

Broadcaster

Talk to an audience on radio, television or a podcast feed, and hold their attention without seeing them.

TYPICAL PAY

\$47,340

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$28k to \$138k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Radio and television stations, sports venues, podcast studios, li...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Speech, drama, English and journalism. Start a podcast now. It costs almost nothing and it is the reel.
- 2 Campus or community station** From year one
 A college radio or television station is the single most valuable thing in this path. Some journalism schools operate full commercial stations staffed by students.
- 3 Certificate or degree** 1 to 4 years
 A one year broadcasting certificate or a four year journalism or communications degree. Neither is legally required, but most newsroom jobs expect the degree.
- 4 Internship and a demo reel** During school
 Three to five minutes of your best work: a newscast, an interview, a live read. This is what gets listened to.
- 5 First small market job** 2 to 3 years
 Overnight or weekend shifts in a town you have never heard of. Two or three years there, then a bigger market.

Pros and cons

- + Short, cheap training and no license required
- + You can start building a reel in high school for almost nothing
- + Creative work with an audience that responds today
- Traditional broadcasting employment is declining
- Starting pay is genuinely low and often part-time
- Station groups record one host for many markets, cutting jobs

Good to know

One host can be on the air in twenty cities

Station groups record a host's links in advance and drop them into local broadcasts, a practice known as voice tracking. It is a big reason the number of on air jobs has fallen even though the number of statio...

Call letters tell you which side of the country you are on

Broadcast stations east of the Mississippi River generally have call signs starting with W and those west of it start with K, a convention set in the early days of American radio licensing.

Optional boosts

Editing your own audio and video. Play-by-play. Social media and short video. Voice-over work.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys
 Radio Television Digital News Association
 National Association of Broadcasters
 Missouri School of Journalism, which runs its own stations

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/broadcaster>



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