

# Communities of Interest FAQ

As with any new college-wide initiative, there are bound to be questions regarding the development and implementation of MDC's Communities of Interest (COIs). This COI FAQ is intended to provide clarification on some of the most common questions that college executives, staff, and faculty have regarding COIs.

## What are COIs?

Communities of Interest (COI) represent a network of students with similar academic interests and career goals. Learning experiences and initiatives within the COI framework will

- promote student engagement and development
- enhance program persistence resulting in completion of a certificate or degree
- promote global citizenship and lifelong learning.

## Why are COIs necessary?

COIs are a college-wide priority because they support student retention, persistence, transfer, graduation, and gainful employment.

## Which types of COI activities will be offered for students?

Kick-off Events, Virtual Communities, Academic/ Engagement Workshops, Career Development, and Internship Preparedness/ Workforce Readiness/ Transfer Workshops are just a few of the activities that will be offered.

## Will COIs take place on all campuses?

Yes.

## What COIs will the College offer?

MDC will offer a total of eight COIs. These COIs will align with the State of Florida Department of Education Meta-Majors, which include:

- Arts, Humanities, Communication and Design
- Business
- Education
- Health Sciences
- Industry/Manufacturing and Construction
- Public Safety
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services

## Will all Meta-Majors institute the same type of COI activities?

Yes, COIs will be infused into all meta-majors utilizing similar components and elements that are designed to enhance persistence, completion, transfer and workforce readiness.

## Will all COI activities deliver the exact same content?

No. While all meta-majors will facilitate the same types of COI activities (e.g. Kick-off Events, Workshops, etc.) with a similar structure, students will not receive the exact same information. For example, the Kick-off Events will connect students with clubs primarily based on their program of study.

## Will COIs replace existing campus activities?

No. COIs will enrich the vibrant campus life and activities that students already experience at the College.

## How are COIs different from typical campus activities?

As a part of Shark Path, COIs target students within each of the eight meta-majors by embedding data-driven and research-based activities in response to significant known and emerging barriers to student success.

## Are COIs mandatory for students?

No. COIs are strongly recommended, but not necessarily mandatory for students.

