

Keyword: Major

Interviewee information:

- Name/nickname: Silvana
- School year: First year graduate
- Major: Astronomy
- Hometown: Massachusetts
- Family's country of origin: Ecuador

Transcript (copy segment transcript here):

[00:08:00] Interviewer -- Um, so did you know what you wanted to study, back then?

[00:08:07] Silvana -- I knew I wanted to possibly do engineering because I liked physics and math, but I wasn't in the engineering program, so I had to apply to that. Yeah, so I was like, maybe I'll do math, possibly engineering. So not quite sure. Yeah.

[00:08:32] Interviewer -- When did you decide that astronomy? Is that what your undergrad Was?

[00:08:37] Silvana -- Yeah, in physics, actually. OK. So this goes back to my first couple days. Yeah. So it was like that weekend I was super overwhelmed because there were so many students. So I went to my R.A. and I was like, I'm super overwhelmed. And I just told

her what was going on. I was like, I don't know how I feel, like I'm just like scared and nervous. And she talked to me. And after that talk, I told her about the classes I was taking and she was like and I had one elective left. And she was like, Have you ever considered taking astronomy?

And I was like. I mean, I never thought about it. I didn't even know it was a major. I don't know anything. I knew what it was barely.

And then she was like, you should take it. And I did.

And I remember being in that first lecture with my professor, Todd Tripe. He was super passionate about what he was teaching. And I was just sitting there with my wide -- my eyes really wide open. I was like, oh, my gosh. And that's what I was like. That first day, that first lecture I said, that's what I'm going to do. That's like I was like I was like, I'm doing this. So I talked to him afterwards. And then he was like, this how you switch into the major and everything.

[00:09:53] Interviewer -- So you were just sold on the idea. Was that freshman year?

[00:09:58] Silvana -- Freshman year, my first class, I've not ever felt like it was one of my first classes and it was my first astronomy class. And I was like, wait, you can study the universe and do physics and math all at the same time.

[00:10:11] Interviewer -- Yeah, just all of them jumbled up together.