

Riley Marshall, Professional Writing minor, 2023

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“Coming to WKU, I was completely undecided and had no direction. I ended up taking some business classes and falling in love with accounting, but I also shared a passion for English and writing. My interests ended up being polar opposites, but that was the beauty of it. It makes absolutely no sense, but that’s why it inevitably makes complete sense to me. I think you should always just go for it. Follow your dreams. Here at WKU, they can help pave the path that your future self will walk.”

Riley Marshall is a junior accounting major with a professional writing minor. On top of academics, she is currently in her third year as volleyball manager at WKU and plays competitive beach volleyball herself. Marshall also writes for [Prep Network](#), a media company that covers high school volleyball talent. Through this, she has been able to merge her writing skills with her passion for volleyball. Marshall encourages those who have various interests to go for what they want to do, even if there is not an obvious relation.

Her eclectic interests have not deterred her from pursuing all of what she enjoys. Marshall was always drawn to writing. She has a vast writing background as the high school senior yearbook editor and news writer. After taking an introductory accounting class, she decided she wanted to major in accounting and minor in professional writing.

“I came into college knowing that I loved writing, but I didn't necessarily know what I wanted to do with it. So, I started taking business classes, and then I found out I loved accounting. I wanted to somehow put the English side into it, and then I just decided to talk to the Honors College [and] put [professional writing] as my minor, kind of see where it goes,” Marshall said. While accounting and writing might seem like an unusual combination to some, Marshall is enjoying the curriculum and the possibilities

they both offer. "Maybe I'll do some sort of accounting writing one day...I think you should always go for whatever you want to do," she stated.

This decision to minor in professional writing, however, did not go without some doubt. "I'm majoring in accounting and minoring in writing. You don't really see that a lot. So, when you look at it on paper, you're like what's going on?" Marshall stated. After consulting with her mother, who is an academic advisor at WKU, Marshall decided to pursue the subjects she most enjoyed. She finds that attending English classes and engaging in discussions is a "breath of fresh air" compared to her accounting classes.

When it comes to incoming English majors or those considering it, Marshall emphasized the importance of genuine enjoyment, stating, "I feel like if you don't love writing or get some sense of accomplishment when you finish, I don't think it's necessarily for you."

Marshall is unsure of her plans after graduation, but she is considering many possibilities. She plans on continuing her education by going to a graduate school where she can play Division I beach volleyball. Marshall would like to get an MBA but is also considering advanced degrees in English and Healthcare Administration.

