

McKenna Scaturro – elementary education initial licensure

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

I chose to get an MAT in elementary education because of my passion for working with children. Working with the education professors and my education colleagues has helped me grow as an educator immensely. I've built confidence in myself and my abilities, and I truly feel like I am as prepared to enter the profession as I could possibly be.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

As an undergraduate student, I was involved in the marching band, concert band and wind ensemble, Model UN, vocal jazz, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Alpha Phi Omega. As a graduate student, I have joined several honor societies.

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

I'm most proud of myself for coming back to get a master's degree and my education licensure despite being a parent and working. It took a lot of work and a lot of time, but I did it!

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

I think I would tell my first-year self to remember what is important and to not stress out about things that will not matter in ten years (trust me – it's been ten years, and those things didn't matter!).

Who helped you the most on your journey?

My husband and my parents. I would not have been able to get through these past three years, especially student-teaching, if it weren't for their support. My daughter also gave me the motivation and emotional support I needed to get through it. She was always there to cheer me on when the days were great and to cheer me up when they weren't as great.

What's next after graduation?

Hopefully I'll be finding a fantastic teaching job and spending the next 30 years making a difference in the lives of kids!