MEET MARIANNE ROGERS. SHE LEFT COLLEGE for a few years to get some real-world experience. Now that she’s back, she’s laying the groundwork for a successful career by majoring in computer information systems. Experience tells her that this degree will give her an advantage in business.

“I came back to study accounting, but I got into computer science when I took a refresher course my first semester back. I didn’t know much about computers, but I wanted to be proficient with software. Halfway through that class, I realized that computer information systems (CIS) was a feasible direction for me.”

A professor helped Marianne understand the opportunities available in the CIS program. After that, she says, “I realized that the CIS curriculum can be as much about business as computer science.”

She took a software engineering course and studied various operating systems. She also took a programming languages course. “It was like learning the constructs behind the Romance languages, and then having the professor say, ‘OK, Week One, learn French. Week Two, learn Portuguese,’ etc. It was pretty intense, but that’s great because it’s what you have to do in this field.”

What’s key for Marianne is that this major isn’t just about computers. “We study code and programming and systems, but the way we learn is thoughtful and creative. It’s much more than you might imagine.”

Now, Marianne is taking finance and accounting courses along with her systems and database classes. “I want to be able to say to an employer, ‘yes, I know how to program and how to manage databases, how to write code and test systems, but I also know how to interact with human beings and run accounting books, and I’ve taken management courses.’ I’ll be able to do that because this major melds business and computer science.”