

MARIST

Preparing for your Interview at the United States Consulate

This is an interview, not a document review.

- Be prepared, confident, and totally honest.
- Interview officers are instructed to expect that everyone interviewing is expecting to want to immigrate to the United States permanently. It is your responsibility to convince the officer that you plan to return home after you complete your studies and up to three year of full-time work using your student VISA. (OPT, Optional Practical Training)
- The most important part of the interview process is the discussion you have with the consular officer, not the documents you bring.
- Information you have provided in your DS-160 will be referenced.
- Practice your interview before you go. Use services available with your consultant or contact shri.ravella@marist.edu to practice.

Questions Students have been asked

Why do you want to attend Marist?

- Why did you choose to go to Marist instead of another college or university? Be specific. Say things that cannot be said about other colleges and universities. Answers may include the following:
 - Marist has many Joint Ventures with IBM making the most current technology available for your studies.
 - Marist College is acquiring a cutting-edge IBM z16 system, a state-of-the-art mainframe system, equipped with advanced cybersecurity and AI capabilities integrated at the chip level.
 - Marist is highly rated by U.S. News and World Report, Princeton Review, Money Magazine, Forbes, and more. <https://www.marist.edu/about/marist-at-a-glance>
 - Small classes of 2-25 students give you personal attention from your professors.

What is your Major at Marist?

Computer Science and Information Systems Students

- Your major is either **MS in Information Systems** or **MS in Computer Science**.
- **Your major is NOT the Program Major shown on your I-20.** That is a group of majors identified by the United States Government.
- Find your major on your acceptance letter email.
- Know your Concentration or Track. These are on your acceptance email.
 - MSIS Concentrations:
 - Information Systems Management
 - Business Analytics

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- Computer Networks & Security
- MS in Computer Science Software Development Tracks
 - Cloud Computing
 - Mobile Computing

MS in Education Students

- Your major is Master of Science in Education.
- The major is designed for teachers of grades 1-12 and builds their teaching skills. Separate pathways for grads 1-6 and grades 7-12 personalize the degree to the grades of students you teach.

Why do you want to study this major?

- Discuss your career goals and how this degree helps you prepare for your career goals.
- If the major is different than your Bachelor's degree major, explain how this major gives specific knowledge you could not get in your Bachelor's degree.

What classes will you study?

- MSIS courses are found at <https://www.marist.edu/master-information-systems>
You will take three of the four courses listed below in the first semester.
 - Systems and Information Concepts in Organizations
 - Data Management 1
 - Data Communication
 - Systems Design and Analysis
- MSCS courses are found at <https://www.marist.edu/master-computer-science-software-development>
First semester courses are:
 - Object-Oriented Programming in Java
 - Database Management Systems
 - Networking
- MS in Education course are found at <marist-ms-in-education-on-campus-edit>
First semester course are:
 - Educational Assessment and Evaluation
 - Capstone Portfolio Development
 - Designing Curriculum and Instruction

How will you pay for your studies?

- Explain your plan including any loans, funding from family, or your savings.

Do you plan to return to your home country after your studies and OPT?

- What motivation do you have to return to your home country? Do you have a job waiting? Does family rely on you for help? Do you own land?
- Remember – interviewers are trained to expect that you will want to stay after you graduate. Tell them why they can expect you to return to your home country.

Bring your documents in case they are requested.

- Marist Acceptance email - Print a copy for easy reference.
- I-20
- Affidavit
- Bank documents – accounts and loans
- SEVIS Payment Receipt
- Passport
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- College Transcripts
- English proficiency test results

Resources

Marist Accreditations – The most important accreditation is Middle states Commission on Higher Education. This allows us to issue Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate degrees recognized nationally and internationally.

<https://www.marist.edu/about/accreditations>

MS in Information Systems

<https://www.marist.edu/master-information-systems>

MS in Computer Science Software Development

<https://www.marist.edu/master-computer-science-software-development>

MS in Education

<https://www.marist.edu/ms-education>

Marist at a Glance

<https://www.marist.edu/about/marist-at-a-glance>

What Makes Marist special?

<https://www.marist.edu/about/the-marist-experience>