

## Mac Kern, B.A. English Professional Writing, 2013

*By Sarah K. Miller & Madelyn Chambers*

### Information Security Auditor, KirkpatrickPrice

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Mac Kern graduated from WKU in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in Professional Writing. He currently works as an information security auditor for [KirkpatrickPrice](#) from his home in northern Kentucky. “The company performs audits to ensure that our clients are appropriately maintaining the security of their sensitive data,” Kern said. “I work directly with clients to assess the security controls in place within their organizations.”



Kern first began working at KirkpatrickPrice as a technical writer and editor a year before graduating from WKU. He then became an audit support professional before his promotion to information security auditor. Kern’s job requires him to travel frequently, performing audits across the United States, Canada, India, Jamaica, Panama, and Costa Rica. When he isn’t travelling around the world, Kern de-stresses by handwriting letters and poetry or playing his favorite childhood video games.

Kern said that his Professional Writing degree has been very useful, and he cited Dr. Angela Jones as one of his most helpful professors. “Nearly everything I do is tied to the skills I gained at WKU. Dr. Jones especially played a role in my development regarding the formal writing style I use on a daily basis.” Kern said that before he began the Professional Writing concentration, he never realized the importance of formatting. “Through the professional writing program, I learned that writing is not just about proper grammar and punctuation; style and format play a critical role in how information is conveyed.”

Another skill Kern developed through the English department is formal communication. “I don’t spend much time writing audit reports these days, but my time as a technical writer helped me learn how to write clear and concise audit notes. I

communicate directly with clients much more frequently now, and I constantly employ the communication skills I learned via English classes at WKU.”

His advice for current students pursuing Professional Writing is to take the hard classes and challenge their writing skills. “Take Dr. Jones; realize that it won't be an easy class but that hard work is rewarded. Apply yourself, go to career fairs.”

