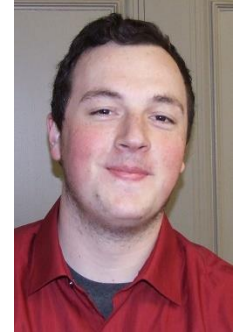




Associated Colleges of Illinois

James McGrew
Monmouth College
ACI General Scholarship



James McGrew learned early about the value of keeping up with current events. McGrew often watched the news with his father while he was growing up, and McGrew says he learned about things such as the economy and the stock market. "When I came to college and sat in on economics classes, I knew what they were talking about," McGrew says. "This is something that comes naturally to me."

McGrew, of Avon, Illinois, will enter his senior year at [Monmouth College](#) this fall, majoring in business with a minor in economics. "There are a lot of things that interest me in business," he says. One is project management, and another is mediation, he says. "I've always been interested in conflict mediation. I'm really good at problem-solving. I like overseeing a process from beginning to end and being involved with multiple steps."

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"I've always thought that it would be interesting to be in the middle of a business dispute, but not be taking a side, but determining a resolution that benefits both parties as much as possible, as well as doing research on the topic to determine the best outcome," he says. McGrew saw such a process first-hand when his high school district was consolidated.

McGrew, one of four children in his family, chose Monmouth because he liked a smaller liberal arts college, where he is able to learn about many topics in small classes. Plus, he has developed close working relationships with professors, an important factor in his college experience. He plays offensive line for the Monmouth College football team and is a resident assistant with the college's Residence Life staff.

To help pay for college, McGrew has worked up to 70 hours a week during summers delivering ice. That money goes towards tuition, along with money from federal and state loans, from tax returns, plus his work as a resident assistant and doing odd jobs. But all of that wasn't enough to meet college tuition costs. Fortunately, Monmouth college awarded him an ACI General Scholarship to make up the difference.

"It was really unexpected," McGrew says. "I didn't realize how much it helped until I got my tax returns back. They were less than what I thought they were going to be. Without the ACI scholarship, it would have been a lot more difficult to figure out what I was going to do. It meant a lot to me that somebody could see that I was struggling financially."