

Taylor M. Nichols

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JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Investigative fellow at The Howard Center for Investigative Journalism | *College Park, MD* Aug. 2023 - present

- Investigated [lobbyist exploitation](#) of House ethics rules for privately funded congressional travel
- Created a dataset of nonprofit board members' lobbying history using tax records
- Currently investigating the transport of hazardous materials across the country using government databases

Freelance reporter at [Street Sense Media](#) | *Washington, DC* Sept. 2023 - present

- Wrote about harm reduction efforts, violence against homeless people and an annual vigil honoring those who died while homeless for a local nonprofit newspaper that works to combat homelessness in Washington, D.C.
- Created a news application and heat map to scrape and analyze data on scheduled evictions

Data reporter at [Capital News Service](#) | *College Park, MD* Aug. 2024 - Dec. 2024

- Wrote data-driven articles and graphics covering Maryland state, including a rise in voter registrations during the Harris campaign and an increase in out-of-state patients coming to Maryland for abortions
- Produced quick-hit data articles on early voting and early election results with a two-day turnaround
- Worked on a team tasked with scraping results and [creating visualizations](#) to show live updates on election night

Research intern at Education Week Research Center | *Bethesda, MD* Jan. 2024 - May 2024

- Cleaned and analyzed survey data using SPSS to examine trends in K-12 education post-pandemic
- Used Department of Education data to explore changing needs of English Language Learners in public schools

Data reporter, writer and editor at Optimal | *Kirkland, WA* June 2020 - Dec. 2024

- Wrote 6-8 audience-driven data articles per month for a [college rankings website](#) on topics such as ROI for college students, student loan debt, the purchasing power of the Pell Grant and payoff for HBCU students
- Gathered, cleaned, and analyzed data from public and private sources, including IPEDS and BLS data

SKILLS

Data analysis	Investigative reporting	Datawrapper
Data visualization	Google Sheets	Flourish
Web scraping	R and Python	Adobe Creative Suite
Open Source Intelligence	HTML and CSS	OpenRefine

EDUCATION

University of Maryland | Master of Journalism in Computational and Data Reporting, expected May 2025

Western Washington University | Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, 2018

AWARDS and LEADERSHIP

2024 SPJ DC Dateline Award for [Business Reporting](#), Weekly Newspaper

2019 Society of Professional Journalists Award for [Best Nonfiction Magazine Article](#), Region 10

Memberships: Investigative Reporters and Editors (**IRE**) | The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists (**NLGJA**)