

# Mark Ockerbloom '85

News Anchor | WFXT-TV, MA

**Major: English**

**Briefly describe your position, organization and industry.**

I am the Primary News Anchor for the Fox 25 News at 5, 10 & 11.

**Please specify your job responsibilities, including a typical day on the job.**

I anchor the daily newscasts Sunday through Thursday. Typical day begins at home in the morning looking over newspapers, TV and web. I get to work at 3:00pm and go into an editorial meeting at 3:15 followed by some research, writing and reading of scripts before presenting them on the air in three different newscasts. I also blog frequently.

**How did you break into your career field? What, if any, obstacles did you face?**

I broke into the field by doing radio at WDOM on campus and later got an internship at WJAR in the sports department my senior year. Having no other formal training and a thick Boston accent, I then took a graduate course at Emerson College in Boston in Voice and Articulation. After that, it was onto radio where I also sold advertising and volunteered at a local cable TV station until I landed a full-time sports radio job.

**Indicate any previous experiences and how that led to your current position.**

I worked in radio from 1986-91, then got my first TV sports job at WMUR-TV in Manchester, New Hampshire where I stayed for four years before moving to the ABC affiliate (KOCO-TV) in Oklahoma City for six. After that it was back home to Boston where I worked at NECN for three years before crossing over to FOX 25. I moved over to News two years later.

**What does it take to succeed in your field? Please specify any important trends.**

You must be a good communicator with a strong ability to read, write and work well under deadlines.

**How can students prepare themselves while still in college?**

The biggest thing is to gain some formal on air training at the campus radio station combined with an internship at a local TV station.

**How important is a graduate degree or other training? Specify preferred degrees, programs or certificates.**

It's very important to get a degree, but it does not have to be in Journalism per se. A strong Liberal Arts education will also prove beneficial. English and History can be valuable as well.

**Alumni Career Snapshot**



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## **What entry career areas would provide the best experience for students aspiring to your field? What strategies or resources would you recommend for landing an entry-level position or internship?**

Get in touch with your academic advisor. He or she may know of internships with TV stations through the school. I received credit for an English course while an intern. Volunteering at a cable TV station, working at a radio station, writing for the local paper are other ways to enter the field.

## **What resources or websites would you suggest for students interested in your field?**

TV jobs.com, TVSpy.com

## **How did your Providence College education and experience help to prepare you for success?**

The education I received at PC was well-rounded and serves me well to this day...thanks in no small part to the DWC program which gave me a solid foundation going forward. Majoring in English only enhanced my career path.

## **Additional Comments or Suggestions for Students:**

Follow your dreams, take chances and never take "no" for an answer!

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