

Distribution Overflow Courses: A Note to Students (and Advisors)

The Distribution section of the Marist Core requires that you:

- Complete a total of 36 Distribution credits
- Complete one course in each of 8 Breadth areas (Fine Arts, Natural Science, etc.);
- Complete a 4-course interdisciplinary Pathway;

Where applicable, the same course can count as both a Breadth and Pathway requirement. However, this “double-dipped” course only counts as 3 credits toward the required 36-credit Distribution threshold. As a result, you might complete both your Breadth and Pathway without accumulating a total of 36 Distribution credits. This is where the “**Distribution Overflow**” category becomes important.

Distribution Overflow courses are extra Breadth courses that help you reach the 36-credit Distribution threshold. Let’s say you have already fulfilled your Fine Arts Breadth requirement, but you would also like to take another Fine Arts course, such as ENG 280 Introduction to Creative Writing. If you register for this course, it will automatically count as a “Distribution Overflow” course toward your required 36-credit total.

In addition to Breadth courses, all Philosophy offerings will count toward your Distribution Overflow, with the important exceptions of PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy (which is a required Breadth course) and PHIL 200 Ethics (which will fulfill your required Ethics/Applied Ethics/Religious Studies Breadth requirement). Furthermore, Modern Languages courses at any level of study, including Elementary I, count as Distribution Overflow courses.

One other thing to keep in mind: some Pathways include courses that **do not** count for any other area of the Distribution. For example, if you have declared a Quantitative Studies Pathway and take CMPT 120N Introduction to Programming, this will count as one of your Pathway courses. But because it is a “Non-Breadth” course, this class will **not** count toward your 36-credit Distribution threshold.

Finally, Distribution and Distribution Overflow requirements **are not the same thing as your Liberal Art credit requirement.** A specific number of courses designated with an “L,” such as ENG 120L, are required for your degree. These requirements vary according to your degree (e.g., BA, BS, BFA); you can find your own required total at the top of your audit just under the Degree block. If you have satisfied the Liberal Art requirement the Unmet condition will no longer be visible.

A few final recommendations:

- If you are in the Honors Program, you should consult the Honors Web site (<http://www.marist.edu/academics/honors/>) for information about Core Distribution courses you should take.

- If you have enrolled or are thinking of enrolling at Lorenzo de' Medici, Marist's branch campus in Florence, you should look in the LdM catalog to see how courses offered there might fulfill Core Distribution requirements.
- All of this might seem confusing, but remember that the Marist Core makes it easier for you to get started on a minor or second major while you are still completing Core requirements. Feel free to contact the Director of the Core/Liberal Studies Program, Professor Moira Fitzgibbons, if you have questions or would like to discuss ways to get the most out of your Core program of study.

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