



## Kevin Perez

**High school:** Elgin High School

**Hometown:** Elgin, Ill.

**Majors:** Business administration (finance); music

**Activities:** Augustana Symphony Orchestra, Iota Chi Epsilon fraternity

**Post-grad plans:** Graduate school with a focus on finance and music.

“Courageous’ and ‘persistent’ are two words that come to mind when I think of Kevin. Coming to Augustana really stretched him, and during these four years, he has continued to rise to meet challenge after challenge and grow with patient tenacity. Watching him refuse to give into discouragement has encouraged me! Kevin is a witty, honest and astute observer. This, along with his unfailing kindness, has made him a much respected member of our viola community. I have no doubt he will make his next stage in life just as fruitful.”

— Dr. Deborah Dakin, adjunct assistant professor, music

### Why Augustana?

I wanted to improve my knowledge in music and finance, and be away from my hometown. I fell in love with the scenery and the school life when I visited for the first time. I knew right away that Augustana was my school.

### Are you where you thought you'd be when you first came to campus?

No actually. I only had in mind graduating and making friends in my field of study when I first came to campus. I am pretty happy with my experience, which to me is irreplaceable.

### Who helped you get to where you are now?

My mom is a huge factor in helping me get to where I am now. For professors, I would say Dr. Dakin, Dr. Thornblad and Dr. Stone helped me tremendously, by keeping me on track and holding me to higher standards. Lastly, my friends for being there for me and also creating new experiences that I treasure every day.

### Peak experience?

I would say Sloughfest my junior year. Not being able to have Sloughfest in my sophomore year due to COVID-19 was devastating. On the day Sloughfest began in my junior year, it was also finals week and I just finished my last final. I felt a sigh of relief and was happy. Being with my friends at Sloughfest was the day that everything felt normal again and made me enjoy my Augie pride.

### What surprised you?

I would say the feeling of realizing that four years go so fast. If given the choice, I would make it so time goes slower so I could enjoy being here longer.

### How did you use Augie Choice?

Not yet! I am going to use it for my trip to Japan this summer.

### What will you miss the most?

My friends, and of course Augustana.

### Advice for the Class of 2026?

Enjoy your experiences to the fullest. You only have one life; make the most of what you can and be happy through it!