

**William Williford,
B.A. English 2018 & M.A. English 2021**

By Caitlyn Woitena

Future Lawyer

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Williford, originally from Louisville, Ky., holds two undergraduate degrees from WKU and is currently pursuing his M.A. in English at WKU. In addition to his M.A., Williford is also studying law at Vanderbilt University.



Williford has wanted to be a lawyer ever since he graduated high school; however, his path to law school hasn't necessarily been linear. He initially attended WKU to study Political Science. After obtaining his degree, Williford joined the Army and served for about seven years. He reflects on his decision to leave stating, “I finally decided that if I did not leave the Army while I was still young then I would never go back to school and finish my lawyer dream. So that is what I did.” After leaving the Army Williford realized he wasn't necessarily in the “academic shape” needed for law school and decided to pursue another bachelor's degree in English at WKU.

Williford remembers his time as an undergrad in WKU's English Department fondly. “Once I was in the WKU English B.A. program I really started to enjoy myself and I still have not left. It did what I hoped and warmed me back up the college environment.” Despite his love for English, his dream of becoming a lawyer did not disappear. “I wanted to be a lawyer because I realized early on that lawyers read, write, and talk a lot. Those are three of my favorite things.” Williford then decided to pursue his English M.A. and J.D. concurrently.

Williford recognizes the difficulty of this feat. “Pursuing two rigorous graduate degrees simultaneously, in two different states is not for the faint of heart or lazy. Time management is key.” He affirms that the skills he has gained through the WKU English Department are invaluable. “In both my undergraduate and graduate studies, like all English students, I was assigned large amounts of text to read, analyze, and write about – with short suspense dates. Those skills: reading a lot, analyzing, and writing, are a portion of what practicing law encompasses. These are all skills that I have been able to play with and hone as an English

student at WKU. I think everything I learned, experienced, and was exposed to in my English studies will only make me a better and more effective attorney.”

Williford offers two insightful pieces of advice for English students. “I would advise all undergraduate students to not be afraid to ask questions and to try to foster relationships with their professors. My only other piece of advice would be to do the readings. If you are assigned a chapter, read that chapter. The workload may seem overwhelming at first, but it is manageable in chunks.”