / PostgreSQL
- JavaScript
- D3.js
- Mapbox.js
- GIS / QGIS
- Bash / Command line
- CSS / SASS
- Git
- Editing
- Management

### 6/18 - 9/18: Adjunct professor, Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas

- In coordination with the University of Texas; one of two instructors for an online course on mapping for journalists. Taught data analysis using open-source GIS software for 2,000 students around the world. Interacted with students and answered their questions during the four-week course.

### 6/14 – 1/17: Interactive news developer, The Gazette Company

- A newspaper that covers eastern Iowa; One of three newsroom developers. Maintained the code behind our news website, mobile and desktop. Lead developer on the redesign of KCRG.com, TheGazette.com and [Hoopla](#), our entertainment site. Collaborated with developers and reporters to create data visualizations, including one that explains Iowa's complicated new Medicaid system. Created open-source templates to help automate the process of crunching [large amounts of data](#), as well as deploying [maps](#), [charts](#) and [databases](#).

### 8/13 – 12/13: Adjunct professor, University of Northern Iowa

- A state university with student enrollment at 13,000; One of five journalism professors. Taught *Online Journalism* course. Provided instruction to students in audio and video production, data journalism, data analysis, mapping and web development.

### 6/11 – 6/14: Online Editor, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier

- A 33,600-circulation newspaper in northeastern Iowa; One of four online staffers. Was responsible for all content posted on our website, our sub-sites and social media networks. Produced interactive maps and data visualizations, including a guide to mental health services in eastern Iowa.

## EDUCATION

**Master of Arts - Public Affairs Reporting**, University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, IL - GPA: 4.0/4.0, May 2010

**Bachelor of Arts Degree - Journalism**; English minor, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL - GPA: 3.6/4.0, May 200

## AWARDS

- Society for News Design, Bronze Medal, Infographics: Health, [COVID Deaths in Texas](#), 2021
- Society for News Design, Awards of Excellence, Format: Use of Data, [Coronavirus tracker](#), 2021
- Online News Association, Best explanatory reporting, ["Dangerous Deliveries"](#), 2018
- Society for News Design, Awards of Excellence, Features, ["Puzzling Shapes"](#), 2018
- Iowa Newspaper Association, Business Coverage, first place, 2016
- Iowa Newspaper Association, Newspaper website, third place, 2016
- Iowa Broadcast News Association, Overall use of online media, first place, 2014