Advising Tidbits

Faculty resources can be found on the Biology and BMB websites:
Biology - http://www.bu.edu/biology/resources/faculty/academic/
BMB - http://www.bu.edu/bmb/faculty-resources/

CAS Advising Resources for Faculty & Staff: http://www.bu.edu/casadvising/faculty-staff-resources/

CAS Requirements:
http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/degree-overview/
Contact CAS Advising for any questions about CAS requirements, 617-353-2400

Writing: WR100 & WR150

Substitutes for WR100 and WR150 are listed in the bulletin:
http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/writing/

Humanities/Social Sciences (and/or the Core): 2 HU and 2 SS

Pre-med students should take one PS (PS101 and PS261 recommended) and one SO (SO100 and SO215 recommended), which fulfill both SS requirements.

The full list of divisional studies courses is in the bulletin:
http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/divisional-studies/

Students interested in the Core should email Stephanie Nelson, nelson@bu.edu. Our students generally do not take the NS core. Some of our students may take Core humanities and/or Core social sciences. Additional information about the Core can be found in the bulletin: http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/core-curriculum/

Foreign Language: 4 semesters or equivalent

Students must take 4 semesters of the same language (or equivalent: AP scores (4/5), SAT (560+), proficiency (fluency)). Students should contact CAS Advising to schedule a proficiency (fluency) exam. Students who are not fluent in another language but have a strong background may also take a placement exam in order to test into a higher level (e.g. a student who takes the Spanish placement exam could test into 4th semester Spanish. This means the student only has to take 4th semester of the language to satisfy the requirement). A student who takes the placement exam MUST take at least ONE semester of the language even if they test into a higher semester than 4th. International students should take the proficiency (fluency) exam to satisfy the requirement. Sign Language can be taken to satisfy the language requirement. Additional information about the language requirement can be found in the bulletin: http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/programs/foreign-language/.
Math: CAS requirement is satisfied by Biology major requirements.

It is recommended that pre-med students take one calculus and one statistics (the minimum level of statistics acceptable towards the Biology/BMB majors is MA 115) or two semesters of calculus. However, due to a stronger emphasis of statistics on the new MCAT, students are strongly encouraged to take a semester of statistics.

**Major Requirements:**
The bulletin and major/specialization guidelines are a great resource for students and advisors. While the bulletin can only be updated once per academic year, the guidelines are updated regularly as requirements change and new courses are added to the curriculums.

**Bulletin:**

**Guidelines:**

**Freshmen:**
All freshmen are advised by the Undergraduate Programs Specialist. Freshmen are required to attend an advising session each semester in order to receive their registration code for the next semester. During the spring semester, freshmen are also assigned to a faculty advisor. Although freshmen are not required to meet with their faculty advisor, faculty advisors are expected to provide some advising hours for freshmen during the spring registration period for students who wish to meet.

**Prehealth Careers:**
Prehealth (medical, dental, veterinary) students should be directed to pre-professional advising!!! Students should meet with their prehealth advisor each semester in addition to meeting with their major advisor. Additional information about prehealth programs can be found on the prehealth website: [http://www.bu.edu/prehealth/](http://www.bu.edu/prehealth/).

*Students are advised to take one semester of biochemistry to prepare for the new MCAT.*

**Study Abroad:**
Students who are doing study abroad are advised via email. Once you approve their course selection, send the confirmation email to the Undergraduate Programs Specialist who will email the student their registration code. Students who plan to go abroad next semester are encouraged to meet with their advisor in case they do not go abroad and to plan ahead for the semester they return to campus.
The three most popular programs we recommend are the **Dresden, Grenoble or Madrid Science Abroad**. No language prerequisites are required for these programs.

The **Tropical Ecology Program** is another popular program for our students. Two semesters of Spanish (or equivalent) and BI 303 offered in the spring or summer, (or BI 306 offered in the fall only) are required prerequisites. Additional information about Study Abroad programs can be found on the Biology/BMB websites:

- BMB: [http://www.bu.edu/bmb/undergraduate/current-students/abroad-opportunities/](http://www.bu.edu/bmb/undergraduate/current-students/abroad-opportunities/)

**Marine Semester:**
Students interested in the fall Marine Semester should meet with Julia Hammer Mendez, [hammer@bu.edu](mailto:hammer@bu.edu). BI 260, which is only offered during the spring semester, is a prereq for the program. Additional information about the Marine Semester can be found on BUMP's website: [http://www.bu.edu/bump/bump-marine-semester/](http://www.bu.edu/bump/bump-marine-semester/).

**Graduation:**
Juniors should apply to graduate during the spring semester (students complete the graduation application one year before their intended graduation date – this is true for January, May and September graduates). All students are then assigned a graduation advisor who will review their files to ensure the student has fulfilled all of their graduation requirements. If a student is missing credits, requirements, etc., they will now have one year (hopefully plenty of time) to complete their degree. Caitlin Sleasman is the Biology/BMB graduation advisor, [sleasman@bu.edu](mailto:sleasman@bu.edu).

- CAS “Intent to Graduate” form: [http://www.bu.edu/casadvising/forms/](http://www.bu.edu/casadvising/forms/)


**Policies/Procedures:**
- **Transfer Credits:** [http://www.bu.edu/biology/undergrad/current-undergrad/transferring-course-credits/](http://www.bu.edu/biology/undergrad/current-undergrad/transferring-course-credits/)
- **Declaring or Changing a Major/Minor:** [http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/declaring-changing-major-minor/](http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/declaring-changing-major-minor/)
- **Research for Credit:**
  - BMB: [http://www.bu.edu/bmb/undergraduate/current-students/research-opportunities/](http://www.bu.edu/bmb/undergraduate/current-students/research-opportunities/)
- **MET Courses:**
  Juniors/Seniors can take one MET course per semester. If a student wishes to take more than one MET course or a Sophomore wants to take a MET course, they must contact Dean Jarvi for permission, [sjarvi@bu.edu](mailto:sjarvi@bu.edu).

- **Other (ex. Auditing a course):** [http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/](http://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/)