



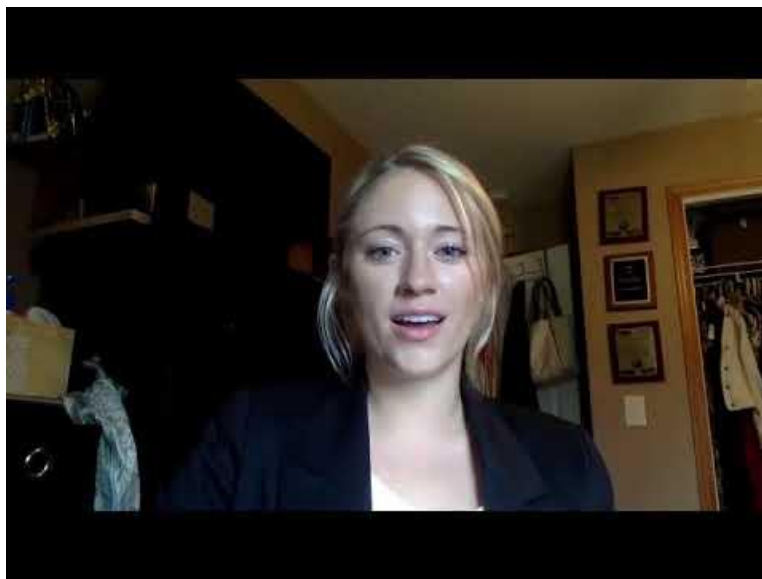
Madison McCabe
Quincy University
McGraw Foundation Emergency Financial Aid



The pandemic of 2020-2021 was especially tough for Madison McCabe. Money was tight. The pandemic took away her ability to work as a waitress, a difficult problem for a student who finances most of her own education through grants, scholarships and jobs. At the end of the fall semester in 2020, she was quarantined at home, sick with a case of COVID-19. Compounding the problem, she faced a difficult final semester at [Quincy University](#) with a bigger course load.

"I had to learn how to cope with my stress," McCabe said. "But with the help of my classmates, my professors and family, I was able to finish." McCabe, who transferred to Quincy after two years at a community college, graduated in spring 2021 with a degree in biology.

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She initially thought she would go to a graduate professional school to become a dentist, a longtime interest of hers, but changed her mind. This fall, she hopes to attend dental hygiene school after working this summer in a dental office in her hometown of Edina, Missouri. One day, she may attend dentistry school. "I just wasn't ready for four more very difficult years ahead of me," she said. "I decided I wanted to work a little bit ... I felt this would give me a better opportunity to know more about dentistry."

At Quincy, McCabe's biology coursework was challenging, limiting her ability to work. The pandemic compounded the problem. McCabe got some much-needed financial help from Quincy University's financial aid office and ACI – a grant from the McGraw Foundation Emergency Financial Aid Fund. "I was really fortunate to get that," she said. "It was amazing because they understood I wanted to work, but I just couldn't with my schoolwork." The emergency funds, combined with other scholarships and grants, also made it possible for McCabe to complete her degree without taking out new loans as she approached graduation.

"This past year was difficult for everyone. It really came at the perfect time for me personally," she said of the McGraw Foundation grant. "I just wasn't making enough money as is, so it would have been really stressful, and I would have had to find a way to get extra money to pay for school."

While at Quincy University, McCabe worked in the financial aid office for one year and was a part-time waitress. She was member of the university's Science Club and treasurer of the Pre-Professional Science Club.

"I cannot wait to continue my education. I'm thankful for Quincy University, and I'm excited for what my future might hold," McCabe added.