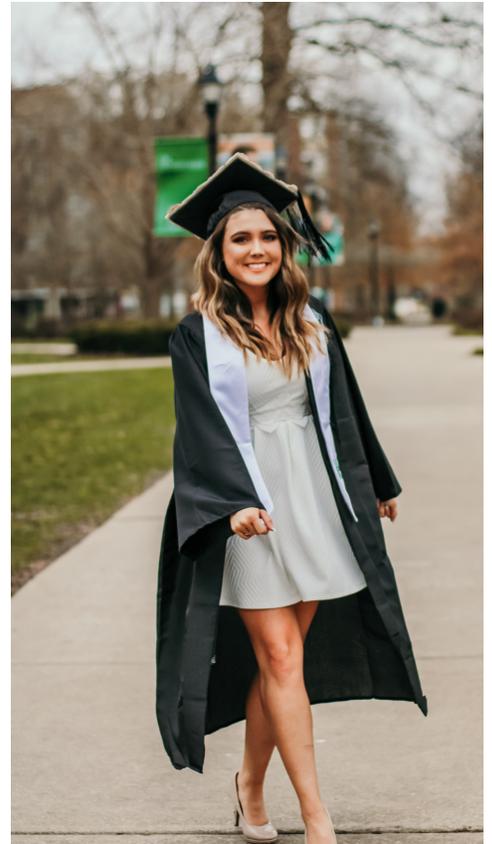


"I chose to attend Marshall University because at my first orientation when I stepped onto campus, it felt like home. It was a sense of relief because as soon as I committed to coming to Marshall, I was no longer worried about my future. I knew I had a place here in Huntington. The campus and atmosphere all spoke to me when I toured the Huntington campus for the first time. I do have to say, becoming a part of the Herd was the best decision I ever made in my young adult life," said Madalyn McCoy, a native of Summersville, West Virginia.

Graduating in the spring of 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in public relations, Madalyn was a recipient of the Cora Hypes, Jack and Pauline Upton and Lubin Family Endowed scholarships. She is currently studying for her Master of Business Administration (MBA) in the Lewis College of Business, home of the Brad D. Smith Schools of Business. Upon completion of her MBA, Madalyn hopes to become an event planner for a promotions team. She hopes to have a job that allows travel, as she believes it will help her learn and become a better version of herself.

"I chose to study public relations because I liked being involved with the public and I like people. I was passionate about wanting my voice heard. When I decided to go to graduate school, I wanted to gain more insight on how the business side worked and operated, because that also interests me. I want to be well-rounded when I enter the workforce," she said.

Initially worrying about coming to Marshall from a small town, the people and community are Madalyn's favorite part of Marshall. She has enjoyed her time on Huntington's "beautiful campus" because everyone is kind and welcoming. As a result, her favorite place is the Memorial Student Center Plaza because it is in the heart of campus where she can see people walking by, witness different events and enjoy the calming sound of the Memorial Fountain in the background. Madalyn also holds fond memories of Smith Hall because that is where



Fun Facts

Name: Madalyn McCoy

Class of 2022

Hometown: Summersville, West Virginia

Major: Master of Business Administration

Favorite color: Kelly Green, of course.

Textbooks or eBooks: Textbooks. I learn way better with a physical object in my hand.

Favorite place in Huntington: My favorite thing about Huntington is the restaurants. Backyard and Calamity J's have to be my two favorite restaurants in all of Huntington.

she spent a lot of time during her undergraduate coursework.

“I feel like I have a special memory on every patch of grass and every piece of sidewalk on campus, which is another reason I love the campus so much. When I walk it now, I have flashback memories that brings a smile to my face everywhere I go,” Madalyn said.

Throughout the numerous opportunities she has received during her time at Marshall, Madalyn is most grateful to be a part of the Memorial Fountain Ceremony. She hopes that the tradition continues for years. Madalyn is also thankful for the confidence to create her own opportunities and how the community has helped her grow.

As Madalyn entered her master’s program during a pandemic, she found that she misses creating relationships with the people in her program, as it is harder to establish those electronically.

“Online schooling has been my greatest challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic. I miss class and having connections with my professors and classmates. I believe the social aspect of college is just as important as the education. Right now, I’m missing the social aspect,” said Madalyn, who worked hard during undergraduate to find the right balance of socializing and accountability to do her best in class.

As an undergraduate student, Madalyn was a member of Alpha Chi Omega, a sorority, and participated in rec leagues. She is thankful for the friends and lasting connections established at Marshall and tries to be the biggest supporter for her friends. On her educational journey, Madalyn is thankful for the relationships she has established with professors and peers. Before completing her MBA, she hopes to return to in-person classes and be able to walk at graduation because she is proud of her roots and grateful for those who pave the way for Marshall students.

“Marshall is the foundation of the successful person you become later in life. I believe the college you attend shapes you into the successful adult you become. If in my adult life I can give back to Marshall, I do plan to because wherever I end up, Marshall University is the reason I am who I am.”