



University of Kansas Statehouse Reporting Class

William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications

Lawrence, KS

Partnership

The University of Kentucky's statehouse reporting class is run by former Washington Post editor Patricia Gaston and focuses largely on day-to-day coverage with a quota of 20 stories per semester available to about 190 news outlets in Kansas. Students commute 30 minutes by car to Topeka and can either be a reporter or an editor depending on their career ambitions.

Lead faculty

Patricia Elaine Gaston - patricia.gaston@ku.edu

Collaborators

[Kansas Associated Press](#)

Impacts

Each student has to do 18 features or dailies, and two enterprise pieces. Any of the 190 members of the Kansas Press Association can use the material.

Students

18,400 at the University of Kansas
10-18 in the partnership, per semester

Student work

Gaston typically doesn't tell students what to cover because she wants them to learn how to judge newsworthiness. Students can either be a reporter or an editor depending on their career ambitions. They'll do the first edit and she'll do the second edit. The student editors don't have a quota.

They publish all stories on their website. Gaston edits and posts everything. There isn't a public website, but there is a site that requires a sign-in. It allows KPA members to log in and download stories.

Faculty/staff

Patricia Gaston is the main instructor as well as leader. She teaches the class and aids in editing, as well as posting all of the stories.

Funding sources

The Kansas Press Association provides \$5,000 per year to provide awards to the students. In return, Statehouse content is provided to KPA members.