

Madison Ebbert is a Freshmen who is attending James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

**Q)** How did you first get interested in the graphic arts, or decide to major in graphic communications in school?

*A) I tried graphic design in high school at the Carroll County Career and Technology Center and fell in love with it! After doing the Print Production Program I knew that it was what I wanted to do in college and for a career.*

**Q)** Did you take any courses in high school that were related to graphic communications, or that prepared you for your planned career?

*A) In high school, I took art classes such as Art 1, Art 2, Studio Art and Commercial Art at my high school. I also completed the Print Production Program at the Carroll County Career and Technology Center for a semester and then another semester of Photography.*

**Q)** What course of studies are you taking now, or planning on taking, during the path of your school education?

*A) During my first semester at JMU, I took a Drawing One and 2-Dimensional course. Currently, in my second semester I'm taking Drawing Two, 3-Dimensional and Art Foundation Seminar. In the next semesters I will continue deeper into the art programming doing more graphic design courses such as typography, graphics and design classes.*

### **Looking to the Future**

**Q)** Is there a particular area of the graphic communications field that is of special interest to you as you consider where you want to focus your future career on?

*A) There is not a specific field of graphic communications that I'm interested in, everything interests me so far. I'm excited to get more involved in my major and explore the different areas and figure out which might be best for me.*

**Q)** What type of company would you like to work for after you graduate?

*A) Ideally it would be interesting to work for an athletic clothing company, doing advertisements and branding for a company. A company like Nike or Adidas would be companies I would be very happy working for.*

**Q)** What do you think employers are looking for in today's workforce and current industry environment?

*A) I think employers are looking for employees with creativity, uniqueness, and the ability to work with others and clients. They also would want someone who is always trying new ideas and thinking outside the box, someone who takes criticism well and uses it to improve themselves.*

**Q)** Is there anything that you have found to be particularly different from what you initially expected now that you've progressed through your education process?

*A) I expected the work load to be intensive and time consuming, which it is. But it goes by fast because I enjoy the work I'm doing. Although I have to do projects for my class, I also do them for my own pleasure and enjoy seeing progression.*

**Q)** Have you changed your plans or ideas about what area or type of job you might like to have since you first considered the graphic communications field and began studying for a career in it?

*A) My general plan for what I want to do is still the same, I would like to try out different types of companies to see which style I would prefer.*

**Q)** Has being a recipient of a PGSF scholarship made a difference in your education, and if so, how?

*A) Having a scholarship from the PGSF has only helped me to progress in my education. The scholarship has helped cover expenses for textbooks and mostly art supplies, which would be impossible to do my projects without. It has helped to reduce stress about money for supplies, and helped me focus on my work more effectively.*

**Q)** Anything else that you would like to add?

*A) I am very appreciative of the PGSF, and of the scholarship I have been rewarded with.*