

NIKKI OGOREK



I am applying for the Financial Scholarship for the Fall of 2020-Spring of 2021. I am very proud of what I have accomplished so far as a student at Western Kentucky University.

Three of my achievements include my work being published in the WKU fine arts magazine, Zephyrus, Spring of 2018, my ceramic piece being displayed at the Missouri-Kentucky Mud: Contemporary Ceramics Exhibition in the Fall of 2019, and my piece I designed selected to be showcased at the Ellis Walker Gallery Student Art Exhibition, Spring of 2019.

I am very proud that I take my art work and class work both very seriously. When prompted with an assignment or project I take personal responsibility to turn in my best work, and am always working to improve myself. That being said, I have been able to maintain a 4.0 GPA and make the President's List (3.8 - 4.0 GPA) every semester.

Although it takes discipline and hard work, I have to give all thanks and credit to my amazing parents for their unconditional love and support for pushing me every step of the way to follow my dreams. Not everyone is as lucky as I am to have such a strong support system truly since day one that has enabled me to get where I am today. That being said, I would love nothing more than to be able to give this back to them. Their endless love and emotional support is matched by their financial support and I am beyond lucky that they are able to provide that for me, and both my siblings. My parents have taught me the true meaning of hard work, selflessness, and resilience, and I have truly never met two people that work harder than them. To be able to give this back to them would mean the world to me, because it could begin to pay back all they do for me.

In addition to my art classes I have also been able to find a balance between being an artist, and a student athlete. It is well known among art majors how valuable time is, between long studio hours and out of class work, time management is essential to staying on top of everything. But as an athlete, adding 6AM lifts, rehab and mobility sessions, practices, sports psychologists, training, travel, and competition, extremely complicates an already busy schedule. Among the everyday schedules, I still chose to volunteer and put myself in leadership positions because it is so important to me to connect with my professors and my peers.

In the studio I have volunteered to be a note taker through Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) for two different semesters, and now work closely with a student in my ART 243 class. Outside the studio, last fall in 2019 I was very fortunate to receive the opportunity to work with clients while receiving experience at Imagewest. Relationships I built in this time and experiences I gained I know will further my career as a designer, and look forward to applying to work there again next fall. During the spring of 2019 I got to take my first screen printing class and immediately fell in love, so I joined the print club. While in the print club I got to help with installations at the Kentucky Museum, carve blocks for a PCAD art festival, and volunteered to come with the print club to the Ellis Walker Gallery to print shirts. During my 3D design class I was mesmerized by the metal pouring process, and volunteered to suit up and join the metal pour hands on at the PCAD festival.

Additionally, I was invited to apply to be an ambassador for the Potter College Dean's Council of Students, I feel like I have made connections with so many people in the art department, I would love to use those connections as a platform to make other artists feel more included and grow our PCAD family.

Leadership roles I have taken up outside of the art and design community include my involvement with Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). The SAAC is a group of elected students selected to represent their sports team as a University to the NCAA to make decisions on behalf of student athletes. It is our position to help organize and arrange campus wide events for student athletes not only at WKU, but to represent WKU among other universities in Conference USA. I have been in the SAAC every semester at WKU since fall of 2017, and will continue to represent our school. Aside from SAAC I also am a member of WKU's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), who meet every other week to work on building community and purpose for students, and finding identity outside of athletics.

And I do it all with a smile,
Nikki Ogorek