

Maclayne Taylor – communication studies

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

I chose communication originally because I did not have a particular career that I was interested in, and I wanted the degree program to give me options post-graduation. My transfer advisor recommended the communication program, and I decided it sounded suitable for me. This degree program has helped me personally to understand myself and all of my relationships I have been in, am currently in, and will form. I have attained so much knowledge in the world of communication that I am proud to walk away with. I have become more confident in my capabilities and am excited to apply this knowledge in both my personal and professional life for years to come.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

I played on the women's basketball team here at McKendree. In the fall semester, I was involved in the women's Delight Ministries program as well.

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

I am proud of a lot at McKendree; however, something I am particularly proud of is being part of one of the most successful women's basketball teams McKendree has had. I enjoyed the connections and friendships I have formed through this sport.

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

If I could give my first-year self some advice, I would say don't take so long to open up to others. Know that you will make friends and see friends go, but don't let that hold you back from connecting. Connection is so important for you to know your own identity and for growing as a person. I would also say to stop striving for perfection. Nobody is perfect and nobody will be. You will make mistakes, but you will also have many successes. So do not dwell on the mistakes but learn from them and take time to acknowledge and celebrate the successes.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

I am thankful to have such an incredible family and support system that has helped me on my journey. My mother especially has also had the biggest impact on my collegiate journey. I will go to her for relationship advice, homework help, and, of course, all the questions about "how to cook this" or "how to wash that." She always has the right answers, and I don't know what I would do without her.

What's next after graduation?

I plan to pursue a career geared toward communication or marketing near my hometown. I also really enjoy fitness and working with the youth, so I could see myself staying on this path and either coaching or training younger athletes as well.