

Advancing In Higher Education

Katie Bunsold ('18)

By: Elena Dumm

Katie Bunsold graduated Wittenberg in 2019 with a Communication degree with minors in East Asian Studies and Cinema Studies. She is currently earning her master's degree in Communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. After completing her master's, Katie hopes to either enter the workforce or continue on to get her PhD.



Katie was encouraged to pursue graduate school by Wittenberg's own Dr. Dillon, a Communication professor at Wittenberg. Dillon helped her submit and present a research paper at the National Communication Association conference. Dillon also introduced her to a graduate student at the University of Illinois, which led her to where she is today.

Katie felt that the experience in intensive research work she gained from her research paper, and the methods courses she took as a part of the Communication major, were both incredibly valuable to her transition to graduate school, where research projects are frequent. As graduate student, Katie feels the biggest surprise for her was having to teach a class of undergraduate students. In her senior Communication capstone class, Katie had to lead her class for a day, which she feels gave her valuable experience that made learning how to teach a class in graduate school today much easier.

While at Wittenberg, Katie was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and was involved in Anime Club and Integrated Media Corps. She also worked in the Office of Student Involvement as a Marketing Coordinator and was in several honors societies: Alpha Lambda Delta, Omnicron Delta Kappa, Epsilon Alpha Sigma, Gamma Sigma Alpha, and Lambda Pi Eta.

For those students who are interested in pursuing graduate school after Wittenberg, Katie advises to start thinking early about the types of programs to pursue.

"There are a lot more options for types of Master programs than I realized," Katie said of her own experience in searching for programs.

Now that she's in graduate school, Katie doesn't have a ton of time for hobbies or interests, but she does really enjoy going to the movies, seeing an average of three movies in the theatre every week.