

The X Path



X Path is a guided program to give you a place, time, and space to determine your major. Take up to two years to explore options while staying on track to graduation so you can confidently pursue your future.



“I’ve learned to take chances and not be scared.”

Myrka Olivarez started at Morningside as an X Path student because she had many interests and was unsure what she wanted to study. She also wanted to make sure she found a career she loved, not just a job. For Myrka, the X Path provided the time and space to explore careers without the pressure to commit to something. Myrka quickly discovered she wanted to major in Spanish, then used the rest of her time on the X Path to explore a possible second major in accounting or finance. Thanks to the X Path, Myrka has had the opportunity to talk with professionals working in different fields, meet a variety of professors, and has taken part in experiential opportunities that have helped her find her way forward.

Myrka Olivarez
Sioux City, IA
MAJOR: Spanish

OVER 90%

OF PARTICIPANTS INDICATE HAVING EXTRA TIME AND TARGETED PROGRAMMING MADE THEM MORE CONFIDENT AND PREPARED TO MAKE A DECISION.

In the first two years of the program,

80%

OF PARTICIPANTS DECLARE A MAJOR BY THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR.

Undecided?

We've got a place and a path for you.

Not sure you are ready to declare a major? Morningside has a guided option to help you figure it out. Follow X Path for up to four semesters to explore what your future might hold.

In All Semesters

- Enjoy expert guidance while taking part in career exploration activities, job shadowing, professional workshops, or other career community events
- Review your X Path plan to reflect where you are at, or declare your major

Semester One

- Dig in to your Clifton Strengths results
- Work in a cohort alongside peers in a class
- Take part in activities designed to develop your skills for professional presentations
- Engage with peer mentors who are focused on your success

Before you arrive at Morningside

- Complete Clifton Strengths
- Use Summer Enrollment Days and Orientation to get connected with others on the X Path
- One-on-one sessions with Career Services

Semester Two

- Continue with career exploration activities that use your Clifton Strengths results
- Take part in a class that includes intentional individualized career and major exploration
- Participate in focused career readiness activities such as résumé development and networking skills

Semester Three

- Optional opportunity to work with an alumni mentor
- Complete a one-credit experiential opportunity off-campus

The Morningside University experience cultivates a passion for lifelong learning and a dedication to ethical leadership and civic responsibility.

Semester Four

- Complete a second one-credit experiential opportunity off-campus
- Use your reflection to confirm a major

X PATH COORDINATOR

Katie Koithan
Career Services/X Path
Coordinator

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ROSKIEK@MORNINGSIDE.EDU

Katie provides career advising and major exploration to first year students. Students receive experienced guidance and support to navigate career service tools and resources. Katie creates opportunities for student learning, leadership, and experiential experiences to help students choose the right career path.



Being Undecided Has Advantages

We understand not knowing what you want to do can feel unsettling, but the X Path is a plan designed to help you find answers. In some ways, the X Path provides more opportunities than our traditional majors, giving you confidence in your decision once you do find your path.

X Path students will:

- **Enjoy the promise of the XP Guarantee**, which is our promise that you will:
 - Graduate in four years or less
 - Find a job or gain acceptance to graduate school within six months of graduation so long as you follow our requirements*
 - Take part in experiential learning opportunities that will help you grow and prepare for your future
- Have the option to double major and/or have multiple minors
- Get support and assistance in finding the right major for you
- Enjoy unique opportunities to network with Morningside alumni and other professionals
- Experience Morningside's personalized campus culture
- Have access and connections available in Sioux City that are not found in smaller college towns
- Gain on-the-job experience before the end of your second year at Morningside
- Declare a major at the end of two years, or sooner if you choose

**See morningside.edu/XPGuarantee for details and requirements*



MEET THE FACULTY

You won't be alone during your X Path process. Get to know a few of the possible mentors you may encounter!

Elizabeth Coody

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

RELIGIOUS STUDIES • WRITING • INTERDISCIPLINARY
(712) 274-5462
COODYE@MORNINGSIDE.EDU

Dr. Coody uses her academic work in religious studies to invite students to respond to stories and ask questions about culture. She teaches students how to find and evaluate information, think carefully about the subjects they address, gain empathy for other perspectives, write well, and learn to tell their own stories in the process. Since she teaches how to think and learn, students can apply these skills to any discipline or field.



EDUCATION: B.A., Centenary College, 2005; M.A., Iliff School of Theology, 2009; Ph.D., University of Denver, 2015

Brandon Boesch

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

CRITICAL THINKING • ETHICS • PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
(712) 274-5374
BOESCHB@MORNINGSIDE.EDU

As a philosopher, Dr. Boesch is interested in many different disciplines--in addition to exploring foundational questions about science, he also examines ethical questions related to healthcare, business, and the environment. His courses at Morningside focus on the way in which philosophy can inform our living--preparing to face ethical challenges as part of living (and dying) well.



EDUCATION: B.A., Benedictine College, 2011; Ph.D. University of South Carolina, 2018

Stacey Alex

Assistant Professor of Spanish

SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE • US LATINX STUDIES
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ALEXS@MORNINGSIDE.EDU

Dr. Alex supports students in developing their personal interests and expanding their perspectives through the study of language, culture, and history. She enjoys helping students build partnerships with organizations in Sioux City so that students may appreciate the agency of Latinx communities and find ways to promote equity and inclusion.



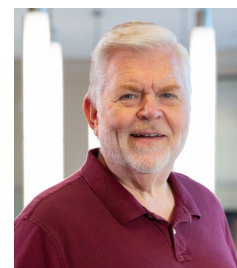
EDUCATION: B.A., University of Iowa, 2007; M.A., University of Iowa, 2014; Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2019

Dave Madsen

Associate Professor & Dept. Head of Mass Communication

MASS COMMUNICATION • MEDIA • PUBLIC RELATIONS
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Professor Madsen brings more than 30 years of professional work in broadcasting and other media to his work at Morningside, so he has lots of "real world" experience to offer students. In addition, he has met with and advised quite a few exploring students, meaning he understands that choosing a major can sometimes be difficult.



EDUCATION: B.A., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1976; M.A., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2013