

## **Brianna Binder – computer science**

### **Why did you choose your degree program? How has it helped you grow personally and professionally?**

I chose computer science because I really enjoy problem solving and working with technology. Choosing this degree program has taught me to step out of my comfort zone and try new things as I switched my major from chemistry to computer science halfway through my sophomore year. I had no idea that coding was something I would like, but once I tried it, I realized it was something I really enjoyed and was good at!

### **What activities are you involved in at McKendree?**

I am a member of the women's volleyball team here at McKendree. I am also a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi honors societies.

### **What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time here?**

I am most proud of my senior project where I did data cleanup and analysis for the school.

### **If you could go back in time, what advice would you give your first-year self?**

If I could go back in time, I would tell my first-year self to not stress so much about my future and to just focus on the present. It's okay to not know right away what you want to do with your life! I would also tell myself to study less and have more fun!

### **Who helped you the most on your journey?**

My professors helped me a lot during my journey. They gave me guidance as to which areas of computer science I wanted to explore. My family and friends were also a great support system for me throughout my 4 years here, and I couldn't have done it without them.

### **What's next after graduation?**

I will be going to grad school at Colorado School of Mines where I will be pursuing a master's degree in data science.