

“When I found out that I received the Marshall University Presidential Merit Based Scholarship and the West Virginia Promise Scholarship, I was so relieved and beyond thankful to know that I would not have to take out as much in loans,” said Alyssa Parks of Hedgesville (Berkeley County), West Virginia.

Double majoring in political science and international affairs, Alyssa will graduate in 2022. She is considering several options post-graduation, such as law school, becoming a paralegal, working for politicians or establishing a career with the state department, but is certain that she wants to work with politics, particularly international politics. Alyssa looks forward to learning anything about politics, as she enjoys expanding her knowledge on how the government works, locally and internationally. She hopes to apply what she learns to discuss current events.

Knowing she wanted to remain in-state for college for financial reasons, Alyssa said she instantly fell in love when she visited Marshall.

“The campus is beautiful, the people are kind and the school pride is overwhelming! I love Marshall because I have never witnessed a community take so much pride in their local college. The people of Huntington and the students at Marshall are like one big family, always supporting each other,” said Alyssa, who recalls strangers helping her when she first moved to town. “I love being part of the Marshall family and think it is something that will always stick with me. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue my education at a school I love so much.”

The Memorial Student Center is Alyssa’s favorite place on campus, as she can go there to study, meet friends, eat lunch or grab coffee. Inside, she enjoys visiting the Student Government Association office and outside, she likes to sit by the Memorial Fountain.

Alyssa is active on campus as a College of Liberal Arts Senator for the Student Government Association. She attends Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) and is a lifeguard and swim instructor at the Rec Center. She stays busy with her studies and friends to help with her homesickness.



Fun Facts

Name: Alyssa Parks

Class of 2022

Hometown: Hedgesville, West Virginia

Major: Political Science and International Affairs

Favorite color: Yellow

Textbooks or eBooks: I prefer to use e-books because I always have my computer on me so it’s just more convenient to carry, it saves paper, I can usually access my assignments through the e-book, and I can usually just buy access to it for the semester and don’t have to worry about selling it after I’m done.

Favorite place in Huntington: My favorite place in Huntington is Pullman Square. I love to go there and eat at one of the many amazing restaurants, go over and sit by the river during the sunset, go to the movies, or get ice cream at Austin’s.

“My greatest challenge as a college student has been moving so far away from home. I am very close with my family, so I do get homesick often, but my friends have helped me create a home away from home,” Alyssa said, citing her parents as her biggest supporters.

On her educational journey, Alyssa is most thankful for her professors. Recognizing her political science and international affairs professors for their helpfulness and subject knowledge, she believes they have helped her learn important aspects about her major. Alyssa hopes to leave Marshall with a solid education, lifelong friendships, connections and memories. She is thankful for the alumni who help make Marshall better for each generation.

“The students at Marshall University are the future of society and it is important that they can get the best education and be successful without being in an overwhelmingly amount of debt. Through the scholarships offered, very bright students who might not be able to afford college, may now be able to attend,” Alyssa explained.

“Marshall is a beautiful and amazing school and my time here has given me so much. I hope that when I’m an alumna, I am able to give back in order to better the school and help the students.”