

Ryan Haynes – economics and finance

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

I chose the economics and finance major because I aspire to be a financial advisor one day. Of the many areas in which McKendree's BBA in economics and finance covers, my favorite topic to learn about is personal finance. I enjoy learning about personal finance by reading books, listening to podcasts, and keeping up with current news. I think that a deep understanding of personal financial strategies allows individuals to reach their goals faster and achieve financial freedom in their lives. I want to help others do just that one day.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

During my time at McKendree, I've been a four-year member of the men's wrestling team, and during my senior year, I served as president of McKendree's Student Athlete Advisory Committee. I worked multiple campus jobs as well; I was a three-year student staff member for Residence Life, and I held work-study positions as a student ambassador for the Admissions office and as a manager at the Lair for Campus Activities Board.

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

I'm most proud of the relationships I've built personally and professionally over the last four years. McKendree has provided me with so many opportunities to build a network of people that I can learn from and who I can rely on to support me.

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

If I could go back in time and give my first-year self one piece of advice, I would tell myself to wake up each day with a positive outlook, to be grateful, and to help others. Each day has been an amazing experience at McKendree, and I wouldn't change it one bit.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

The people who have helped me the most during my four years are my parents. No matter what I do, they support me, and I'm so thankful for how they've helped me grow.

What's next after graduation?

After graduating, I'll begin working full-time at Archford Capital Strategies as a client service association and data analyst. Archford Capital Strategies is a financial services company that works with individuals and small businesses. I'll work toward completing my Certified Financial Planner certification, which will help me become a trusted financial advisor one day and work

directly with clients. I've spent the last year and a half interning at Archford Capital Strategies, and it has been everything I would've hoped for. I'm thrilled to be a part of the team full-time.