

# Erin E. McKay

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## EDUCATION & HONORS

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**Master of Science**, 3.96 GPA, Environmental Science  
University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO, 2020.

**Bachelor of Science**, 3.85 GPA, Magna cum Laude Biological Sciences: Environmental Biology focus, Minor in Chemistry,  
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL, 2017.

### Honors/Awards

- Commitment to Excellence Scholarship, 2013
- Embarrass Valley Quail Unlimited Scholarship, 2016
- E. Warner/L. Durham Presidential Award in Environmental Biology, 2017
- Paul D. Pierotti Memorial Scholarship, 2016
- Non-resident Graduate Scholarship, 2017

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## EMPLOYMENT

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**Research Assistant** – Paleocology, Palynology, and Climate Change Laboratory 2019 – 2020  
University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO

- Assisted in contract work within the laboratory.
- Created a paleoecologic reconstruction of the Vietnam research project site by assessing ecological, geochemical, sedimentological, and climatic changes throughout the mid-late Holocene.
- Aided in weekly tasks, including sample preparation and clean up.
- Assisted and trained others in laboratory methodology.

**Assistive Technology Technician** – Disability Resources and Services 2017 – 2020  
University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO

- Assisted individuals with specific accommodation needs.
- Used state-of-the-art technology to augment clients' environments.
- Aided in exploration of alternative learning methodologies.
- Managed databases involving the organization of current and past students registered with the office.

**Teaching Assistant/Instructor** – Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences 2017 – 2019  
University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO

- Taught, assisted, and graded assignments for a two-hour weekly Introduction to Environmental Science laboratory class.

**Water Treatment Plant Operator** – City of Charleston 2017  
Charleston, IL

- Conducted hourly lab tests on municipal drinking water.
- Recorded results to maintain the highest level of safety for the City of Charleston, following EPA and FDA regulations.
- Conducted hourly inspections to ensure machinery and equipment were functioning properly.
- Handled the public's calls and inquiries regarding water quality and maintenance.

**Teaching Assistant** – Department of Biological Sciences 2016 – 2017  
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL

- Supervised a general biology lab.
- Aided in set up and reorganization of laboratory equipment

**Student Assistant** – Center for Academic Technology Support 2015 – 2017  
Charleston, IL

- Provided video services for Eastern Illinois University.
- Utilized captioning and editing programs and film equipment.
- Addressed customer questions and inquiries.
- Helped create and maintain the official social media account (Snapchat) for the campus.

**Veterinarian Assistant-Intern** – CatSnap 2015  
Central Illinois

- Helped administer vaccinations to animals in low income communities.
- Promoted and expanded the company's goal of reducing pet overpopulation in Champaign County.

## RESEARCH

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- Independent Study/Thesis** – Paleocology, Palynology, and Climate Change Laboratory, Dr. Christy Briles 2019 – 2020  
Thesis: *A Late Holocene Sedimentary Analysis of a Shallow Marine Environment in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam*
- Analyzed various proxies to detect climatic variation and temporal patterns related to monsoonal events and human influence in a sedimentological setting. Study focuses on a southeast Asian, tropical, shallow, marine environment.
  - Utilized a diversity of laboratory techniques to assess lithological and geochemical characteristics within sediment cores.
- Community Based Research Practicum** – University of Colorado Denver, Dr. Christy Briles 2019  
Project: *Cation and Tree-Ring Analysis of Quercus rubra L. along Lawrence Street Walkway, Auraria Campus, Denver*
- Collaborated with a client (Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC)-University of Colorado Denver) to assess health of Red Oak trees along Lawrence Street Walkway.
  - Analyzed as cation concentrations ( $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ) in shallow soils were analyzed offer insight on what may be impacting tree health and growth.
- Environmental Politics and Policy** – University of Colorado Denver, Dr. Gregory Simon 2018  
Policy Brief: *Stormwater Management for a Growing Denver Metropolitan Area*
- Project consisted of group collaboration analysis of a pertinent environmental issue and suggested policy pathways to address the problem. Project focused on water supply planning and urban land use of collected stormwater in metropolitan Denver.
- Field Work** – University of Colorado Denver, Dr. Christy Briles 2018
- Assisted fellow researchers of the Paleocultural Research Group in extracting sediment core samples in alpine lakes near a Paleoindian site (La Botica) in the San Luis Valley, Colorado.
  - Assisted a team of fellow graduate students in collecting sediment core samples in Taylor Park near Buena Vista, Colorado to reconstruct the environmental history over the past 4,000 years using various proxies.
- Laboratory Work** – Ecology Lab, Eastern Illinois University, Dr. Robert Colombo 2016
- Worked alongside graduate students assisting in Masters thesis projects. Helping collect and analyze organismal samples from numerous watershed locations.
- Laboratory Work** – Cellular & Molecular Lab, Eastern Illinois University, Dr. Gary Bulla 2014
- Initially shadowed a graduate student's work involving hepatic gene regulation. Began individual project executing DNA transcription through pipetting and qPCR.

## SKILLS

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Technical Support • ArcMap | ArcGIS Desktop • R • Microsoft Office • ABBYY

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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**Rocky Mountain Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Peer Group** 2020  
*Active Member*

## CERTIFICATIONS

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**What is Section 106** – Certificate of Completion, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 2020

**Basics of NEPA and Section 106 Integration** – Certificate of Completion, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 2020

## SIGNIFICANT COURSEWORK

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- Biological Data Analysis
- Risk Assessment
- Environmental Politics and Policy
- Ecology
- Advanced Ecology
- Organic Chemistry + Laboratory I and II
- Quantitative Chemical Analysis
- Animal Diversity
- Calculus Analytical Geometry I
- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Animal Physiology
- Intro to Geographic Information Systems
- Landscape Geochemistry
- Mountain Biogeography
- Dendrology
- Biochemistry I
- Medicinal Plants
- Elementary Statistics
- Genetics
- Organic Evolution
- Conservation Biology