

Rebecca Byrd – Secondary Education (Master's)

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

As a kid, I always knew I wanted to become a teacher. After graduating with an undergraduate degree in biology from Truman State, I knew I wanted to teach in the Southern Illinois area, so I chose the Master of Arts in Teaching program in Secondary Education at McKendree. This program is not only close to home, but it also has provided the opportunity for me to obtain my initial teaching certification, and it had glowing recommendations from previous students. From my time here, I have grown more confident in my classroom style and have developed the skills needed to help all students learn.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

While I am not currently involved in any activities at McKendree, I am part of the coaching staff for Triad High School girls' soccer team this spring.

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

I am most proud of being able to observe the impact my education here has transferred into the classroom and to my students.

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

Focus on the things you can control, not on the things that are out of your control.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

My cooperating teacher, Mrs. Bailey Stack. She has provided me with an immense amount of support and advice that I will carry over into my own classroom in the fall.

What's next after graduation?

After graduation, I will join the science department at Mascoutah High School to teach biology and chemistry!