

Kaitlyn Kasper - mathematics

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

I chose mathematics because I had known for a long time that I wanted to teach, and I had excelled in math throughout school. It made sense to pursue a teaching license in an area in which I was comfortable. I had some great teachers over the years who truly cared about me as a student. I want to give back and strive to be that kind of teacher for my future students. This program was definitely challenging at times, but it was definitely worth it.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

In my time at McKendree, I was on the women's water polo team. I was also inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, and Sigma Zeta honor societies.

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

I'm really proud of my academic accomplishments, including this honor. College is a very busy time, but I still managed to prioritize my academics. I am grateful to everyone who helped me along the way.

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

Talk to people! Whether it's classmates, teammates, or professors, building relationships with them is incredibly beneficial. These are the people you see on a regular basis. They are the people who are cheering you on and a shoulder to cry on in tough times.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

My professors were all very supportive during my time at McKendree. I specifically want to thank Dr. Alan Alewine for teaching me in almost all of my college math courses. I also want to thank Dr. Katie Alford and Dr. Kim Joggerst for preparing me for my teaching career.

What's next after graduation?

I just accepted a job to teach middle school math at a private school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.