



Being Exploratory at Marietta College

If you choose to be an exploratory major, you will be welcomed, understood and supported at Marietta College. Until recently, most of our incoming freshmen were undeclared; and the national average is about 30 percent. Choosing a small liberal arts environment, like the one here at Marietta College, will help you learn more about yourself, the college academic environment and the world of work so you can make informed decisions about your major.

Why Choose to be Exploratory?

You may have lots of interests and are having trouble narrowing down your choices. You may be unsure about whether you will like or be good at a subject at the college level. You may not have found any particular subject or career that interests you yet. You may also want to explore all the college has to offer before you choose a major. These are all very good reasons to enter Marietta College as an undeclared student. It is far better to systematically plan out your decision, than to jump into one prematurely.

How Do I Choose a Major?

The process is usually made up of three components:

- Learning more about yourself;
- Learning more about academic disciplines at the university level;
- Learning about careers available to you.



How Can Your Adviser Help?

Your adviser will help you to meet the college graduation requirements while allowing you to explore a number of academic areas and fulfilling the general education requirements.

How Can the Career Center Help?

Staff in the Career Center can provide individual career counseling, administration of interest and other self assessment inventories, and offer a variety of programs and events throughout the year to help you explore your options in the world of work. The Career Center also teaches two courses each semester to help you in your career development preparation:

College 200: Career Exploration & Planning: Introduction to Self Assessment and the World of Work

This course, designed primarily for freshman and sophomores, as well as students who are undecided, will allow students to gain more self knowledge and career information so that appropriate, informed decisions can be made. A variety of assessment and exploration activities will be conducted culminating in a final career action plan.

College 400: Career Exploration & Planning: Activating Your Career Plan

This course, designed primarily for juniors and seniors, is for students who are embarking on internships and/or seeking their first job or entrance into graduate school. The course will focus on the employment and graduate school application process and involve practice with online resources and application tools such as resumes, cover letters, personal statements and interviews.

Feel free to visit the Career Center website's Career Guidance section for more useful information:

<http://www.marietta.edu/student/career/index.html> or contact The Career Center, 740-376-4645, cc@marietta.edu

Heather Olivea, Class of 1996, Senior Human Resources Manager, Research & Development, Feminine Care Global Business Unit, Procter & Gamble discusses the value of a liberal arts degree, regardless of your major: ***"It was more about the process of learning how to think and problem solve in varied disciplines than it was about studying a particular major. My double major and minor have not been as important in my career as my broad liberal arts education at Marietta and my extra-curricular leadership experiences."***