

JULIANNA BENDECK

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Photojournalist

August 2026 – December 2026

WUFT | Gainesville, Florida

- Photograph breaking news, community events and local stories on deadline for publication across WUFT's digital and social platforms.
- Caption, edit and organize photographs for publication while maintaining accurate visual documentation of local events and news.

Data Designer

August 2026 – December 2026

The Independent Florida Alligator | Gainesville, Florida

- Use tools including Datawrapper, QGIS and R to create maps, charts and interactive visualizations on deadline.
- Analyze and organize public records and government datasets, transforming complex data into accessible visualizations for news stories.
- Collaborate with reporters and editors to develop data-driven graphics that complement breaking news and enterprise reporting.

Criminal Justice Reporter

May 2026 – August 2026

The Independent Florida Alligator | Gainesville, Florida

- Produce daily crime briefs by reviewing arrest reports and court records on tight deadlines to keep the local community informed.
- Investigate criminal justice systems through public records, data analysis and interviews to produce accountability-focused enterprise reporting, including stories on state executions and police misconduct.
- Expand coverage beyond the criminal justice beat by reporting on significant local developments, including a proposed data center and the closure of a local Planned Parenthood in absence of an enterprise desk.

Race & Equity Reporter

January 2026 – May 2026

The Independent Florida Alligator | Gainesville, Florida

- Analyze demographic trends and local policies to explain disparities and their impact on local communities.
- Report on sensitive issues, including racial inequities in education and sexual abuse, by interviewing affected individuals and experts to provide nuanced, community-centered reporting.
- Build broad reporting networks by interviewing and contacting up to roughly 50 sources per story, including experts, officials and impacted individuals.

Research Assistant

August 2024 – May 2025

Florida Gulf Coast University | Estero, Florida

- Code and analyze news articles and court briefs (up to 90 pages) to better organize and synthesize complex legal materials
- Compile literature reviews by reviewing academic articles to support ongoing research on immigration systems and trends.
- Create legislative timeline tracking Florida immigration policy over a five-year period through structured legal and policy research and documentation.

LEADERSHIP AND CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Student Ambassador

September 2025 – Present

Journalism and Communications Ambassadors | Gainesville, Florida

- Lead tours and engage with prospective students and families during recruitment events while representing the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida.
- Communicate program strengths, student opportunities and admissions information to students, tailoring messaging to diverse audiences during campus visits and outreach events.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Journalism

Expected Graduation: May 2029

University of Florida | Gainesville, FL

GPA: 4.0

Certificate: Data Analytics

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Expected Graduation: May 2029

University of Florida | Gainesville, FL

GPA: 4.0

Minors: History and Philosophy

SKILLS

Data Analytics Certificate

University of Florida | Gainesville, FL

Relevant coursework: Coding with R, Introduction to WebApps, DataViz and Mapping, Data journalism