

Maggie Austin, B.A. English Profession Writing, 2011

By Max Chambers

Director of Professional Writing, KirkpatrickPrice

“Don’t limit yourself! Try to avoid putting yourself in one category, and remain open to opportunities.”

Maggie Austin graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in Professional Writing. She is now the Director of Professional Writing for [KirkpatrickPrice](#), a security auditing firm with clients across the United States, Canada, India, Europe, and Asia.



Austin knew WKU would be a change of pace after growing up in Chicago, Illinois. However, WKU’s campus felt like the perfect fit for her. She originally pursued a Journalism major, but after her freshman year, she felt compelled to choose a different style of writing. “I spoke with an advisor in the English Department and was informed of the Professional Writing concentration offered with the English degree. I was thrilled to find out that there was a concentration geared to professional writing! I was certain that I was on the right path for my future career goals.”

Austin’s Professional Writing courses strengthened her writing talents. “My favorite course was ‘Editing and Publishing’ with Dr. Angela Jones. This is the course that launched my passion for Professional Writing. During this course, I learned how my writing skills could be applied to a variety of industries.” Austin also joined the Chi Omega sorority and interned at the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships through the [Department of English Internship Program](#).

After graduating from WKU, Austin began her career with KirkpatrickPrice as a technical writer. Through hard work and determination, she became the Director of Professional Writing and an active member of the Leadership Team at KirkpatrickPrice. Austin is responsible for supervising a team of technical writers, managing report assignments, overseeing creation and delivery of audit reports, and collaborating with other directors on the Leadership Team. “I did not anticipate moving into a

management role; however, my growth in the company aligns with the skills I acquired through the Professional Writing program at WKU. For example, my academic training provided me experience in effective written communication, which has allowed me to excel in all of my positions.”

When she isn't at KirkpatrickPrice, Austin enjoys travelling, gardening, spending time with her two pugs, and completing home improvement projects with her husband. She also loves buying random books at the airport, particularly fantasy epics like George R. R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*.

Austin recommends that students use their time at WKU to prepare themselves for the future. “Work on your interviewing skills. I can't stress enough how important it is to be prepared and confident in an interview.” One great interview in 2011 led directly to Austin's leadership position at KirkpatrickPrice, and she looks forward to growing with the company for years to come.

