



Students in the Nido R. Qubein School of Communication gain the hands-on experience on and off campus that sets them up for career success.

HPU'S ULTIMATE GUIDE TO EXCELLENCE: SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION EDITION

Life doesn't come with a guidebook to success, but HPU's Nido R. Qubein School of Communication steers students toward the steps that have led many graduates to achieve their goals. Built with the input and insight of career-conquering students, this ultimate guide will set anyone considering HPU's School of Communication on the right path.

Get Involved Immediately



“HPU really does have so many opportunities — you just have to be the student to take advantage of them,” says Ries Allyn, '23, who majored in broadcast journalism.

The opportunities are endless to get involved in and out of the classroom. You could be the host of a podcast, broadcast a news show, act as an announcer at sporting events, design a video game, influence through social media and so much more.

Allyn can attest that taking this step set her on the right path. Starting her freshman year, she became heavily involved in student news shows and developed skills across the broadcast journalism field through hands-on learning in the areas she was passionate about and the ones where she just wanted to learn the basics.

“I appreciate the School of Communication’s emphasis on learning all aspects,” says Allyn, from Stamford, Connecticut. “Even if you want to be on-air, you still need to learn behind-the-scenes, crew positions, producing, etc.”

Plus, it helps you learn what you enjoy and where you excel.

Getting involved right away equipped Allyn with experiences that helped her land a seven-month internship with ABC News in New York City as a news gathering operations intern her senior year. Throughout her internship, she rotated between different departments that support all shows across ABC, including “Good Morning America.”



Ries Allyn, '23, pictured at the ABC News Live Desk in New York City, where she spent seven months rotating between different departments at ABC News.

Take Advantage of the Access



Picture this: You’re one of just 20 students in a multimedia production class taught by Joe Michaels, the 22-year veteran director of the “TODAY” show. That’s the kind of access that gives students a deeper insight and hands-on experience with production equipment.

“To know that someone who produced a national morning show for over 20 years taught me how he did that so successfully — you’re not going to find that at other schools,” says Allyn. “That’s an insane amount of access to someone with real-world experience in a field that I want to be working in.”

There’s access off campus too.

Kayla Ross, '25, and Ava Kitchens, '25, were part of a group of event management majors who went to Los Angeles, California, for a behind-the-scenes experience in the live-television industry. Their travels included attending the American Music Awards (AMAs) and the filming of “Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration” at Walt Disney Studios.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I am so thankful to have been a part of,” says Kitchens, from Greenville, South Carolina.

“It was great to see how the production of live TV shows works behind the scenes and to see the stars and crew in action,” says Ross, from Springfield, Ohio.

Always Network

Students are taught to network from day one — from getting business cards and building a LinkedIn profile to connecting with upperclassmen, alumni and industry professionals.

Allyn took every opportunity to network by attending Life Skills Seminars and Q&A sessions when an in-residence faculty member from HPU's Access to Innovators Program visited campus. She's even worked one-on-one with the Co-Ancor of ABC News' "Nightline" Byron Pitts, HPU's Journalist in Residence. So, when she saw him around the ABC studio during her internship, she already had a connection.

Wendell Epps, '23, majored in sports media and knew he wanted to be a play-by-play sports broadcaster. He's achieving his dream by joining the NBA Orlando Magic team as a radio graduate associate after completing his education at HPU.

HPU helped him get there. Through networking opportunities in the National Sports Media Association, he led events and had the chance to interview some of the biggest names in sports including Jim Nantz, CBS sports commentator, and Tom Verducci, a sportswriter for Sports Illustrated and Major League Baseball commentator.

When famed Boston Globe Sports Columnist and HPU's Sports Reporter in Residence Bob Ryan visited campus last fall, Epps had the ultimate chance to make a connection. He hosted a

recorded panel discussion with Ryan in front of a live studio audience. Afterward, he and Ryan had dinner and attended an HPU Men's Basketball game.

"We had a great one-on-one conversation about the sports media industry," says Epps. "To be able to watch a basketball game with one of the biggest basketball gurus was a blessing and a night I will never forget."

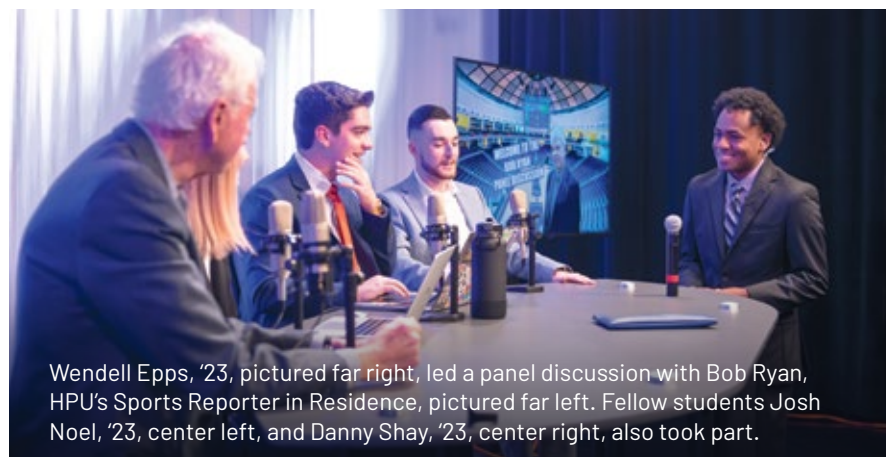
Epps, from Fairfax, Virginia, wasn't the only student who added the seasoned sports reporter to his professional network. Ryan connected with more than 75 sports media majors during his two-day campus visit.

"The opportunity to learn from someone like Bob Ryan, with his legacy and connections to so many people, is unmatched," said Epps.

Cultivate Confidence Through Competence

Developing self-confidence takes time and intention. But students who have found success will tell you — confidence is key. Luckily, faculty and staff prioritize building students' confidence and encourage them to take advantage of every opportunity to grow. Professors want students to succeed in and out of class. If a student wants to start a campus news show or host a sports podcast, they have the support. They also encourage students to show off the work that they're proud of.

"Professors emphasize showing your work. When I was applying to internships, I wasn't just providing my resume but also a link to my personal website where I showed my work, experience and newsreel,"



Wendell Epps, '23, pictured far right, led a panel discussion with Bob Ryan, HPU's Sports Reporter in Residence, pictured far left. Fellow students Josh Noel, '23, center left, and Danny Shay, '23, center right, also took part.

says Allyn. "I think that really stood out to employers."

Epps cultivated his confidence through experiential opportunities and roles including being the director of broadcasting and a play-by-play announcer for Sports Link, a student organization that partners directly with HPU Athletics, where he worked with an entirely student-run production crew to broadcast games live on ESPN+ — training and mentoring students new to broadcasting.

"I called over 100 games as a student and was named High Point

University's 2022 Sports Broadcaster of the Year," says Epps.

The spring before graduating, Epps gained even more hands-on industry experience as an intern at FOX Sports in Charlotte, North Carolina, before launching his career with the Orlando Magic.

Thanks to the support and abundance of experiential learning opportunities found in HPU's School of Communication, Epps is one of many HPU students who launch their careers after graduation with confidence.

FURTHERING SUCCESS

Seth Hatherly, '20, '22, is a retail operations supervisor for the Green Bay Packers.

He's enthusiastic about his role and thanks HPU for helping him cultivate the confidence to keep growing in the professional sports industry.

As an undergraduate, Hatherly majored in media production and entrepreneurship. He was presented with endless hands-on learning opportunities.

Hatherly built new, transferable skills daily. He saw the bounty of opportunity at HPU and wanted to be the one holding the keys to his future.

"I found a major I loved, took opportunities to network and grow, and worked my tail off on every project and portfolio I put my name to."

He was motivated to push himself further. So, he applied for HPU's Tuition-Free Master of Arts in Communication and Business Leadership (CBL) Program.

"I never envisioned myself as fit for graduate school, but the opportunity to show myself and others that I am a hardworking, driven individual who enjoys a path of bettering myself was an opportunity that I knew I wanted to take."

HPU's tuition-free master's degree is offered to students who complete their undergraduate education at HPU and is designed to focus on critical life skills that benefit every student, regardless of their major or career path.

Hatherly crossed the Commencement stage for a second time in 2022, receiving his Master of Arts in communication and business leadership. This extra leap of learning made his younger self proud, he says.

"The CBL program expanded my perspective through collaborative work and critical thought in a real-world framework," he says.



Hatherly is proud of the hard work he put in at HPU and has a special place in his heart for his encouraging mentors.

"The most valuable resource HPU offers is their faculty," he says. "My professors not only had valuable life experiences that they taught from but were also invested in me and my goals."

"I am blessed by the ways that my professors invested in me at HPU."

"I am still on the journey of achieving more," says Hatherly, "but my undergraduate and graduate experiences were a big step in proving to myself that I hold the keys and can go as far as I think I can go."



HPU's Tuition-Free Master of Arts in Communication and Business Leadership

Learn more about this can't-miss opportunity for HPU students!