

# Diversity Within UMD’s School of Journalism



Examining the data reported within UMD to explore how the Journalism college could possibly perpetuate years of POC exclusion

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Journalism 352

The University of Maryland is facing a large lack of diversity in its classrooms according to data published by the school.

According to the data presented by the Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment team, Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism sees a large lack of people of color in both its student and faculty populations.

The published report shows that of the school’s over 400 undergraduate students, only 19.5% are people of color, leaving more than half of the student body population identifying as white.

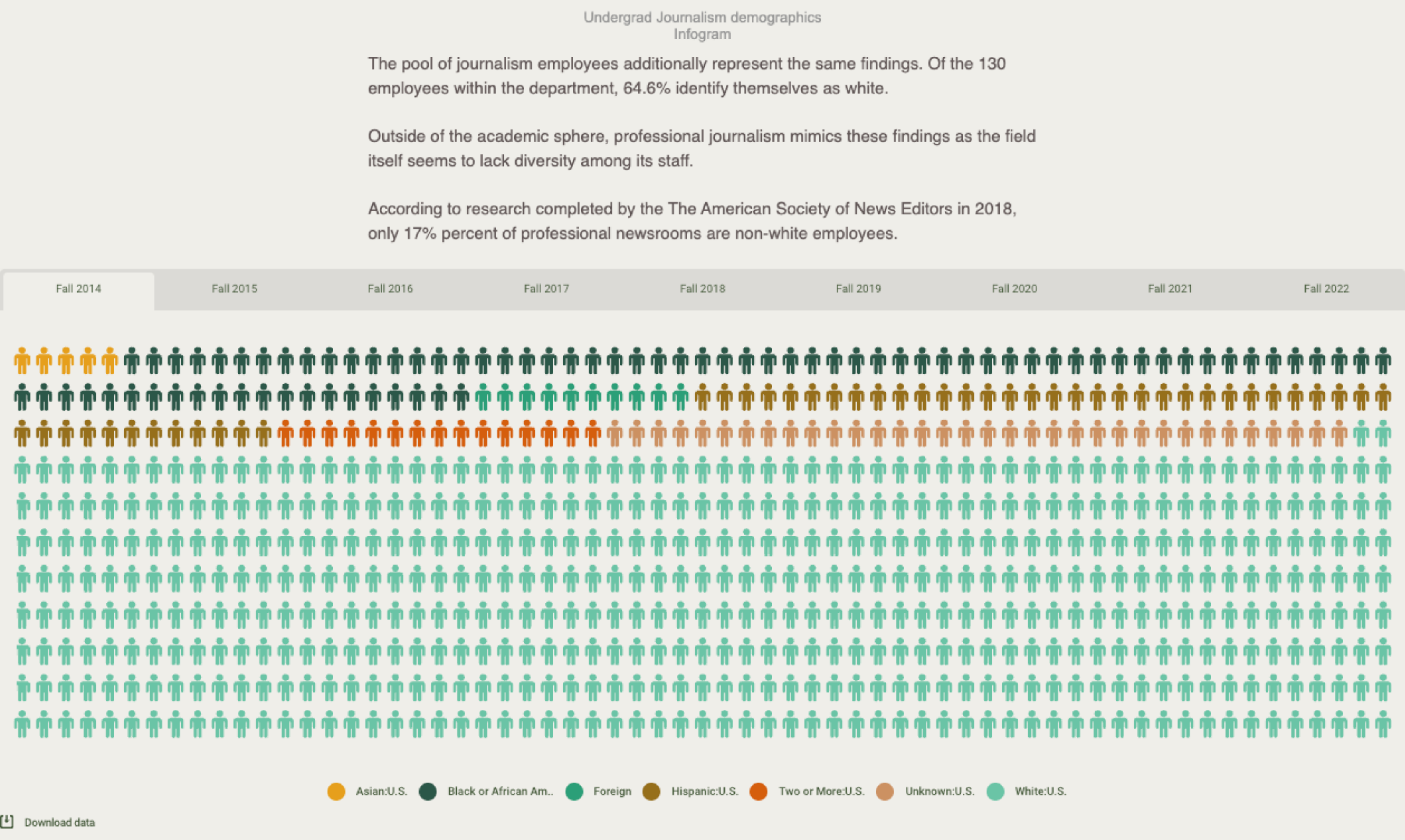
Despite Maryland’s status as a predominantly white institution, the school’s undergraduate class remains relatively diverse, with approximately 58.4% identifying as non-white students.



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Undergrad demographics  
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This ultimately can impact the lens in which stories about diverse communities are told. According to a 2008 study conducted by H. Denis WU and Ralph Izard, researchers found that when more Asian American journalists were present in a news organization, there was an increased amount of positive coverage of the Asian American community.

Chryl Laird, an Associate Professor of Government & Politics at Maryland, notes the power of diverse newsrooms.

In her many appearances in media publications, the political scholar shares how diversity in the newsroom can impact how stories are being told.

In her appearances on [NPR’s Code Switch Podcasts](#), Laird shares how her conversations with Gene Demby, a Black journalist, assist in advocating for the advocacy and agency of African-Americans

“You know, there is a way that some punditry style is done, where you know it’s about that quick, give us that soundbite,” Laird says.

“I think with my research and the kind of work that I do on Black political behavior ... [Journalists of color] always acknowledge and appreciate the fact that I centered Black people.”

