

MARIST

Preparing for your Interview at the United States Consulate

VISA officers ask these questions.

Prepare your answers for these questions.

- 1. Why do you want to study in the USA?**
- 2. Why do you want to study at Marist in New York?**
- 3. What is your major at Marist? Why did you choose this major?**
- 4. How will you pay for your studies?**
- 5. What ties do you have in India? Why would you return home after studying and OPT?**

This is an interview, not a document review.

- The most important part of the interview process is the conversation you have with the consular officer, not the documents you bring.
- Interviews are short. Most last only a few minutes.
- Information you have provided in your DS-160 will be reviewed by the VO. Records are available about your past interviews, and relatives who have interviewed for a VISA.
- Be confident, know about Marist from your research, and be totally honest.
- Interview officers expect that everyone interviewing wants to stay in the United States permanently. You must convince the officer that you plan to return home after you complete your studies and OPT.
- Practice for your interview before you go. Use services available with your consultant or contact shri.ravella@marist.edu to practice.

1. Why do you want to study in the United States?

- Studying in the United States gives you access to top computing systems, notable professors, and quality CPT and OPT placements to gain experience.
- You can improve your English, which is relevant when returning home and working in a multi-national company.

2. Why do you want to attend Marist?

- Do not give answers like “I want to attend Marist because they have great professors and a strong curriculum.” That is too general. You can say that with any university name.
- Answers may include the following:
 - Small classes of 12-25 students give you personal attention from your professors.
 - Marist has many Joint Ventures with IBM making the most current technology available for your studies.
 - Marist acquired the new LinuxOne III (Linus One, version three) mainframe with advanced security protocols. This gives you hands-on experience with computer security and networking courses.
 - 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. This gives you hands-on experience for artificial intelligence courses.
 - 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>
 - Marist’s location gives you easy access to New York City by commuter train, but costs a lot less than living in New York City for internships.
- Know Marist professors and their research. Be able to name one or more professors and the research they do that interests you.
 - Professors and their research (Check the page for “Research Interests/Areas of Focus,” “Selected Publications,” “Creative Work,” “Awards and Honors” <https://www.marist.edu/computer-science-math/faculty>
 - Program Director, Dr. Eitel Lauria, has a much more comprehensive list of articles, books, presentations, and conferences at <https://www.eitellauria.ar/publications/>

3. What is your major at Marist? Why did you choose this major?

Your major is listed in your acceptance letter. It is either:

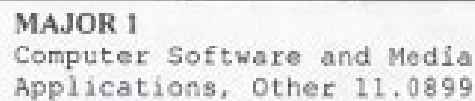
MS in Computer Science Software Development

or

MS in Information Systems

Your I-20 can be confusing. The section labeled **Major 1** is not the name of your major. It is a category of many majors grouped together.

MS in Computer Science students will have an I-20 that says their Major 1 is Computer Software and Media Applications on their I-20.



MAJOR 1
Computer Software and Media
Applications, Other 11.0899

- Tell the VISA officer that you will study MS in Computer Science
- Know the **Concentration** you will take in MSCS. It is listed on your acceptance letter.

3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 graduate@marist.edu

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cloud Computing

MS in Information Systems students have Computer/Information Technology Services Administration and Management on their I-20.

MAJOR 1
 Computer/Information Technology
 Services Administration and
 Management, Other 11.1099

- Tell the VISA officer that you will study MS in Information Systems
- Know the **Concentration** you will take in MSIS. It is listed on your acceptance letter.
 - Information Systems Management
 - Business Analytics
 - Computer Networks & Security

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
- MSCS courses are found at <https://www.marist.edu/master-computer-science-software-development>
 First semester courses in MSCS with a Concentration in Artificial Intelligence are:
 - Object-Oriented Programming in Java (or Algorithm Analysis & Design if you pass the OOP exam)
 - Database Management Systems
 - Artificial Intelligence
- First semester courses in MSCS with a Concentration in Cloud Computing are:
 - Object-Oriented Programming in Java (or Algorithm Analysis & Design if you pass the OOP exam)
 - Database Management Systems
 - Networking

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.

3. How will you pay for your studies?

- Explain your plan including any loans, funding from family, or your savings.
- Expect to tell what professions your parents have.
- If other people are paying for your studies, know their professions.

3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 graduate@marist.edu

5. What ties do you have in India? Why would you return home after studying and OPT?

- The F-1 VISA is made for studying, not immigrating permanently.
- 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 that is less than six months old
- Bank documents – accounts and loans that are less than six months old
- 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>

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>

