

Danielle Grillo

FILM, TELEVISION, & JOURNALISM

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Sacred Heart University - 2022-2025

Degree - B.A. Bachelor of Arts
Summa Cum Laude
Major - Media Arts: Film and Television
Minors - Journalism, Honors

John Cabot University - 2025

- Study Abroad Semester - Rome, Italy

CREATIVE & TECHNICAL SKILLS

ADOBE STUDIO

- Premiere Pro, Lightroom, Photoshop, Bridge, After Effects, Illustrator

MICROSOFT OFFICE

- Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Outlook

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- Instagram, X, Facebook, Snapchat, Pinterest, Youtube, TikTok

CREATIVE SKILLS

- Video Production, Video Editing, News Scriptwriting, Photography, Multimedia Storytelling, Story Development, Interviewing/Reporting, Broadcast/Print Journalism, Digital Media Production, Organization, Time Management, Collaboration

ORGANIZATIONS

- National Federation of Press Women (2026)
- Connecticut Press Club (2026)
- The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (2025)

ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEERING

- Short Filmmakers Club
- United for the Troops
- Relay for Life

CONTACT

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MEDIA INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Freelance Producer & Reporter, *Fairfield County News*

January 2026 - Present

- Produce news packages and write articles for *Fairfield County News*, a digital news platform covering communities across Connecticut, including Fairfield and Bridgeport.
- Report on local and national issues through a community lens, such as the use of artificial intelligence during the election season, student mental health and school safety, and the growing demand for affordable housing.

Senior Producer, *The Pulse*

August-December 2025

- Planned story coverage, coordinated production logistics, and made editorial decisions for *The Pulse*, Sacred Heart University's student-produced television news magazine program.
- Produced and edited broadcast-quality news segments from concept to final cut, including research, scriptwriting, filming, graphics, and sound design.

Staff Writer & Photographer, *The Spectrum*

August-December 2025

- Researched and wrote news articles for *The Spectrum*, Sacred Heart University's student-run weekly newspaper, ensuring accuracy, clarity, and adherence to journalistic standards.
- Covered topics including the 2025 U.S. federal government shutdown, higher education issues related to President Trump's proposed policies, and financial literacy among college students.
- Captured and edited photographs to accompany articles, enhancing visual storytelling and reader engagement.

Staff Writer, *Easton Courier*

August-December 2025

- Produced written coverage of local news beats for the *Easton Courier*, a nonprofit community journalism partnership and online newspaper serving Easton, Connecticut and surrounding towns, adhering to editorial guidelines and deadlines.
- Provided accurate and relevant coverage of municipal updates and town events through research and interviews with community members and local sources.

SCMA Broadcast Journalism Internship, Sacred Heart University

September 2024-January 2025

- Conducted interviews with community members, public officials, and field experts for a two-part news series on student mental health, school safety, and rising social media use among children and teens, as part of a broadcast journalism internship with the School of Communication, Media, and the Arts at Sacred Heart University.
- Responsible for field production, including filming interviews and b-roll, as well as writing scripts and editing content to produce news coverage.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Youth Development Leader, YMCA of Northern Westchester

November 2021-Present

- Responsible for providing a safe, nurturing environment for school-age children in an after-school program by supporting diverse needs, fostering inclusion, and encouraging active participation.

Global Ambassador, Sacred Heart University

August-December 2025

- Served as a peer mentor and supported students interested in studying abroad and represented diverse academic programs and study abroad experiences.

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

CT Press Club Communications Contest – 1st Place / 2026

- Recipient of first place in the Collegiate/Education category for a 'Prepared Report for Radio/Television Student Media', in the 2026 Connecticut Press Club Communications Contest.

Gold Medal of Excellence in Media Arts / 2026

- Recipient of the Gold Medal of Excellence in Media Arts, recognizing outstanding academic achievement (highest GPA) in the School of Communication, Media & the Arts at Sacred Heart University.

Don Coonley Award / 2026

- Faculty-nominated recipient of the Don Coonley Award for Excellence in Media Studies at Sacred Heart University, awarded to a graduating senior for distinguished achievement and dedication in media studies.

SCMA Honor Society / 2026

- Inducted into the School of Communication, Media & the Arts Honors Society at Sacred Heart University.

Thomas More Honors Program / 2022 - 2025

- Member of the Thomas More Honors Program, a program designed to develop critical thinking, research, and communication skills in an academic environment.

Dean's List / 2022 - 2025

- Recipient of the Dean's List Award for Sacred Heart University, a scholarly award for students who demonstrate academic excellence.