

SPEECH AND DEBATE



Compete with excellence in a historic tradition.

Our award-winning Marian University speech and debate team competes against students from schools across the country, traveling to a dozen tournaments each year. Forensic tournaments can be compared to track and field meets, with participants competing in a variety of events ranging from dramatic interpretation and slam poetry to impromptu speaking and parliamentary debate.

And, yes, you read that correctly. We wrote “forensic.” Although commonly associated with tests and techniques to solve crime, the term was actually coined by Aristotle and means “belonging to, used in, or suitable to courts or to public discussion and debate.”

We have a winning culture.

National Champions

Advocacy and Action
Informative Speaking
Reader’s Theater

Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament, 2019

Second in the Nation

Team Sweepstakes

Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament, 2019

Second in the State

Team Sweepstakes

Indiana Forensic Association, 2013-19

Seventh in the Nation

Debate Sweepstakes

Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament, 2019

FORENSICS FAST FACTS*

- Oprah Winfrey placed second in the nation in dramatic interpretation during her time competing in speech and debate.
- Competitors in speech and debate have gone on to hold successful careers as Supreme Court Justices, actors, business executives, authors, and technology professionals.
- Pi Kappa Delta, the oldest national collegiate forensic organization in the United States, was founded in 1911.
- Forensics isn’t just about public speaking. Team members have opportunities to hone other skills including writing, research, emotional intelligence, organization, and audience analysis.

*All facts are from the National Speech and Debate Association website.



Scholarships are available.

Students who attend Marian University and compete on the speech and debate team are eligible for a talent award, typically worth \$2,000 and renewable each year. To learn more and apply, visit marian.edu/speechanddebate.

How else will you be supported?

- All materials and travel costs are covered by the university.
- Additional scholarships for tournament attire are available.

We emphasize academics.

We like to take home trophies, but we also want to support your academic success. That's why the speech and debate team has a school-first philosophy. Additionally, you'll have opportunities to receive credit for your participation on the team and/or take courses that overlap with the work you're already doing for competition.

Courses related to speech and debate:

- COM 101 Public Speaking*
- COM 203 Forensics*
- COM 223 Argumentation and Debate
- COM 235 Oral Interpretation of Literature

* Speech and debate team participation counts as credit for these courses.



“The speech and debate team at Marian has developed my public-speaking skills and has given me the confidence to use my voice and to advocate for others; however, the most important part of speech for me is the relationships. The team gathers an eclectic group of persons for the purpose of forming a team, and as we work, practice, and compete side-by-side, friendships form. We laugh together, learn from each other, and lean on one another.”

RUTHANN GORRELL '19

Bachelor of Science in Biology

- Speech and Debate Scholarship Recipient
- Bone and Mineral Research Group Member
- San Damiano Scholar
- Lugar Fellow Global Studies Scholar

Speech and debate will prepare you for your career.

What is the number one skill most important to employers?
Verbal communication.

In its *Job Outlook 2016* annual report, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) surveyed more than 200 large national employers, like IBM and Chevron. Here is what they found.



TOP 10 SKILLS/QUALITIES IMPORTANT FOR JOB CANDIDATES:

1. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
2. Ability to work in a team structure
3. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others



“From timing and pacing your articulated thoughts to learning how to get along with and support a diverse group of teammates, the communication skills I developed on the speech and debate team are transferable to any line of work.

Maintaining relationships with company partners is a big part of my role at Canvas, and it's important that I create a safe, trusting space for open collaboration and teamwork. In the workplace, I find myself channeling that same energy I did as a speaker and audience member on the team.”

AMBER FERRARI '15

Ferrari currently serves as business development manager at Canvas, the world's first text-based interviewing platform which launched in 2017.

Meet our coaches.



R. Kyle Kellam, Ph.D.
Director of Forensics

“Dr. Kyle,” as he’s known to his students, directed three different speech teams over the past decade before joining Marian University in 2012. He specializes in coaching interpretation events, after-dinner speaking, rhetorical criticism, and impromptu. As director of forensics, he is dedicated to building more outreach to area high schools and bringing speaking events to campus. In 2019, he was awarded the Pi Kappa Delta E.R. Nichols Excellence in Forensics Teaching Award.



Michael Baumann, Ph.D.
Assistant Director of Forensics

“Professor B.” has worked as a volunteer assistant with two other speech and debate programs before returning to his alma mater to coach and teach in 2018. He researches and teaches about professional and creative writing, new media, speech performance, and poetry, so it’s no wonder that his favorite events include interpretation, informative speaking, rhetorical criticism, and impromptu.



Drew Stewart, M.A.
Director of Debate


“Coach Drew” has been involved with forensics since high school and has coached teams in Tennessee and Florida before coming to Marian University in 2017. While he enjoys coaching all individual speech events, Coach Drew specializes in extemporaneous speaking and parliamentary debate. In just two years, he led Marian debaters to two Top 10 finishes at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE MADE OF.

As the only Catholic university in Indianapolis, our Franciscan heritage has helped us expand minds and hearts for more than 80 years.

- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Marian University #6 in its list of “Most Innovative” among regional Universities in the Midwest.
- With a critical mass of innovative digital technology companies, Indy is the fifth-fastest growing city in the United States for high-tech job growth, according to *Forbes*.
- Of Indiana college students, Marian University students rank third for the lowest student loan debt, ahead of those from 37 other universities.
- With nearly 4,000 students, campus life includes nationally ranked athletic programs, dozens of student clubs and campus organizations, study-abroad opportunities, service-learning opportunities, and more.

45 MAJORS **49** MINORS **29** CONCENTRATIONS

13:1  **STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO**
153 FULL-TIME PROFESSORS

Want to know more?

For more information about the speech and debate team, visit marian.edu/speechanddebate or contact Dr. Kyle Kellam, director of forensics, at kyle@marian.edu or 317.955.6048. Stay connected with the speech and debate team by following @MU4N6 on Facebook and @muspeech.debate on Instagram.

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Marian University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.

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