

Steven Brachert – art

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

I chose art/graphic design because I've been doing it since I was around 13 years old, and a hobby that I loved doing turned into my future career. It has helped shape the person I am today: someone who is very organized, goal-oriented, and highly competitive. It has helped me a lot professionally as well. I have been freelancing while I've been in school creating a network with a lot of people in the design industry. My highlight was interning with the St. Louis Blues, which gave me an insight into the work-life/office life while learning from professionals and seeing their artwork used in the real world.

What activities are you involved in at McKendree?

I play for the McKendree men's ice hockey team and oversee the McKendree Gallery of Art with a couple of other students.

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

Raising my 1-year-old son while being in school, playing hockey, and working at the same time is something I can be proud of. It taught me how to handle everyday life and time management, making it easier to transition into the post-college life.

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

Don't take any day for granted and live your life to the fullest. Be open and friendly to everyone you meet because you never know – your future best friend might be standing right in front of you.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

My future wife, Ashton, has had an amazing impact on my journey. She helped me when I was down or exhausted, and she sacrificed everything in her own life to go to school with me so we could be a family. Being in an unknown environment without knowing anyone isn't easy to adapt to, and keeping herself occupied with our son while I'm gone all day is just a true sign of being a strong woman. They are the reason I work so hard, and I'm glad it's all paying off in the end. I also want to thank my family for their support over these 4 years as they proudly watched me on my journey from Germany.

What's next after graduation?

I will be moving back to Seattle, Washington, where I'll be looking for a full-time job in the design industry. My dream is to own a design agency in the foreseeable future, so I will be working hard toward that goal until it is a reality.