How Should I Choose My Pathway?

**The Short Answer: Explore Something Interesting!**

- Check out the Pathways & courses on the Marist Core web page.
- Determine which one or ones you find most intriguing. Remember, this is a chance to explore new areas & round out your studies without making a huge commitment. Pathway courses give you the chance to explore a subject (or potential minor/second major) in a preliminary, low-stakes way.
- Bring your short list to your advisor and make sure your choices will fit with your overall plan.
- In most cases, any Pathway will work, no matter what it is. The double-dipping described below is what makes this possible.

**The Glory of Double-Dipping**

Every student needs to fulfill the 8 Breadth areas and to complete a Pathway containing 4 courses covering at least 3 different disciplines. Also, every student needs to complete a total of 36 distribution credits.

Courses can simultaneously satisfy Breadth and Pathway requirements. If you “double-dip” 1 or more courses in this manner, you will finish your Breadth and your Pathway in fewer than 36 credits. You can use the following kinds of courses to reach the 36-credit threshold:

- Other Breadth-area courses you just feel like taking, or could potentially use for a second major or a minor;
- Related-field courses you need for your major;
- Approved AP courses in Breadth-area subjects;
- Language courses at any level, including Elementary I & II.

**What About Going Abroad?**

Courses taken abroad can work for a Pathway as long as they receive prior approval. Below are some examples:

- Language courses, which will work for Pathways in French, Italian, Spanish, Contemporary European Studies, Italian & Italian-American Studies, Global Studies, and several others;
- Courses in history, philosophy, or other Breadth areas that would fit in Pathways covering a culture-specific topic (e.g. Latin American & Caribbean Studies or Jewish Studies);
- Issue-oriented courses that overlap with your Pathway; e.g. for a Public Health Pathway, you could take an approved science or economics course related to the host country’s health policies.

**Deadlines, Paperwork, & Lingering Questions**

You must choose your Pathway by the spring registration process in your freshman year (which will probably occur in early April).

To “declare” your Pathway, fill out the form available on the Marist Core Pathway page or the Registrar’s website. Your advisor needs to sign off on your choice.

You may switch Pathways, but consult carefully with your advisor about this (especially if you are in a very credit-heavy major or hope to complete a double major).

For additional information, see the FAQs page on the Marist Core website and/or contact the Core Director, Prof. Moira Fitzgibbons.