

Gavin Zahner

COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA STUDENT

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GavinZahner.com

EXPERIENCE

March 2026 -

Student Communications Specialist, *Thiel College*

- In coordination with the Communications and Marketing staff, produced and edited professional-grade video content using industry-standard cameras and Adobe Premiere Pro.
- Contributed to the social media strategy for Thiel College, which included planning, creating, and scheduling engaging content across all official platforms.
- Served as a campus photographer and contributing writer, documenting key events and crafting copy to support the college's broader communication goals.

September 2025 -

Student Solution Worker, *Thiel College*

- Working alongside the Solution Center Coordinator, resolved technical support tickets and provided timely, professional assistance to walk-in customers.
- Maintained high standards of service while managing diverse office duties and administrative tasks to ensure efficient departmental operations.

October 2024 - August 2025

Pittsburgh Mills Campus Producer, *Riverside Community Church*

- In collaboration with the Creative Arts Pastor, directed the technical operations for service experiences, including the installation and management of all audio/visual equipment.
- Co-lead the recruitment and training of a 15-member volunteer team, focusing on system proficiency and skill development to ensure high-quality production standards.
- Beyond technical oversight, provided leadership and spiritual mentorship to the team, fostering a collaborative and growth-oriented environment.

August 2023 – July 2025

Communications Intern, *Riverside Community Church*

- In collaboration with the leadership team, I contributed to the production of monthly newsletters and the curation of engaging social media content.
- Served as a primary photographer for weekly services and special events, capturing high-quality imagery to support the organization's visual identity.
- Participated in strategic planning sessions, providing creative input during sermon series development and theme design meetings.

July 2020 -

Owner/Photographer, *Gavin Zahner Photography*

- Managing the full lifecycle of a photography business, oversee all administrative operations—including bookings and accounting—while executing over 40 high-volume photoshoots annually.
- Maintaining quality standards from initial composition through to the meticulous sorting and editing of every collection, ensuring that polished, professional assets are consistently delivered to clients within demanding timeframes.

VOLUNTEERISM

August 2019 - Current

Youth Group Leader, *Riverside Community Church*

Served as a sound engineer, lighting designer, and created graphics/service assets to bring excellence and value to weekly services. Planned and setup bi-annual retreat AVL systems from the ground up. Led the Photography/Videography team as well at the bi-annual retreats. Assisted with yearly stage design building and preparation. Helped run the social media account. Led small groups of junior high students.

August 2021 - May 2025

School Photographer, *Allegheny Valley School District*

Attended and captured most sporting events during school year. Contracted to photograph homecoming and prom as well as for sport team's media days. Submitted photos to yearbook for publication

EDUCATION

August 2025 - May 2029

Anticipated bachelor's degree Communications & Media, *Thiel College*

Activities & Societies: *Dietrich Honors Institute, Dean's List, Lambda Sigma Honors Society*

GPA: 3.6

SKILLS

Project management
Organization
Adobe Creative Cloud
Social Media Marketing
Strategic Communications

Communication
Management
Creative Arts
Web Development
Leadership

PERSONALITY

Myers-Briggs: *INT-J*
Working Genius: *Enablement & Tenacity*
Enneagram: *Type 9*