

Raquel Barbalat

I'm in the Communication master's program. I chose MTSU because it has an amazing team of Ph.D. professors. Even though I'm from another country, my dream was always to get to know Tennessee, its culture, people, and everything that makes this place so special. MTSU felt like the perfect match for that dream.

What I love most about being a graduate student is the classroom discussions. I really enjoy applying the most relevant communication theories to real and current situations. I also love exchanging cultural experiences with my classmates, it makes every class more interesting and helps me see things from different perspectives.

A fun fact about me is that last semester I published my first piece of literature in Collage, MTSU's literary magazine, and was later invited to become the Editor-in-Chief. Even though I was still feeling insecure about my English, I said yes — and it's been an amazing adventure! Working with younger students full of creativity and fresh ideas has been one of the best experiences of my journey here.

Remember: it's never too late to start. I had to find the courage to go back to school as a nontraditional student, a mom of two, and an international student. I was scared, but I went for it, and I can honestly say it's been worth it. So, don't let fear stop you. You don't need to have everything figured out before starting, you just need the courage to take the first step.

